

Planning & Zoning Commission

54 East Main Street
Clinton, Connecticut 06413

Public Hearing
January 4, 2012

Minutes

Present: J. Main, Chairman; L. MacDonald, Vice Chairman; C. Watts, Secretary; A. Delia, A. Kravitz, M. Carr, and C. Goupil (arrived at 7:42 p.m.)

Absent: P. Fritz, T. Guerra, D. Imscher, M. Rossi, and M. Rapuano

Chairman John Main called the public hearing to order at 7:07 p.m. Alternate Maurice Kirk Carr was seated for Pamela Fritz. Secretary Cynthia Watts read the Legal Notice of Public Hearing.

1. SE 11-282: 235 East Main Street, Edward & Lisa Alberino: Add tattoo use to existing salon/barbershop. Map 78, Block 68, Lot 12. Zone B-4.

Secretary Watts read Correspondence List #1 into the record.

As the applicants were not present at this time, testimony from the audience was heard.

Jenny Townsend, 4 East Loop Road, a real estate agent, stated that in her professional opinion this use is not a benefit to the town. It would make it more difficult to attract potential home buyers to the town and wouldn't be attractive to other businesses wanting to move to Clinton.

Dr. Andrew Berliner, 246 East Main Street, Units 1 & 2, is concerned about property values. He stated that between 30 and 40% of his practice is children. He also noted the bus stop located across the street from 235 East Main Street for the children that live at 246 East Main Street #5 or #6.

Dr. Kenneth Carlough, 248 East Main Street, noted that this use is by special exception only. He feels that a tattoo use isn't the best use for that part of Clinton. He noted that his practice sees 75 children a day.

Edward Alberino, applicant, gave his presentation at this time. He noted that he is just adding a service to offer his existing clients of the barbershop/salon. There will be no signs or advertising. It will only be by word of mouth through his clients.

Delia inquired what will keep “children” from coming into the salon to get a tattoo. The tattoo artist who is working with the Alberino’s stated that no one under the age of 18, unless they are accompanied by their parent, will be allowed into the tattoo area. Carr inquired what noise is generated by the tattooing. Alberino compared it to the sound of hair clippers. Delia inquired how many tattoos need to be done a day to employ two full time employees. The artist stated 2 to 4 a day depending upon the size and complexity. Alberino noted that the receptionist/cashier would be for both the tattoo use and the barber that is located on the same level of the building.

Philip Sengle, 25 James Vincent Drive, cautioned the Commission to think about the future property owners and what they would do with a tattoo use.

The Commission inquired how many clients a day are at the salon/barbershop. Lisa Alberino noted that the average is 40 to 80 a day, and she has spoken with approximately 60 clients, who are mostly women, who would like to be able to get tattoos in a “salon” atmosphere.

[Alternate Christine Goupil arrived at 7:42 p.m.]

Delia stated that a licensed real estate agent gave the opinion that a tattoo use is not an asset to the town and inquired what the applicants felt. Alberino stated that he did not feel that it was detrimental to the town.

MacDonald inquired if the salon/barbershop served beverages to their clients. Alberino stated that they serve free beer and wine.

Watts **moved** to continue the public hearing for SE 11-282: 235 East Main Street, Edward & Lisa Alberino to Monday, February 6, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Green Room of the Andrews Memorial Town Hall. Delia **seconded** the motion.

In Favor: MacDonald, Watts, Delia, Kravitz and Carr
In Opposition: None
Abstentions: None
Not Voting: Main (Chairman) and Goupil (Not Seated)
The motion **carried**: 5-0-0-2.

MacDonald **moved** to adjourn the meeting. Watts **seconded** the motion.

In Favor: MacDonald, Watts, Delia, Kravitz and Carr
In Opposition: None
Abstentions: None
Not Voting: Main (Chairman) and Goupil (Not Seated)

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The motion **carried**: 5-0-0-2.

The meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julia N. Pudem
Clerk