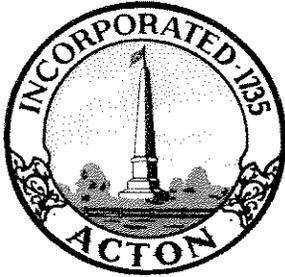


FYI



Planning Board

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MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Selectmen **Date:** March 28, 2006
From: Greg Niemyski, Chairman, Planning Board
Subject: Enforcement of Sign Regulations – Sign Coordinator

At its meeting on March 14, 2006, the Planning Board discussed the matter of sign violations and enforcement of Acton's sign regulations since the termination of the Sign Coordinator position in 2004. Planning Board members resolved to write you this letter asking you to consider reinstating and funding the Sign Coordinator position.

Since 2004 the Planning Board has witnessed a rise in the number of complaints about signs around Town, which for now seemed to have peaked last fall. Recent enforcement action by the Building Commissioner against illegal temporary signs has helped, but we wonder if such an effort is sustainable as a continuous program without additional staffing support. Further, it is our observation that there is a growing compliance problem with permanent signs. While they are perhaps less blatant violations and therefore might cause fewer complaints initially, they will need to be addressed eventually.

Certainly it is not the Planning Board's business to determine what priorities staff in the Building Department should work on. However, where it seems natural that the first priority in the Building Department is the safety of buildings and the people that use them, we are concerned that enforcement of Acton sign regulations will by necessity fall further behind without bringing back the staffing needed to pay continuous attention to this matter. With all due respect, perhaps, it is also the appropriate time to evaluate the fees that the Town charges for sign permits with an eye on creating a larger revenue stream to better help fund this function.

Sincerely,

Greg E. Niemyski