

DESIGN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON
TOWN HALL
334 MAIN STREET GREAT BARRINGTON

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2019
5:00 P.M.

PRESENT: **PEDRO PACHANO CHAIR**
STEVE DIETEMANN
JONATHAN HANKIN
JAMES MERCER
HOLLY HAMER

ED MAY, STAFF LIASON

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Pachano called the meeting to order at 5:17 P.M.

II. MINUTES: JANUARY 30, 2019

MOTION: Mr. Hankin to approve the minutes of January 30, 2019 as amended

SECOND: Mr. Dietemann

VOTE: All in favor

III. PERMIT FOR REVIEW: 42-44 RAILROAD STREET

Ilona Klimek from IMK Sign & Designs was present with application for two signs for 42-44 Railroad Street. The sign proposal is for a 22"x48" projecting sign. The application has the sign projecting 54 inches off of the wall.

Mr. May said the sign can not be more than 36" off the wall.

Ms. Klimek said the sign is being installed where the previous sign was installed. She said the sign is being installed in the same location so the existing lights can be used.

Mr. May said the sign can be adjusted. He asked if the aesthetics could be discussed.

Mr. Dietemann said the sign will have the brand name on it, Baba Louie's. The sign will be like what exists on Main Street.

Mr. Hankin said the sign is fine.

Mr. Dietemann said he is not concerned with the proposed size of the sign

Mr. May said that is correct. He said he could not issue a permit without the sign being in compliance with the bylaw.

Ms. Klimek asked if the lettering for the window also needs to be approved.

Mr. May said yes.

Ms. Hamer said the logo has been in Town for a long time.

The Committee reviewed the lettering proposed for the windows.

Mr. Pachano asked if the window lettering will be same size as what was on the windows for the previous use.

Ms. Klimek said yes. She said the windows on Railroad Street are smaller than the windows at the existing store on Main Street.

The Committee was satisfied with the window lettering.

MOTION: Mr. Dietemann to approve all signs subject to Mr. May's adjustments

SECOND: Ms. Hamer

VOTE: All in favor

DISCUSSION OF REVISIONS TO DAC BYLAW:

Mr. Pachano said language in 9.5.2 of the Zoning Bylaw would be taken out so that signs would not be subject to review by the Committee. There was discussion that a structure in the Historic District Commission's purview would not be required to go to the DAC in order to make it an easier process for the applicant.

Mr. Hankin suggested that the application be modified to require applicants to go to the DAC prior to going to the HDC. He said he thinks changes to structures should be reviewed by the DAC.

Mr. Mercer agreed that it is good for the applicants to go to the DAC.

MOTION: Mr. Hankin to amend the application, page 2, to strike "yes" after HDC and ZBA.

SECOND: Mr. Dietemann

VOTE: All in favor

The DAC discussed the revisions to 9.5 further and decided that there would be no change to 9.5.2. Section 9.5.6 will be changed from 7 members to 5 members and there will be a change to the makeup of the membership. Section 9.5.7 will grant constructive approval to application that are not reviewed within the designated time.

MOTION: Mr. Pachano to send the amended language to the Planning Board for their public hearing to strike the last two sentences from 9.5.2
SECOND: Mr. Hankin
VOTE: All in favor

IV. SIGN BYLAW REVISIONS:

Mr. Hankin said the sign bylaw has been a problem for St. James Place. They are a performance venue that does not have a sign that can show what is going on. They do not have a marquee. They would like to have an electronic sign that could be changed remotely. He said that electronic messaging is prohibited by the sign bylaw. He said it would be nice if the DAC could propose a change to the Selectboard to redefine marquee to allow a freestanding sign that performs the same function as a marquee for performance venues.

Mr. Hankin said the Colonial Theater in Pittsfield has an electronic sign that is very tasteful. He said the enclosure for that sign is in keeping with the architecture of the building. He said he does not want to open the entire town up to electronic signs.

Ms. Hamer said the marquee at the Mahaiwe has flashing lights before the shows. Would the freestanding marquee also have flashing lights.

Mr. May pointed out that the Planning Board can allow for a deviation from the sign bylaw as long as the proposal would not be detrimental.

Ms. Hamer said she is not sold on it. She said the sign would make the location more prominent. She said she is not sure why this one location should be more prominent than another. What about when other people want to be allowed the same type of sign.

Mr. Hankin said he would like to create an avenue to allow something for this venue.

Mr. Mercer asked if they could go to the Planning Board.

Mr. Dietemann said a sign will be difficult to see from the road due to the where the sign would have to be located.

Mr. Mercer suggested a marquee on the building.

Mr. May said it is historical would a marquee be allowed.

Mr. Hankin said it would not be good to put on the building.

Mr. Pachano said he doesn't understand the aesthetic problem.

Ms. Hamer said there is nothing to compare it to.

Mr. Pachano said gas station signs are electronic.

Ms. Hamer said the signs could be any color. She said she cringes at the thought of neon colors. Ms. Hamer asked how is it fair for other people who may want a similar sign.

Mr. Hankin responded, is it fair for people that have put a lot of money into the building to not have a way to let people know what is going on.

The Committee will look at the Colonial Theater sign.

Ms. Hamer said she would want to have further discussion.

Mr. Hankin said any citizen could bring forward a request to change the sign bylaw.

Mr. May notified the Committee that the Hot Point sign on Railroad Street is falling off the building and there is no insurance on it. He said that it is a pre-existing non-conforming sign that is required to be removed after two years of no use. He wanted the Committee to be aware of the issue.

Mr. Dietemann said he had to leave. He left the meeting at 6:21 PM.

Mr. Pachano asked the Committee when the next meeting could be scheduled. It was decided that the next meeting would be scheduled for March 13 at 5:00 PM.

V. CITIZEN'S SPEAK TIME:

No one spoke

VI. ADJOURN:

Mr. Pachano adjourned without objection at 6:26 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly L. Shaw

Kimberly L. Shaw
Secretary

