

GREAT BARRINGTON DESIGN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MASON LIBRARY
231 MAIN STREET

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2024
5:00 P.M.

PRESENT: **JENNIFER CLARK**
JACKIE KAIN
JAMES MERCER
JB BRODEUR

STAFF LIASION: **MATT KOLLMER BUILDING COMMISSIONER**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Clark called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M. Ms. Brodeur had not yet arrived.

II. MINUTES: OCTOBER 18, 2023 & NOVEMBER 15, 2023

MOTION: Mr. Mercer to approve the minutes of October 18, 2023 & November 15, 2023

SECOND: Ms.Kain

VOTE: All in favor

III. PERMITS

There were no permits

IV. DISCUSSION: BUILDING COMMISSIONER

Ms. Clark welcomed Mr. Kollmer. She said DAC wants to help with permits. She said DAC has an advisory role. She said we are concerned citizens who can be a valuable resource for applicants.

Ms. Brodeur and Bobby Houston joined the meeting at 5:02 PM.

Ms. Clark said DAC would specifically like to have a reviewing role for signs. She said there is zoning that speaks about DAC's authority. She said we would like to see more than less. She brought up the mural on the Calyx building on Main Street.

Mr. Kollmer said the mural is art work. It is not a sign in that specific circumstance.

Ms. Clark said she understood that there was originally a logo in the design but was removed. She asked if the code should be rewritten to make the language clear. He asked when DAC meets.

Mr. Kollmer said he didn't have an issue sending applications to DAC. If handled the correct way you are an asset. He asked that DAC let him know when they see something I should be aware of.

Ms. Kain said we are advisory but we have smart ideas.

Ms. Clark said we meet monthly but we could add a meeting when necessary. She said there is a sign for the Great Barrington Dispensary that didn't come before us. She said there are many technical things related to signs. She said we will look at the visual aspect. She said we didn't get to look at the Dollar General sign.

Mr. Kollmer said the Dollar General meets the size requirements.

Ms. Kain said DAC has concerns about the sign at St. James Place.

Ms. Kollmer said he was glad that was brought up. He said he how that sign got there.

Mr. Houston said he is not yet a member of DAC. He said he would like to see all signage brought into compliance with overall better signs.

Mr. Kollmer said he doesn't like signs. He said the bylaws are difficult to apply. He said he gets a lot of complaints. He said he is always in a bad position with signs.

Ms. Clark asked Mr. Houston if he thought the sign code should be revised.

Mr. Houston said he would like to create bylaw language that would take DAC out of an Advisory role and give us some teeth so applicants come to a committee that has some enforcement authority.

Ms. Brodeur asked Ms. Clark if she had contacted anyone at St. James Place to turn the light down.

Ms. Clark said she did make contact. She said she thinks the light was turned down. She asked Mr. Kollmer if there is an opportunity to simplify the sign code.

Mr. Kollmer said he hasn't gotten into it. He said he didn't want to answer the question when

he didn't know much about it.

Ms. Kain said she had a conversation with Mr. Rembold who said it would take time and money to revise.

Mr. Kollmer said the signs fall under the 1st Amendment Right. He said a couple of years ago there was a lot about the issue. He said it could be revisited to make it easier to enforce.

Ms. Clark asked how to revisit the sign code.

Mr. Kollmer said one person can't do it. There would have to be a committee needed for the review and revision.

Ms. Clark asked Mr. Kollmer if he would be on the committee.

Mr. Kollmer said he would be a consultant. He said the code should be clear and concise with a path to "bend the rules". He said there needs to be less gray area for an appeal.

Ms. Clark asked if there is any way DAC can be useful.

Ms. Kain asked if DAC purview could be expanded to Stockbridge Road.

Ms. Clark said we want to expand our effectiveness.

Mr. Kollmer left the meeting at 5:35 PM.

DAC had a brief discussion of its role.

V. CITIZEN'S SPEAK TIME:

There were no citizens present.

Having concluded its business, Ms. Clark adjourned without objection at 5:56 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly L. Shaw

Kimberly L. Shaw
Secretary