

Farmington Historic District Commission

Public and Regular Meeting Minutes

January 20, 2015

Present at this meeting was Chairman Donald, Commissioners Bombara, Calciano, Cox, Haviland, Holden and Alternate Commissioner O'Leary and Assistant Town Planner and Clerk. Chair Donald called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m. Town Council Liaison Amy Suffredini was also present.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Sign Pro Inc. – 775 Farmington Avenue

Temporary Certificate of Appropriateness to install signs at 775 Farmington Avenue. Robert Kuszpa, Sign Pro Inc., explained the owner of Vivid Hue Home would like to install signs for space she will be occupying at 775 Farmington Avenue. Heather Grahling, Vivid Hue Home, LLC, described her business and then explained she would like to install a 19" x 28" sign with a scroll bracket at the rear entrance. Additionally, she would like to install a 24" x 38" sign panel on an existing sign post in the front yard. Mr. Kuszpa passed out a sample of the three inch carved foam material proposed for the new signs. Commissioner Holden asked for clarification on which portion of the sign will be raised. Mr. Kuszpa responded the square panel with the business name. Commissioner Cox commented on the size of the 24" x 38" sign panel asking if they considered a shorter sign. Chair Donald asked if alternate posts were considered. Ms. Grahling said they chose to use the post that has historically been used at this location because it provides more visibility. Commissioner Haviland commented on the floral frame around the company name panel. There was some discussion about shortening the sign a little to make the floral frame more proportional to the name of the company.

Cynthia Cooper, 127 Main Street, commented on whether requesting a smaller sign for this applicant would somehow jeopardize a larger sign for a future tenant. The Commission responded each application is different.

The hearing closed at 4:27 p.m.

Upon a motion made and seconded (Calciano/Cox) it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the request for Temporary Certificate of Appropriateness to install signs at 775 Farmington Avenue with the condition that the sign panel on the white sign post is shortened to a 24" x 32" sign.

Cynthia Cooper – 127 Main Street

Temporary Certificate of Appropriateness to repair roof located at 127 Main Street. Ms. Cooper stated the roof on her house is very old and is leaking so she would like to remove the various old layers of roof material and install Timberline architectural shingles. She added her roof is high and has a low pitch and she feels it is not very visible from the street. Commissioner Calciano asked for confirmation that the existing

roof material is rubber membrane. Ms. Cooper responded yes. She will be installing solar panels in the future and this roof repair is the first step in preparing her roof.

The hearing closed at 4:32 p.m.

Upon a motion made and seconded (Haviland/Cox) it was unanimously

VOTED: To grant a Temporary Certificate of Appropriateness to repair roof located at 127 Main Street and install Timberline architectural shingles.

Miss Porter's School – Lot 10 Mountain Road

Commissioner Bombara recused himself from this application.

Temporary Certificate of Appropriateness for improvements to athletic fields located at Lot 10 Mountain Road (adjacent to 34 Mountain Road). Michael Bergin, CFO & COO of Miss Porter's School, reviewed the history of the school and spoke about their dedication to maintaining their presence in the historic village. Katie Bradley, Director of Campus Planning and Design for Miss Porter's School, stated letters were sent out to neighbors regarding the project in December. She presented the proposed improvements to the site as presented on the submitted plans including the installation of a synthetic turf field, replacement of existing fencing, installation of new parking, an 87 foot long stonewall with two stone pillars, and the construction of a small bathhouse/storage building at the eastern end of the parking area. Chair Donald asked if any lighting will be installed. Ms. Bradley responded no, adding that the sporting schedule for the fields will not be expanded. They will still schedule the same number of games during the spring and fall as well as continue using the fields for practice. Commissioner Calciano passed around a photo of the existing field taken from his house. Ms. Bradley explained the stonewall will be located along the street and that they will be adding landscaping to the berm which will help screen the parking area. Ms. Bradley showed the Commission a stone from the Hill-Stead Museum wall which they will match in color as closely as possible. The design of the bathhouse is modeled after homes in the neighborhood and the exterior material will be cedar shakes.

Robert Richer, 48 Mountain Road, said he did not received notice of the hearing. The record indicates notice was sent to his household as required. Ms. Bradley stated she spoke with and later met with Mrs. Richer and reviewed the project with her.

Mike Cheshire, 22 Mountain Road, spoke in favor of the application.

The hearing closed at 4:47 p.m.

Upon a motion made and seconded (Holden/Cox) it was unanimously

VOTED: To grant the Temporary Certificate of Appropriateness for improvements to athletic fields located at Lot 10 Mountain Road (adjacent to 34 Mountain Road) as presented.

OLD BUSINESS

Brickwalk Shops – 767-771 Farmington Avenue and 2 High Street

Robert Schechinger stated they are waiting for the frosted panels to arrive for the light fixtures. He expects them to arrive by the end of the month. Opaque panels will be installed on the back side of the light fixtures along the perimeter of the property. Once the panels are changed they will verify whether or not there is light trespass on abutting properties. Regarding mailbox units, he proposed a six foot cedar lattice panel but believes this will draw more attention to the units. Chair Donald reviewed outstanding items; screening for the mailbox units, bollard and lighting/light posts. After some discussion about screening, it was the consensus of the membership that they be provided more screening options. Suggestions included a boxed enclosure and enclosure for the base of the units. The Commissioners would also like alternatives to the bollard. Determination on lighting is deferred until the panels are changed and can be viewed in the field.

This matter is tabled (Calciano/Holden) until the February 17, 2015 meeting.

Mr. Schechinger should contact staff as soon as the panels are changed to that the Commissioners can visit the site individually.

STAFF REPORT

No Staff Report.

MINUTES

Upon a motion made and seconded (Bombara/O'Leary) it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the December 16, 2014 meeting with a modification on page two regarding discussion of jurisdiction of light brightness.

The meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

SJM