

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

April 23, 2009

Chairman Rick Morrissey opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. The following members were in attendance: Chair Rick Morrissey, Ken Bond and Ken Field.

MINUTES

Mr. Morrissey made a motion to accept the minutes of the March 26, 2009 meeting as submitted. Mr. Field seconded the motion. All were in favor.

APPLICANTS

Omnipoint Communications - Somers Commons

STATUS: Approved

Adam Moss, Attorney for Snyder and Snyder, and Don Dedrick, Engineer met with the Board to discuss colors for a proposed 120' stealth pole for the cell tower. A motion was made by Mr. Morrissey to approve painting the pole Rhombus SW4051 (grey/blue color), which is part of the Sherwin Williams 4000 Color System Series. The motion was seconded by Mr. Field. All were in favor. A memo will be sent to the Planning Board.

Omnipoint Communications - Towne Center at Somers

STATUS: Approved

The Board met with Adam Moss, Attorney for Snyder and Snyder to discuss colors for a proposed 100' stealth pole for the cell tower. A motion was made by Mr. Morrissey to approve painting the pole Rhombus SW4051 (grey/blue color), which is part of the Sherwin Williams 4000 Color System Series. Mr. Field seconded the motion. All were in favor. A memo will be sent to the Planning Board.

Anytime Fitness

STATUS: Approved

Owners Todd Douglas and Mike Gennusa of Anytime Fitness, and Steve Chester of Signs Ink met with the Board to discuss a sign proposal. This is a new business that will be occupying the space in the Towne Center at Somers where Jim Smith Karate used to be located. As allowed by the Town zoning codes,

Anytime Fitness will be open 24 hours. The proposal is for a sign that is 20 feet long by 24 inches high. It will read "Anytime Fitness" in white letters that are 17 inches high. The franchise logo of a racer will be placed in front of the lettering and it will be medium purple in color. The sign will be internally lit by LED power, and will remain lit during night hours. A motion was made by Mr. Morrissey to approve the sign proposal as submitted. Mr. Field seconded the motion. All were in favor. A memo will be sent to the Building Department.

OLD BUSINESS

Art Barn Gallery

STATUS: Approved

Arthur Salzmann, owner of Art Barn Gallery at 366 Route 202 met with the Board last month to discuss a sign proposal. Mr. Salzmann had hung a white placard advertising his business from a sign that already exists. All agreed that the sign would be much more aesthetically pleasing if Mr. Salzmann was to have a sign made that matched those that already exist for Animal Portraits and Canine Couture. A new proposal was submitted to hang a 3rd placard sign that reads "Art Barn Gallery & Sculpture Studio" below the two that already exist. The size, font, colors and appearance will exactly match what is already there. A motion was made by Mr. Morrissey to approve the sign proposal as submitted. Mr. Bond seconded the motion. All were in favor. A memo will be sent to the Building Department.

Somers Volunteer Fire Department

Last July, the Architectural Review Board met with Somers Volunteer Fire Department member Walter Krysevig regarding a campaign they had to recruit volunteers for the ambulance service. A request was made to hang five metal signs around Town, for a six month trial, beginning September 1, with the understanding that at the conclusion of the six month period an evaluation was to be done as to whether or not the signs would still be needed. On April 3, 2009, a memo was sent to the Somers Volunteer Fire Department to see if any decision had been made as to the status of the signs now that the six month trial period has ended.

Town Signs

In 2001, the Architectural Review Board met with the Town and Steve Chester of Signs Ink to create signs for the entrances to Somers. About a year or so ago, a memo was sent to the Town Board due to concerns the Architectural Review Board had over the lack of maintenance and management of these signs. The concern still exists and it appears as though nothing has been done to refurbish, repair, or replace the Town signs. A memo was sent to the Town Board in January regarding this situation, and there has been no response. Mrs. Schirmer gathered some information from Mr. Field about the original sign proposal and

she will call the Supervisor's office to address this situation further. In addition, Mrs. Schirmer will email Steve Chester of Signs Ink to see if he can make a recommendation as to cleaning the signs that are still standing to make them a bit more aesthetically pleasing. Mr. Morrissey will speak to a scout group contact that he has to see if they might be willing to help out with the signs.

Signs in the Business Historic Preservation District

In January, a memo was sent to the Town Board about the necessity to address the signage situation in the Business Historic Preservation District. It has become increasingly difficult to enforce the Town Code when variances continue to be issued and illegal signage not dealt with. To date, there has not been a response.

Landmarks Preservation Commission

In July 2008, the Architectural Review Board met with the Open Space Committee and the Historical Society to review legislation prepared by the Town Attorney for a Landmarks Preservation Commission. A memo was sent to the Town Board in full support of this endeavor. There are several properties within the Business Historic Preservation District that are falling into disrepair and eventually will have to be condemned. The Architectural Review Board would like to see this Commission created and historic properties preserved. The Historical Society sent a memo to the Town Board in January with proposed changes to the legislation. Copies were forwarded to the members for comment. There were a few concerns. On March 16, 2009, Michael Barnhart, Co-Chair of the Open Space Committee sent a memo to the Town Board on behalf of the Open Space Committee and the Architectural Review Board addressing those concerns. There has not been an update.

Angle Fly Preserve

In October, the Architectural Review Board met at Angle Fly Preserve to conduct a walkthrough of the existing structures. A list of observations were made/noted and sent to the Town Board. Since there was no feedback, a follow up memo was sent reiterating some of the key points, with the original memo sent on November 3, 2008 attached. The Architectural Review Board would be dismayed if a decision was made to take down the existing structures without giving some serious consideration to renovating them to fulfill the needs of the Park Master Plan Update. The Board is of the opinion that this could be most cost effective as compared to new construction. Copies of this memo were issued to the Parks & Recreation Board, Open Space Committee, Historical Society and the Historic Properties Board. To date, there has been no update from the Town Board.

NEW BUSINESS

DARE Program

Mr. Field has been concerned about the condition of the DARE signs that have

been posted around Town. Mrs. Schirmer will research whether or not the DARE program is still in existence and this item will be placed on the agenda for the May meeting.

Heritage 202 Center Sign

Variance approval was given by the Zoning Board of Appeals at their December 16, 2008 meeting to Urstadt Biddle to erect a 40 square foot sign in the location of the existing sign. The bottom of the sign was to be 2 feet off the ground and the highest point of the middle of the sign was to be 9 feet off the ground. The new sign was recently erected and it appears to be higher than what was approved. Mr. Bond will measure it tomorrow.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 28, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. in the Meeting Room at the Town House.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Schirmer, Secretary
Somers Architectural Review Board

cc: Architectural Review Board
Town Board
Town Clerk
Planning and Engineering