

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

May 28, 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, Mark Brown and Ken Field.

MINUTES

Mr. Morrissey made a motion to accept the minutes of the April 23, 2009 meeting as submitted. Mr. Field seconded the motion. All were in favor.

APPLICANTS

Subway - Towne Center at Somers

STATUS: Approved

The Board met with Steve Chester owner of Signs Ink to discuss a sign approval for Subway in the Towne Center at Somers. The sign will consist of pin letters that are 16" high by 1" thick. The letters will be made out of sintra. SUB will be white and WAY will be yellow. The sign will be 84" wide and will be up lit, which is the existing lighting. 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.

Stone Springs - 361 Route 202

STATUS: Conditional Approval

Ralph Ragette, owner of 361 Route 202 - Stone Springs, met with the Board to discuss signage for two of his tenants, Proactive Physical Therapy, PC and Debra Weiss, OTR/L, PC. The request was for two individual signs, which were very different in appearance and did not aesthetically blend well with the Stone Springs sign that already exists. That sign is gold lettering on a dark green background. All agreed that both businesses should be listed on one sign, since one is a subtenant of the other. The size of the sign cannot exceed 18" in height and 54" in length. The tenant occupies 2/3 of the building and these measurements represent 2/3 of the sign space. A recommendation was made to have a white background with dark green or black lettering. Proactive Physical Therapy may keep their logo as is and have the "o" in Proactive remain the shade of orange that it is. If the logo for Debra Weiss is used on the new sign it needs to have a background color of dark green. All agreed that the existing signs could be put back up, but could only remain up until June 25, 2009. Once

a new sign proposal is approved, the Building Department will be notified. A memo will be sent to the Building Department.

Best Plumbing

STATUS: Denied

The Board reviewed and discussed a proposal received from Jonas Weiner for a temporary sign at the entrance to Best Plumbing announcing that their showroom is open, with the days and times of operation. A request was made to leave the sign up for 6 months. The proposal was referred to the Building Department.

OLD BUSINESS

Art Barn Gallery

At the last meeting, approval was granted to Arthur Salzmann, owner of Art Barn Gallery at 366 Route 202 for a sign proposal, with the understanding that he had to pay for and obtain a sign permit from the Building Department before he hung his new sign. To date, a permit has not been secured, but the new sign has been hung up. The Building Department is aware of this situation and issued a violation notice on May 7.

DARE Program

Mr. Field has been concerned about the condition of the DARE signs that have been posted around Town. Mrs. Schirmer was in touch with the secretary of the Substance Abuse Council and was informed that the DARE program has not been in existence for about 8 years. A memo will be sent to the Town Highway Department Superintendent requesting that all of the various DARE signs be taken down. The Town Board will be copied.

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. A response has still not yet been received. Mrs. Schirmer will write a letter to Walter Krysevig regarding this issue.

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. Another memo will be sent to the Town Supervisor to establish who is responsible for the maintenance and management of these signs so that the Architectural Review Board can communicate with that entity directly.

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

St. Joseph's Church at JFK High School

An updated Stormwater Management Plan was reviewed and discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, June 25, 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