

DESIGN REVIEW BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

December 10, 2014

36 Bartlet Street

3rd Floor Conference Room B

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. Present were members Craig Gibson, Eric Daum, Suzanne Korschun, Anita Renton and Paul Maue.

SIGN APPLICATIONS

Reading Co-operative Bank, 18-20 Central Street

DRB-14-30 a & b (revised application was submitted on 12/10/14)

Ms. Shana Callanan, bank representative, and Mr. Gary Cunningham of Sunshine Sign Co., Inc. presented the application. There are a total of 3 signs, two signs located on each side of the brick wall, and one free-standing 2 sided sign. The proposed sign on the wall is larger than what is currently there, expanding by 4 inches. It will be aluminum with a white background, ½” dimensional letters with a black frame. The board likes the current metallic color of the sign; however Ms. Callanan noted that it is difficult to read. They intend to lower the new sign approximately 3-4 brick courses. The board feels the overall height of the sign should be 1 or 2 brick courses shorter. The DRB feels the wall is important to the building. They would like to see less open white space above and below the logo, suggesting the height of the panel be reduced and the frame around the sign be changed to a cool gray color. The existing lighting will not be changed. The free-standing sign complies with the by-law. The posts on the free standing sign will be granite, replacing the existing pvc posts.

Ms. Korschun moved to accept the application for the free standing sign as submitted, and recommends that the white space above and below the logo on the 2 brick wall signs be reduced to an amount equal to the space on either side of the logo and the black frame be changed to a cool gray 9 color.

Mr. Maue seconded the motion.

Vote: Unanimous (5-0)

MINUTES

Meeting of October 8, 2014

Mr. Gibson motioned to accept the minutes as submitted adding that the DRB liked the graphic of the Sanford sign and the inter-changeability of the Arlington sign.

Mr. Daum seconded the motion.

Vote: Unanimous (5-0)

Meeting of November 12, 2014

Mr. Gibson motioned to accept the minutes as submitted.

Ms. Korschun seconded the motion.

Vote: Unanimous (4-0)

Mr. Daum did not attend the meeting.

DISCUSSION

Shawsheen Retail Area Expansion

Mr. Daum discussed the proposed expansion of the Haverhill Street area between Shawsheen Square and the railroad bridge. Mr. Paul Materazzo, Planning Director, is working on this project. The area north of Haverhill St. is zoned Industrial which has very limited uses. Any new construction in this zone, without ZBA approval, could only be industrial. They are looking to change this area into 3 distinct areas: the area around Shawsheen Square, the area around Brickstone Square and the area south of Haverhill Street. Mr. Daum said there was discussion about changing it to a General Business District, or to change it to an Overlay District with limitations on what would be allowed. Brickstone would like to develop some of the parcels along Haverhill and York Streets. They are also discussing building a second parking garage. The allowable uses within Industrial A zoning areas would include contractors yards and warehousing. Residential uses, food and banking services would not be allowed without ZBA approval. The residents would like to see any future development be residential or open space. This area is prone to flooding. The DRB noted that there is a problem in this area with parking and traffic. There is money available to do a study on Shawsheen Sq.

Other Business

None

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting of the Design Review Board for December 10, 2014 was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patti D'Agata