

Downtown Historic District Commission Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 1, 2015

6:00 pm

Town Hall, 334 Main Street, Great Barrington, MA 01230

Members present:

Dan Bailly, Chair
Holly Troiano, Secretary
James Mercer
Don Howe
Abby Schroeder
Pat Ryan, alternate

Call to Order: 6 pm

Public Hearing: Three sign permits, Mr. Kalish

Motion to open the Public Hearing by D. Howe, second by J. Mercer

- Mr. Kalish pointed out that 2 of the 3 signs have been there for 13 years. The only addition is the hanging sign that was approved by Design Advisory and the Selectboard.
- Mr. Kalish apologized for not consulting the HDC as is required.
- Mr. Kalish explained that he first obtained a permit from the Building Inspector and then went to Design Advisory.
- Motion to close the public hearing by H. Troiano, second by P. Ryan

Discussion:

- D. Howe noted that the sign by the door [front] changes and is therefore not permanent.
- Mr. Kalish offered to make it permanent. It has remained the same with the pictures within it changing.
- P. Ryan noted that it is a lot of signage, aesthetics, color make an impact.
- Mr. Kalish noted there is more foot traffic in the block just north of his establishment making the bright blue of the signs necessary.
- D. Howe specified that each tenant can have a sign approx. 25sq. ft. and that each tenant must come to the HDC.
- D. Howe notes that three signs are a lot, the projecting sign is compatible, and the window signs do not take away from the building. The color is necessary for advertising and is better than an awning.
- P. Ryan noted that awning are more historic.
- D. Howe, sign by the door is acceptable even though it is semi-moveable

- Mr. Kalish offers to come before the HDC when changing the pictures.
- J. Mercer points out the HDC has no purview to require that.

Motion to approve the sign by J. Mercer, second by A. Schroeder

Unveiling of Historic Markers:

- Marker are up on Town Hall and both libraries.
- Time capsule is not yet buried, J. Mercer will let us know when Mr. Atwood is going to do it.
- Chair Bailly asks when the markers should be dedicated.
- D. Howe, same time as the time capsule is buried.
- Date is set at Sat. Nov. 17th. Will invite the Selectboard, Town Manager, and the Historic Commission. J. Mercer will coordinate with Mr. Atwood.

Form B District Expansion

- Chair Bailly would like to continue the discussion
- D. Howe, the idea is to update all overlapping districts for Taconic West. He also noted that St. James Place would like to be in our district, Taconic West does not protect it. Taconic West is a legitimate district with no teeth.
- Chair Bailly noted that it must be done at the town level.
- H. Troiano suggested that St. James Place could be a springboard for other properties to come into the district.
- Chair Bailly suggested making a list of properties we would like to bring into the district.

Minutes from the previous meeting will be approved at the next meeting.

Motion to adjourn from D. Howe, second from A. Schroeder

Meeting adjourned at 7:51 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
 Holly M. Troiano
 Holly M. Troiano
 Secretary, H.D.C.