

Architectural Review Board

May 17, 2012

Chair Jeffrey Plank called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. in Council Chambers of the Municipal Building. This date replaced our regular first Thursday meeting, postponed due to lack of a quorum. Also present were members Fred Schneider, Steven Meeks, Ruth Klippstein; and George Goodwin and John Snoddy. The agenda was adjusted and the minutes of April 5 corrected, Item 2, to read "March," then accepted.

Summary of business: We recommend for Council's approval the application for a new garage at 345 Main St. We accept one of the signs at 385 Valley St and defer action on the bigger one, as it exceeds the allowable square footage; we offer a suggestion to rectify this and the possibility of the applicant finishing the business through the Town Administrator. We recommend for Council's approval the application for the Museum to replace the two front doors.

New business: Jeffrey noted that much of the work for the 345 Main St. garage application had been done by email and phone, so little was left to discuss. We checked the plat and elevations, considered the window trim and gutters, and found no problems. This is one of the most impressive and complete applications we have had, and appreciate the applicant's and architect's willingness to solicit our opinions and respond in a timely fashion.

Signs at 385 Valley St, Ray Gallery. George noted that the projecting sign is already in place. Together, the two requested signs are larger than the acceptable dimensions. We realized that without the directional arrow the wall sign would comply, and Fred sketched several versions of the sign in that shape. We unanimously accept the projecting sign, the one in place, and defer action on the wall sign, with the stipulation that if the applicant changes her design along the lines of Fred's suggestions, that is, some version of the arrow with the business name within it, she can proceed with only the approval of the Town Administrator once he has seen it.

Old business: George represented the Museum board in the matter of new doors, explaining that so much of the old doors would have to be replaced in fixing them that new ones seemed a better choice. They will strip paint to discover the exact original profile and have it matched in mahogany; Fred expects it to be a standard profile. The vote to accept the COA was 3 in favor, 1 against, and it passed.

George reported that the Chamber of Commerce requests suggestions in establishing a permanent storage area for tools now held in the old jail, soon to be remodeled as a visitor center. Several possibilities were discussed for the triangular area between the building and the nearby Masonic building, and after we adjourned we all went to the site for further discussion.

Suggestions including squaring the building, adding a north-slanting roof over the triangular area, and facing it in board, not block, will be put in writing for the Chamber.

Other: we asked George to determine whether the Town has written to the property owners whose structures were deemed in poor condition by our maintenance survey, as per the January, 2012, minutes.

We adjourned at 7:50.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Klippstein, secretary