

Design Review Committee
May 2, 2017
Meeting Minutes

Board Members: Ron LaRose, Ian Albinson, Ken Weston, Jim Weening, Carol Wells
Others Present: Eric Forand (Zoning Administrator), Shawn Kimball (NEATtv)

Public: Amos Martin, Reed Prescott, Jim Rivers, Patricia Lea, Matlak Mayforth, Tom Palloks, Bruce Beeken, Victor Hinojosa, Linda Andrews, Porter Knight, Sally Burrell, Barbara Miles, Joel Bouvier

The Design Review Committee meeting was called to order at 6:45pm

The Committee discussed the appropriateness of Ian having a vote on the application, as he has already stated his opinion about it publicly. The Committee decided that Ian would be able to vote on this application.

New Business:

The Committee reviewed application #17-18. Victor described the kiosk and the electronic message board. Victor stated he had asked the Selectboard for potential eagle scout projects last summer and the Selectboard had asked him to design a kiosk with an electric message board. He has a proposed design that incorporates architectural elements from Holly Hall. The kiosk would be 8' 4" high and 7' long. The electronic board would be 2'7" x 5'6". The kiosk would be painted to match the colors of Holley Hall. The electronic board would be a full color LED screen, with 5 rows of text available with 20 characters per row. The kiosk would be located 6' from the building on the east side front lawn. The posts of the kiosk would line up with the posts on the stairs and it would be centered under the window about 10" below the granite stone under the window. All wood will be pressure treated and the post will be anchored in the ground with cement. Victor described how the message board can show multiple messages per day however the State says it can only change every 15 minutes. The messages are input via the cloud so a Town official can change them through a password protected website.

Ron, asked if there were other options for the electronic board. Victor stated there was, but he had reached out to an expert and so when he requested a quote he requested one from them. They are also a local company that has put up multiple signs in the state, including the one at Mount Abraham. Ron asked if Victor could get his eagle badge if the kiosk did not have the electronic board. Jim Rivers, and eagle scout advisor stated that Victor would just need to file an amendment with Council and he would most likely get it accepted. Matlak said she thought the curved boards under the sign made it too busy. Victor stated that those matched the railing in the stairs behind the kiosk. Joel mentioned that the spacing of the boards are due to code requirements and when other projects on Holley Hall have been completed they used the same spacing to match. Ian asked what the temperature sensor would look like, Victor was unsure about the look but stated it would be mounted behind the kiosk so it would not be visible. Bruce asked how long it would last, Victor stated CVU high school has had theirs for 10 years, so he would expect it to last 10-15 years. Tom asked about pedestrian and traffic safety. Victor described how there are already several sandwich boards on the steps and this will be reduced to

the one sign so pedestrians and driver will only look at the one sign. He also spoke to the police chief and was told there had been no accidents caused by the electronic sign at Mount Abraham.

The Committee Reviewed the Downtown Design Review Standards

Building Design

1 & 2) The size of the structure was discussed. The general consensus was they would like to see it a little shorter. The issue was raised that if the screen was lowered the handrail would obstruct some of the message. Bruce and Patty felt the structure was too imposing to pedestrians. It was decided that the structure should be made a minimum of 1' shorter. It was going to be left up to the ZBA and the applicant as to how this was going to be accomplished.

3) Setback - The Committee felt the structure should not extend any further away from the building than the front steps.

4) Proportion – N/A

5) Materials – Bruce mentioned that that pressure treated lumber cannot be painted for a year. The Committee discussed other wood options and other paint options.

6 & 7) Architectural Features- Some audience members felt the kiosk did fit the style of Holley Hall but the electronic message board did not.

8) Roof Shape – Bruce felt that the drawing did not show the structure of the roof. Victor explained that it would be a pitched roof, with eaves equally on the front and the back. Bruce stated that people have a psychological need to know that the structure can hold the roof up and that it will not collapse. Victor stated he had several builders with over 100 years of combined experience that would ensure the integrity of the structure.

9) Orientation – Bruce felt the orientation was not optimal for vehicle traffic. He thought drivers would have a hard time seeing it. Reed stated the sign had a 160 degree view angle so there should be no issue reading it as you drove up.

10) Historic Structure – Patty stated that she felt the electric board would diminish from Holley Hall. Several audience members stated they felt the same way.

Lighting, Signage and Maintenance

1) Lighting – the Committee reviewed Section 752. Victor stated the sign would be on according to Zoning regulation. Bruce mentioned having it go off 1 hour after sunset. Victor stated you can't program the board to do that. Reed stated in the winter that would be around 6 which means it misses a lot of the traffic.

2) Signage – the Committee reviewed Section 740, 743 & 747 and found no issues

3) Utilities – N/A

4) Rain, Snow & Ice – N/A

Landscaping

1) landscaping – no landscaping

2) Continuity – it was discussed that the post of the kiosk should be in line with the first post of the stairs.

3) Fences – N/A

4) Hardscaping – N/A

5) Less visible areas – N/A

Parking and Pedestrian Circulation

1) N/A

The Committee went into deliberative session.

Ken made a motion to recommend the height of the structure be lowered by at least one foot and to add "Town of Bristol" to the kiosk, seconded by Carol. All were in favor (5-0), motion passed.

Ken made a motion to recommend suspension of the installation of the electronic message board to conduct a further study of it by a committee of citizens, seconded by Ian. All were in favor (5-0), motion passed.

Ken made a motion to recommend that the post for the kiosk be in line with the first post on the railing of the stairs, seconded by Jim. All were in favor (5-0), motion passed.

The Committee discussed using pressure treated wood. They decided it would not be an issue if pressure treated lumber was used.

The Committee discussed using copper for the roof. Ian mentioned that there is copper on the roof of Holley Hall. It was felt that slate colored roof as proposed would turn greenish to match the building.

The Committee suggested having a life size mockup of the kiosk, as well as an actual electronic message board for display to the ZBA.

Meeting adjourned at 10:05pm

Respectfully Submitted

Eric J Forand
Zoning Administrator