

Historic District Commission
Town Hall, Room 126
Meeting Minutes, 23 May 2017

Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM. Attending: Ron Regan (RR), Anita Rogers (AR), David Honn (DH), David Shoemaker (DS), Fran Arsenault (FA), and Allison Casazza (AC). Chingsung Chang (CC, Selectmen Representative) absent.

7:32pm **Citizen's questions, committee comments.** – No citizens present. Discussion of properties in the District. 25-27 School Street is of interest as it has changed hands; HDC will look and thing about ways it may be best handled to preserve the character.

7:34 Move to accept minutes from 09 May; voted unanimously

7:40 **Review of Project Spreadsheet**

7:45 **Wish Boutique Signage #1716:** Donna and Kate. Met with Billy [signmaker]. Plan one the same size as the Coffeehouse. Wood, raised lettering; faux rusted metal character to the lettering. Industrial/feminine feel for the store, and want the sign to reflect this aesthetic. AR finds it works and is motivated. Interested to know how far the characters are raised both from the plane of the sign and their proper height. DH: The star would be better to have it in the same faux finish so that it does not disappear. DHS would recommend just a bit smaller typeface to avoid crowding the edge and capitalize on the shadowing. Recommend to establish a 3" border to the sign.
Move to approve the Wish boutique sign per the submitted artwork with the requirement that the maximum height of the 'h' be 15 inches; other dimensions as drawn. We also require that the star carry the same finish as the remainder of the lettering, and the outline be 'thicker' or solid.
Voted unanimously.

7:50 **511 Main St Deck #1714:** Jason O'Connor. Deck to be low enough so that no railing will be needed. Pergola in wood, painted white. Deck boards to be a dark wood. RR: Benches in the example renderings; this is not to be implemented. Square posts are to be used; make sure that the visual weight is sufficient to look substantial. (might build up around PT square columns with 3/4" trim). Base of the columns should have trim board,

sloped to carry away water. Landscaping on the driveway side will be recommended to hide the deck from the street. Skirt will be white. The barge boards on the house have details – with holes filled with squares. It may be good to replicate this detail on the Pergola. Discussion of the front porch brought out that the HDC believes this deck should not appear unpainted to maintain historical consistency.

Motion to approve the addition of a pergola and deck at 511 Main St. 18'x14' deck with a pergola of similar dimensions. All deck and pergola members to be wood; mahogany decking. Pergola to be painted white, with details on rafter boards resembling the house. Square posts with base details minimum 8'x8' with base and cap detail. Requirement that there be landscaping which maintains visual opacity year-round presence on the driveway side to obscure the view of the deck. Clumping will be most attractive.

8:15

Miscellaneous issues: CPC: no motion. MHC Demolition seminar: Chris Kelly Mass Historic presented. Gradual introduction most likely to be successful. Individual House Historic Districts can be voted in by Town Meeting; may require a 2/3 majority. Owners around a threatened building or several may band together to create a District. Would like to consider working with HC to try to protect the most vulnerable properties. Will confer with Somerville HDC to understand their process. Towns can also set requirements based on clear criteria, say date, and/or an explicit list of building with historical importance.

8:45

Absolute Granite Signage: Billy: [signmaker] 3/4" wood, with a piece of granite forming a unique character-like form. Estimate it is order of 50 lbs in weight. Meets code for size. Existing bracket is high and offset from the center of the building (to prevent drips). Sign was previously hung in Concord. AR: thinks 3/4" is thin for this sign. 1.5" would be ok. The present vinyl lettering would need to be replaced. Bracket should be moved; lower should be fine, either centered over the door or over a window. The color is troubling; reversing the colors would help – a cream background with red lettering, for instance. Solid color for the sign, a band around the edge to 'beef' up the visual appearance with a chamfer to eliminate interior shadows, remove vinyl lettering and choose a different color for the lettering. The awnings are currently a strong visual feature of the building; a sign color compatible with the awnings, or a change in color of the awnings, or removing the awnings should all be considered.

9:15

Meeting closed.