
**CITY OF MIDDLETOWN
DESIGN REVIEW & PRESERVATION BOARD**

MINUTES

10-Jan-01

Present

J. BIANCO, CHAIR
B. KRONENBERGER
N. STAMLER
N. GOFF
D. BROWN
P. EVANS
B. PLUMLEY
J. ROSENTHAL

Absent

J. FORTUNA

Also Present

M. JOHNSON

The meeting commenced at 5:10PM.

First, members inquired into the status of First and Last Tavern. J. Bianco and M. Johnson reported that everything is status quo, i.e., the Board's decision at its December meeting still stands and the proposed tent is not being put up. N. Stamler and B. Plumley remarked that they had seen the Hartford First and Last Tavern and did not see a similar structure. M. Johnson said M. Bellabuono (owner) told him that it was another of his Hartford restaurants -- not First and Last -- which was using the structure.

Next, M. Johnson reported on the 99 Cents and More sign at 420 Main Street. Via fax and conversation with members, M. Johnson negotiated a compromise with Mr. Maher (proprietor) whereby, instead of an internally lit box sign, a flat, externally-lit sign will be used, utilizing components of the old sign.

Next, progress on the Guidelines was discussed. M. Johnson reported that, per Board approval at the last meeting, he was working with input from J. Bianco, J. Rosenthal and members of the community on chapter by chapter revisions of the city's draft Design Guidelines. The sign chapter has now been re-drafted. M. Johnson summarized its contents for the Board. Once all chapters have gone through this process, the Guidelines will be presented in total to the Board for their final approval and adoption. M. Johnson also presented the Board with a draft brochure to be provided to developers, businesses, and individuals applying for Design Review to explain the review process and make clear what the requirements are for submission of drawings, etc. B. Plumley offered an editorial suggestion regarding some of the wording which the Board adopted.

J. Bianco remarked that the Board would like to review whatever plans there are for the landscaping of the Miller/Bridge neighborhood, following demolition. Members concurred.

Next, the Board reviewed Mr. H. Bushnell's application for a sign on his Window Store, to be located at 349 South Main Street. M. Johnson presented a drawing from H. Bushnell of the structure and its sign. The drawing showed a sign -- with notes indicating a green and white, internally lit box sign -- sitting atop a green awning-like structure. The Board was curious as to how the sign would be situated with respect to the awning. D. Brown asked how it was to be attached. Others remarked that internally lit box signs were exactly the style of signage the new guidelines discourage. Most of all, members were unclear as to the location of the store, the shape and style of the awning, and how the sign was to interact with it. M. Johnson was asked to find out more information and follow up with the Board via fax.

Next the Board began nominations for design awards. So far, members are considering eight (8) nominees, including both public and private buildings, renovated structures and new construction. Nominated were:

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Long Hill Estate, the Police Station, Riverview Center, Kid City Children's Museum, Julie Crawford's Law Offices, Becker's on Broad Street, Rosa Brown's Augury and Spice Co., and Dancersize.

Next, M. Johnson informed the Board that the mayor was interested in their input with respect to Antique Lamp styles for Main Street. Several pamphlets and brochures were reviewed and members commented on those they liked and disliked. The Board asked if there were any restrictions. M. Johnson replied that the Mayor preferred a style that would be compatible with the new black traffic signal poles. There being so many types and styles to choose from, the Board requested that staff review the Mayor's materials, as well as those resources available at J. Bianco and B. Kronenberger's offices, and present a smaller selection from which the Board could choose styles to recommend to the Mayor.

J. Rosenthal told the Board that Wesleyan would most likely be interested in coordinating their lighting initiatives with those of the City of Middletown for the sake of a compatible and consistent look. J. Rosenthal will look further into this and report on the possibility of further DRPB - Wesleyan collaboration with respect to lighting and streetscape plans.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6PM.

RESPECTIVELY SUBMITTED,

MUNRO W. JOHNSON

