

Middletown Preservation Board

SPECIAL MEETING

MINUTES

APRIL 24, 1995

PRESENT

J. Bianco, Chair
B. Kronenberger
P. Evans
N. Goff
J. Fortuna

ABSENT

R. Santangelo
F. Patnaude
E. Rak-Roberts
A. Tomassi

ALSO PRESENT

C. Wilcox, staff

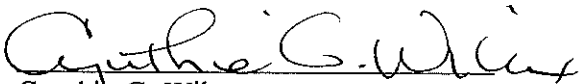
J. Bianco called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. in Room B-15 of the Municipal Building, noting that the April regular meeting had been cancelled, and this was a special meeting of the Preservation Board to respond to the request for a sign on the ClockTower Shops by KGA Associates. This request comes from the Planning & Zoning Office. J. Fortuna abstained from any discussion and vote on this item, since he also sits on the Zoning Board of Appeals. For various different reasons, every member of the committee felt the proposed sign to be inappropriate. Some thought the design should something more in character with the 19th century character of the building, others felt that the image of a crashing airplane was extremely negative and connoted negative images of Middletown. Others felt that both the size and the shape did not suit the location. For instance the hand painted "Bunce's" sign on the brickface gives historic character to the building; but this new billboard size and shape sign would obliterate the original.

The committee was very conscious that if they condone this particular sign, the next time they were asked, they would not have any recourse but to continue to grant inappropriate signs. The committee did not mean to express themselves as opposed to signs. They just were emphatic about appropriate design and style. Upon a motion by P. Evans, seconded by N. Goff it was voted unanimously to recommend to the Zoning Board of Appeals that the Preservation Board is not in favor of allowing the sign as it is presented to them. All voted in favor except J. Fortuna who abstained.

The Armory Preservation Restriction Documents

J. Bianco explained what the photogrammetry/computer drawings would do to document the true elevations so that they could be filed on the permanent records, along with the preservation restrictions. In this case, he felt that it was especially important to preserve the details of the buildings. Upon a motion by B. Kronenberger, seconded by P. Evans it was voted unanimously to both approve and to receive the grant of preservation restrictions as drafted by the City Attorney pertinent to the Armory, with the proviso that the existing conditions be documented through true elevations based on photogrammetry.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 5:50.


Cynthia G. Wilcox

CGW/sh

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