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

MINUTES

9-May-01

Present

J. BIANCO
D. BROWN
P. EVANS
N. GOFF
J. FORTUNA
N. STAMLER

Absent

B. KRONENBERGER
J. ROSENTHAL
B. PLUMLEY

Also Present

M. JOHNSON
P. DONNELEY
A. FERRANTI

J. Bianco called the meeting to order at 5:05 PM.

The minutes from the April meeting were approved.

First the committee reviewed a sign application for Sagamore Hills apartments. Appeared, A. Ferranti and P. Donnelly to present the application. The Board approved the application. P. Donneley and A. Ferranti expressed their frustration to the Board with the confusing nature of the approval process. The Board agreed that the permitting process ought to be made clearer for the public. N. Goff recommended a letter be drafted to PCD to that effect.

M. Johnson gave the Board an update on the Design Guidelines, showing members the latest draft.

J. Bianco noted that the new tree pits, installed on Main Street between College and Williams Streets as part of the sidewalk renovations, are bad for trees, obstruct pedestrian movement, and represent bad design. Rather, tree grates, the width of the sidewalk, should be used. These don't block the growth and spreading of tree roots, nor do they present a stumbling hazard or obstruction for pedestrians walking on the sidewalk close to the tree.

M. Johnson briefed the Board on the imminent Preservation Awards ceremony. The Police Headquarters Building and Wadsworth Mansion are the winners. The Board discussed a need to recognize smaller-scale preservation projects, as projects on a grander scale such as those of this year, will likely continue to win the most votes year after year. The Board agreed to begin some form of off-peak ceremony to recognize the smaller-scale projects.

Representatives for Town and Country Mazda did not appear and the Board was unable to apprehend the applicant's intentions from the materials submitted. The Board tabled the application pending further clarification of the plans.

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The Board voiced support for the concept of a new sign code, but declined to endorse a new code until the details could be studied. D. Brown asked if the code would correspond with the new Design Guidelines. M. Johnson responded that it would. The Board asked to be mailed copies of the proposed Sign Code. The sense of the Board was that, in general, signs in Middletown needed to provide better graphics and less clutter.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:15.

Respectfully submitted,

Munro W. Johnson
Community Development Specialist