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

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**MINUTES**

*12-June-02*

**Present**

J. BIANCO, CHAIRMAN  
M. BRADY  
P. EVANS  
J. FORTUNA - LEFT @ 6:30  
B. KRONENBERGER  
B. PLUMLEY  
N. STAMLER

**Absent**

D. BROWN  
N. GOFF

**Also Present**

M. JOHNSON  
N. BURNHAM  
K. LAUGHLIN

The meeting commenced at 5:36PM.

Minutes from the regular May meeting were approved upon a motion made by N. Stamler, seconded by B. Plumley with B.Kronenberger and J. Fortuna abstaining.

First, N. Burnham, of Milone & MacBroom presented updated plans for the pump station on Newfield Street, including additional landscaping to minimize visual impacts. J. Bianco recommended additional screening, perhaps with a coniferous tree. J. Fortuna inquired as to who the client was. N. Burnham explained that the work was for both Middletown and Cromwell and being monitored by Guy Russo, Director of Middletown's Water and Sewer Department. M. Brady moved to approve the proposal with the recommended screening tree on the north side. P. Evans seconded. **The proposal was approved unanimously.**

Next, K. Laughlin presented new signage for Fleet Bank on Washington Street. Upon a motion by J. Fortuna, seconded by B. Plumley, the signs were approved unanimously.

K. Laughlin also presented new signage for 98 Washington Street, the key tenant being Sanditz Travel. J. Fortuna moved approval; M. Brady seconded, and the signs were approved unanimously.

The board then reviewed old business.

There has been very little activity regarding the Preservation Awards this year with only one formal nomination, and that for a project that didn't seek Design Review & Preservation Board approval. The board consensed on skipping the Preservation Awards this year, and including the MHA houses and 1st Church among the nominations for next year.

Next, M. Johnson presented a photo of the Washington Terrace property scheduled for demolition by Wesleyan University to make way for a new Film Center. Wesleyan and its architects will be presenting the plan at the July meeting. The board discussed various potential alternatives for the building. The discussion segued into another discussion about Wesleyan's college row's proposed glass connecter between the chapel and the theatre. The board asked M. Johnson to investigate the status of the application and why they had not returned as promised for a follow up.

The board then finished new business items.

- 2 -

A sign proposal for Tuttle Road Industrial Park was denied. B. Kronenberger was concerned about the legal and precedent-setting implications of permitting private signs on public land. The board concurred. Also, if Route 3 is a state highway, wouldn't a standard, green highway sign saying "Tuttle Road Industrial Park" with an arrow be both more effective and more aesthetic? M. Brady remarked that a nice sign could help screen the proposed pump stations. J. Bianco agreed, noting that a tombstone style, low brownstone wall sign, uplit, and landscaped would be much more appropriate.

Next, the board considered sign applications from Liquid Plastics on Bradley Road. Upon a motion by M. Brady, seconded by J. Fortuna, the signs were approved unanimously.

Next, the board considered a sign application from Christ Lutheran nursery. While there were no objections to the proposed design of the sign, the proposal was tabled on the basis that there was no information regarding where the sign would be placed.

Next, the board considered a sign application for First Choice Financial. Upon a motion made by B. Plumley, seconded by J. Fortuna, the sign was approved unanimously.

Finally, M. Johnson briefed the board on four other issues. He contacted the realtors and attorneys for the Pewter Shop to make sure they were aware of the preservation restrictions on the property. Members asked M. Johnson to check the purchase agreement. As the purchase was for a nominal fee, how can the current owner sell it for much more? A proposed ordinance restricting future statues and monuments in Union Park to military themes had been investigated. Members requested M. Johnson to set a meeting up between P. Cacciola, the ordinance's sponsor, and J. Bianco. M. Johnson read the draft letter to Brush Hill farm requested at the last meeting. The letter was approved and signed by J. Bianco. Lastly, M. Johnson presented the conceptual drawings of the waterfront by Arthur Cotton Moore.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:20PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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Munro W. Johnson