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

MINUTES

4-Oct-00

Present

J. BIANCO, CHAIRMAN
D. BROWN
J. FORTUNA
N. GOFF
N. STAMLER
B. PLUMLEY

Absent

P. EVANS

Also Present

M. JOHNSON

The meeting commenced at 5:10 PM.

Bruce Plumley, new member of the Design Review and Preservation Board, was introduced and briefed on the role and regular activities of the Board.

The minutes of the last meeting (May 2000) were approved.

Ruth Samsel's application for design review of a wheelchair accessible ramp on 158 Broad Street was considered. While the Board responded favorably to the applicant's objective and recent work on the house, the Board rejected the proposed configuration of the ramp. An alternative was suggested, i.e., that the ramp zigzag east to west (parallel with the property's driveway) in order to minimize the protrusion onto Broad Street. If this alternative is unacceptable to the applicant, the Board is willing to entertain alternate proposals via fax in the week leading to the applicant's ZBA hearing. Those proposals must include elevation drawings.

Next, the Board heard M. Johnson's report on the Design Guidelines. M. Johnson reported that both within and outside of government right now there is a growing interest in design and streetscape plans for the downtown and suggested that the Board organize a hearing to capitalize on the building momentum for finalizing plans for design guidelines for the downtown. He then reported that a draft of the guidelines C. Wilcox had written was available for review. Board members were aware of the draft. The Board asked if C. Wilcox could be contacted to see about contracting with her to complete the guidelines, and if there was money available to hire both her and D. Wolfum, a local graphic artist, for the job.

Finally, the Board agreed to bring to next month's meeting nominations for 2001 Design Awards. N. Stamler said she would email M. Johnson a skeletal press release to encourage public awareness and participation in the nominations.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:10 PM.