

**Minutes Regular Meeting
March 20, 2018 @7:30 pm
Town Hall Second Floor Meeting Room**

Members Present:

Peter Benedict, Maureen Giattino, Laura Moore, George Wheatley, Elaine Chamberlain,
Elena Beleno Carney

Members Absent:

Greg Premru

Others Present:

John Amaral, Kendra Dumont, Patrick Mulligan
Maureen Adema, Admin Asst.

Meeting Called to Order 7:35 pm

7:35 pm, 186 Main Street, owners David and Donna Ward, for Certificate of Appropriateness

Continued to April 24, 2018.

The Groton Inn – John Amaral

John Amaral presented a plot plan/ land survey of the Inn property, along with a mock-up of the signs the Inn is proposing for the property. The mock-up does not demonstrate the final design or colors for the proposed signs. The signs are still being worked on.

*The Inn will have a soft opening on April 30, 2018, with the grand opening taking place on May 3, 2018. Mr. Amaral asked the Commission for comments and concerns on the proposed signs. He stated he will be seeking sign approval under **By-law 196-8 Unique and Special circumstances**. He is first seeking input from the HDC and then meeting with the Planning Board about the Inn signs.*

There are two signs proposed that will hang together one above the other. One sign is for the Inn; this is the upper sign and the bigger sign. This sign will have the Inn logo. The second is for the restaurant; this is the lower sign and the smaller sign.

Mr. Amaral stated the Inn did not want two curb cuts. Because the front of the Inn is a one way, one sign will work. The location of the sign will indicate to cars the entrance to the Inn and the location of the restaurant.

The proposed posts for the signs are granite posts. The granite post will work nicely on the property; they are in line with the historic sense of the property and are complementary to the materials used to build the Inn.

The sign(s) will be set off, so people can see and read the signage, somewhat at a 90 degree angle. In the fall and winter the view is good – but in the spring and summer the visibility changes because of the trees being in bloom.

The sign will be 25 square feet.

Commission Questions and Comments

Are the signs one sided? Yes, they are one sided.

Are you sure the best view for the sign(s) is at 90 degrees angle? A straight sign might be better.

Yes, the belief is that 90 degree view is best. If the sign was straight on – would need to change the sign(s) to two sided.

Beware of the new crosswalk signs, sight view could be compromised by them.

The sign(s) seems to be quite big. Five feet across, plus the posts would make the sign 7.5 feet across.

Sign is to scale of the building.

Have the colors and number of colors been determined?

No, but there will be no more than two or three colors per sign. Likely only two on the restaurant sign. The colors will be from the Benjamin Moore Historic Colors.

John Amaral, on behalf of the Inn, will submit application to the HDC for a public hearing. He plans to attend the next HDC on April 24, 2018.

Carriage House Salon 205 Main Street - for Certificate of Appropriateness for new sign.

Kendra Dumont, owner of *Carriage House Salon*, previous business name *Snip-its* would like to replace the current *Snip-its* sign with a sign for *Carriage House Salon*. Ms. Dumont informed the Commission the salon made the decision to make the name change because the name *Snip-its* is also the name of a chain of hair salons catering to children. Ms. Dumont plans to create a website and develop a stronger social media presence, changing the salon name supports these goals.

The proposed sign will replace the *Snip-its* sign that has been located at 205 Main Street for 17 years. The *Carriage House Salon* sign will be 34 inches long by 29 inches high, the identical size of the *Snip-its* sign. The sign will be white with raised black Alegreya lettering. The sign will be double sided. The new sign will utilize the same white post as the old sign at the entrance to the driveway. It is being mounted using eye hooks on the top of the sign. ISS, in Shirley, MA will make the sign.

Commission Questions and Comments

What material will be used for the sign?

Wood

Is there a boarder or frame around the words?

ISS will likely add a border.

A frame, similar to a picture frame along the four sign edges in the same black, would be nice.

Maureen Giattino made a motion to approve a Certificate of Appropriateness for the *Carriage House Salon* sign located at 205 Main Street that will be double sided, 34x29 inches in size on a white wooden board with black raised Alegreya lettering, with a black frame around the lettering to be hung on the existing white sign post with existing lighting. George Wheatley seconded. Vote was unanimous.

217 Main Street, Certificate of Appropriateness for temporary sign

Patrick Mulligan requested permission for a temporary sign at 217 Main Street for his real estate business Northeast Realty and Co. The proposed sign will consist of the business name and logo in the business colors and hang from two wooden posts painted white to match the house.

Mr. Mulligan will have the sign up for the allowed 1 year period. Placement would be 10' off the house and 10' off the driveway. The sign will measure 2'Wx3'L. The background color is a deep gray, the lettering will be white.

Mr. Mulligan has hired ISS signs, in Shirley, MA to make the sign. He has spoken to his neighbors and stated they are fine with the sign placement in front of his house.

Commission questions and comments:

Can the sign be closer to the house?

Have you considered putting the sign on the house?

No, but do not believe that would accomplish what the sign is needed for, which is advertising. Have you thought about putting the sign parallel to the house – would/could be double sided?

If the sign were parallel it would look too much like the sign was there because the house was on the market. The sign's purpose is for customers to find/locate the property.

Concern that the sign may be shiny and not in the feel of the district. A post and bracket sign would be better for the feel of the district.

What kind of material will the sign be made of?

Metal or thick plastic with metal, something that will stand up to the weather.

Commission asked that Mr. Mulligan try-out a few different mock signs at his property, and come to the next meeting with materials and final proposal.

Administrative Matters

186 Main Street –support of citizen petition.

George Wheatley made a motion to support the citizen's petition to rezone 186 Main Street (Parcel 113-1) from residential-agricultural "R-A" to residential-business "R-B" and include this property in the Town Center Overlay District. Laura Moore seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Old Business - Prescott

No change/update regarding the Indian Hill Music, Prescott House.

Laura Moore indicated that she spoke with individuals regarding the Prescott House since the HDC's last meeting. Individuals were wondering if Indian Hill Music would consider donating the house to the Town after the murals are removed. It is possible, the contractor removing the murals may know of someone that might like to purchase the house.

A request from individuals at the last meeting is to invite Indian Hill Music representatives, if the Prescott House is again on the HDC meeting agenda. The Commission agreed to do this.

Chair Peter Benedict will email Al Collins and Bob DeGroot for their input and thoughts on the Prescott House.

The Prescott House will be put on the next HDC agenda.

George Wheatley made a motion to accept minutes of January 23, 2018 with corrections. Maureen Giattino seconded. Vote was unanimous

Maureen Giattino made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Peter Benedict seconded. Vote was unanimous

Adjourned at 9:35 PM

Next meeting, April 24, 2018