

**SIGN COMMITTEE
MINUTES JULY 13, 2015
APPROVED**

Present: Mark Haddad, Gineane Haberlin, Carolyn Perkins

Also Present: Dawn Dunbar, Michelle Collette

Mr. Haddad called the meeting to order at 8:58am and welcomed new member Gineane Haberlin.

245 Lowell Road

Mr. Haddad opened the public hearing and read the notice into record. Mr. Haddad said that they had received a request for a unique and special circumstances sign. Ms. Janine Lavalley said that line of sight was an issue on both sides but her client would like to be able to mark both her entrances on Lowell Road. She said that her client was trying to organize traffic as people come and go all day. Ms. Perkins asked where the signs would be located. Mr. Lavalley showed the Committee. Ms. Haberlin said that she thought this was a great idea. Mr. Haddad said that he would like to request 2 votes; one that merits consideration as unique and/or special and one that approves the sign.

Ms. Perkins moved that this sign qualify under unique and special circumstances. Ms. Haberlin seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Perkins moved to approve the sign for Scarlet Farm located at 245 Lowell Road, Groton as designed by Broadmeadow Sign Studio. Ms. Haberlin seconded the motion.

Ms. Collette asked if they had run the sight distances by the Police Chief. Ms. Lavalley said that she had not.

Ms. Perkins amended her motion to include the above condition. Ms. Haberlin seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Perkins moved to close the public hearing. Ms. Haberlin seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Bellarose Law Office, 491 Main Street, Suite D

Mr. Haddad said that there was a request for a new sign for Bellarose Law Office coming to Mill Run Plaza. Ms. Collette said that there were no issues with the sign adding that it met the guidelines.

Mr. Haddad asked Ms. Lavalley what the status was with the big sign proposed for out front. Ms. Lavalley said that she was working with an engineer but was having issues with drilling holes. She said that signs could not be put on gable ends.

Mr. Haddad said that he would accept a motion to approve the sign for Mark Bellarose. Ms. Perkins made the motion. Ms. Haberlin seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Nashoba Paddler, 398 West Main Street

Mr. Haddad said that they had an application for a replacement sign from Nashoba Paddler. Ms. Lavalley said that the new sign was significantly prettier and met all the sign size requirements. Ms. Collette said that it was in a residential neighborhood but that there was a provision in bylaw that they would be grandfathered. Mr. Haddad said that he had no problem with the new sign as long as it was replacing what was there.

Mr. Haddad said he would entertain a motion to approve the sign as submitted. Ms. Haberlin made the motion. Ms. Perkins seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Compliance Issues

Ms. Collette said that the Country Club sign was different than what was approved adding that she requested the Committee amend their vote. Mr. Haddad said that they added the words "Tavern".

Mr. Haddad said he would entertain a motion to change the bottom panel from Restaurant/Pub to Tavern. Ms. Perkins made the motion. Ms. Haberlin seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Collette said that Boston Road Market had taken down all their under new management signs.

Ms. Collette said that Laer Realty had hung a vinyl banner up at Mill Run Plaza and thus far had been ignoring calls, etc. She said that she was going to follow-up again with a certified letter.

Ms. Collette said that Country Farm store had a lottery balance sign in the window which shouldn't be there. She said she asked them to place it somewhere else in the store, just not in the window.

Ms. Collette said that she marked up the Sign Bylaw for things they should consider modifying at the Fall Town Meeting. She said that the bylaw had been in place for 5 years and should be updated. Mr. Haddad suggested placing this on its own agenda and invite Mr. Bouchard in to talk about political signs and how they are different than temporary signs to make sure they don't violate the 1st amendment. The Committee will meet on August 10th at 9am.

Minutes

Mr. Perkins moved to approve the minutes of April 15, 2015. Mr. Haddad seconded the motion. The motion carried 2-0-1 with Ms. Haberlin abstaining.

Ms. Haberlin moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:26am. Ms. Perkins seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Dunbar
Executive Assistant to the Town Manager

Date Approved: 9/15/15