

**FRANKLIN HERITAGE COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING  
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
Thursday September 15, 2016 6:00 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:02

**Salute to the Flag**

**Roll Call**

**Present:** Chair Glen Feener, Paul Trudel, George Dzujna, Jeff Whitney, Bob Lucas, Mike Mullavey & Richard Lewis (Planning and Zoning Director).

**By unanimous consent, Mr. Feener won't be voting on items 1, 5 and 6. He will be voting on items 2, 3 and 4 since Member Mullavey is recusing himself on those applications from PermaCityLife.**

**New Business**

**1) The review and consideration of a Sign Permit application from the Twin Rivers Interfaith Food Pantry at 237 Central Street. The application proposes an unlit, free-standing, changeable letter sign to be located east of the flag pole in the front yard.**

Rev. Karen Heavey and Mr. Ed Pierce spoke of the need for such a sign to help increase donations to the food pantry. Since the property is leased, a permanent and more expensive sign is not feasible. The donated changeable letter sign will serve their purposes with no financial outlay. Following questions from the Commission regarding the size, placement, and the frequency of updating the sign's information, the meeting was opened up to the public. Mr. Leigh Webb brought in photographs of alternative sign designs that would be more in keeping with the character of the downtown area and still reflect a message of hope and inspiration. A letter written by Annette Andreozzi, expressing her dissent was read into the record.

Motions [Lucas / Dzujna] to deny: The Commission finds that the type and design of the sign would have an adverse impact of the historical nature of the core downtown area, and it also does not fit into the look and character of the church building where it will be located. However, to provide temporary relief to the Food Bank for signage, this sign may be used for 60 days until a more appropriate design can be proposed. All in favor. The members of the Commission expressed their admiration of the church's good deeds.

**2) The review and consideration of a Sign Permit application for Jekyll & Hyde Art Gallery at 337 Central Street. Joe Kildune proposes a 2' x 10' banner sign to hang over the upper, blacked out windows of the store front.**

Mike Mullavey presented the application for Joe Kildune. Questions from the commission included size, design, mounting techniques, and color choices. The meeting was opened to comments from the public. Mr. Webb asked about the commission's discussion regarding the Toad Hall sign and Mr. Lewis answered that a sign application for that sign had never appeared before the commission. Although Mr. Webb felt that the sign did not strictly adhere to the fabric of the historic district, he had no objections. Ms. Sarah Stanley noted that PermaCityLife is trying to create a new identity for Franklin by bringing in the arts. She feels that the Jekyll and Hyde sign will generate interest.

Chairman Feener brought the discussion back to the Commission. The greatest issue was the mounting of the banner so that it could survive adverse weather conditions and it was agreed that the banner needed to be mounted on a board with the edges secured by a frame, all of which would be affixed permanently to the building.

Motions [Lucas / Dzujna] to Approve: The Heritage Commission finds that the design and color of the proposed sign will not have an adverse impact on the historic nature of the core downtown area. The approval is conditional of the mounting of the banner to a board to make it more secure. The applicant will work with the Planning Director to determine the best mounting approach. All in favor.

**3) The review and consideration of a Sign Permit application for Franklin Clothing Store at 355 Central Street. The existing sign is mounted above the shop and made of Styrofoam, painted in colors compatible with the historic district.**

Mr. Mullavey stated that Franklin Clothing Store recently moved here from Nassau and wanted to preserve the look of an old-fashioned clothing store. They also rent other properties in town to warehouse the clothing stock they offer over the internet. The meeting was opened to comments from the public. Mr. Webb had no objection to the design of the sign. Chair Feener brought the discussion back to the Commission.

Motions [Lucas / Dzujna] to Approve: The Heritage Commission finds that the design and color of the sign does not have an adverse impact on the historic nature of the downtown area. All in favor.

**4) The review and consideration of a Sign Permit application from Colby Sawyer College at 357 Central Street. The proposed sign would share billing with PermaCityLife.**

Mr. Mullavey told the Commission that Colby Sawyer is now offering a degree in Community Sustainability and they chose Franklin as their example for this endeavor. Renovations have taken place inside to create office space containing 10-12 computer stations. The space will also be rented out temporarily to CATCH until they find a more permanent site. The Commission asked about the size and placement of the sign. The meeting was open to the public. Jim Aberg spoke to the positive aspects of having Colby Sawyer College in Franklin; that having a higher education presence in town is a good thing.

Chairman Feener brought the discussion back to the Commission. All members expressed their delight in both the college and the proposed sign.

Motions [Lucas / Whitney] to approve. The Heritage Commission finds that the design and color for the proposed sign does not have an adverse impact on the historic nature of the downtown area. All in favor.

At this point, Chairman Feener steps down as a voting member, serving only as Chairman. Chair Feener asked to complete the sign applications and so moved item 6 in front of item 5.

**6) The review and consideration of a Sign Permit application from Hope for NH Recovery at 175 Central Street. The owner is 175 Central Street, LLC.**

Cheryl Coletti, on behalf of Hope for NH Recovery answered questions from the commission regarding the sign measurements, supporting apparatus and materials. The unlit blade sign will be constructed of wood. The purple butterfly sign will be made of vinyl to adhere to the inside of the window offering privacy for those within the building while still allowing natural light to enter. Ms. Coletti expressed thanks for the support the organization has received. The meeting was opened to comments from the public. Ms. Stanley spoke in favor of the sign's size and color, a sentiment that Leigh Webb also expressed. Director Lewis read a section of the letter from Ms.

Andreozzi where she mentions that the mural sign does not reflect the historical color scheme. Ms. Coletti mentioned that the vinyl sign is not permanently affixed to the window.

Motions [Lucas / Whitney] to approve. The Heritage Commission finds that the color and design of the proposed hanging sign will not have an adverse impact to the historic nature of the downtown historic district. The proposed window treatment design, while not exactly of a historic nature, will provide appropriate privacy for the individuals utilizing the facility while at the same time allowing natural light into the building, and this is also approved. All in favor.

**5) The review and consideration of a carport to be located at the Lakes Region EMS facility, on the south side of the building at 81 Memorial Street; the applicant is Lakes Region EMS, and the owner is FBIDC.**

Mr. George Dzujna recused himself since he is on the board for FBIDC. Chair Feener will vote on this matter.

Mr. Harvey, Manager of Lakes Region EMS facility, said they were asking for the carport to protect the private vehicles of the EMS personnel who work 24 hours shifts, mentioning that it is a hardship on his personnel to come out and have to clear snow and ice from their cars after working 24 hours. The carport they're looking at is a temporary, but sturdy structure that has a 20 year warranty. Jim Aberg representing the property owners said that they had no objection to the carport, and they have not considered adding anything permanent to the building to serve the same purpose. Member Lucas and Member Trudel asked about the design of the structure and expressed their concerns that such a structure is not in keeping with the historic nature of the downtown area. Mr. Aberg added that the structure is temporary, but substantial; that is goes with the tenant when their lease is up.

Director Lewis, read the pertinent section from Ms. Andreozzi's letter, again stating that this does not conform to the historic aspect of the area. Mr. Trudel, in agreement with Ms. Andreozzi, added that he were going to approve this it would need to be renovated to fit in better within a reasonable amount of time. Mr. Aberg assured the commission that Lakes Region EMS only has a two year lease and if they were going to renew the lease, then you could demand that condition. Member Trudel suggested amending the motion with a 2 year limit and Mr. Harvey offered to have a trial period and that if they received any negative comments from the public they would take the structure down. Chairman Feener also had reservations about allowing the carport but added he could go along with the two year time limit.

Motions [Feener / Lucas] to approve. The Heritage Commission finds that the installation of the proposed carport will not have an adverse impact on the historic nature of the downtown area due to the following facts: 1) the site is a former industrial use [paving company] and the building design and the makeup of the lot is not of any historic value; 2) the subject property is adjacent to a former industrial mill property where the exterior uses are not of any historic nature. This approval is only for the current tenant, Lakes Region EMS and limited to two years. If the company wants to keep the carport past that time timeframe, they will need to get a new approval from the Commission. At the point in time when they vacate the property, the carport must be removed. All in favor.

**Other Business:** September 28, 2016, 6:00 p.m. was the date and time agreed upon for the next Commission Meeting which will include a discussion of the old video store's conversion into apartments and work at the Franklin Savings Bank downtown branch. Chairman Feener warned members about sending blanket emails which elicit everyone's thoughts and comments since this could be construed as not giving proper notice to the public about city issues.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.