



JAMES J. MERCER
CHAIRMAN

DONALD V. HOWE
CRAIG OKERSTROM-LANG
BARBARA SYER
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TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON
MASSACHUSETTS

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ALTERNATES:
DANIEL BAILLY
MARILYN KALISH

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION MEETING

April 19, 2012

Selectmen's Room

Present: James Mercer, Chairman
Barbara Syer, Secretary
Donald Howe
Craig Okerstrom-Lang
Pat Ryan

Meeting was called to order.

Tim Geller gave a power point presentation on Community Preservation Act. Can be used for open space and recreation, affordable housing, and historic preservation. 148 towns – about 1/3 of all Massachusetts towns, have adopted this legislation. It will add about \$79.00 to property owners tax.

MOTION: by Pat Ryan to open public hearing
SECOND: BY Craig Okerstrom-Lang
VOTE: Unanimous

Application by Premier Insurance and paid for by same for sign at 304 Main Street, Second Floor. Duly advertised in Berkshire Record. Chairman Mercer recused himself and left room. Vice Chair Don Howe presiding over meeting. Quorum of 4 voting members present. Craig Okerstrom-Lang said Design Advisory Committee approved but one member had a problem with the white background.

MOTION: by Craig Okerstrom-Lang to close the public hearing and open meeting for discussion
SECOND: by Pay Ryan
VOTE: Unanimous

MOTION: by Pat Ryan to turn down the request as pictured and ask to come back with sign compatible in visual effect with the signs directly to the south.
SECOND: by Craig Okerstrom-Lang
VOTE: Pat Ryan, Don Howe, Barbara Syer and Craig Okerstrom-Lang voted YES.

MOTION: by Pat Ryan to accept meeting minutes of March 15, 2012 with correction "Property Tax Exemption should be \$100,000 – not \$2600 as reported .

SECOND: by Craig Okerstrom-Lang
VOTE: Unanimous

Betsy Andrus, director of the Chamber of Commerce, showed the many signs that have been created in their campaign to "market" the town. They plan to put banners on the poles at the entrances to town.

Attached is a letter Chairman Mercer wrote to Town Manager O'Donnell, with picture of historic street light. This Commission feels it would be appropriate as representative of first street lights in Great Barrington. They would be twelve feet high at crosswalks. Committee is meeting with National Grid representative.

Attached is a memorandum Chairman Mercer wrote to retail business owners and offices on Railroad Street concerning an opportunity to have their name on a street directory of Railroad Street.

NEXT MEETING: May 17, 2012 at 6:30 p.m.