

Architectural Design Review Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 20, 2009

The Architectural Design Review Advisory Committee convened its May 20, 2009 meeting at 5:00 PM at the Chamber of Commerce Meeting Room, 14 Holmes Street, Mystic. Present were Susan Cullen, Charles Canavan, Robert Birmingham, Chairman Mark Comeau, and Christopher Thorp. Planning Director William Haase was absent. Minutes for the March 25, 2009 meeting were approved as read.

The focus of this meeting was review of the draft Design Guidance Manual. The cover, picturing the Stonington Lighthouse Museum in Stonington Borough, was discussed, and it was decided that Road Church on Pequot Trail, the first town hall in the community, would be a better symbol of the Town.

Contents: the document's Overview and the District map were approved. It was felt there should be some language stating that smaller jobs might not require professional architects, and that it should hyperlink to the document on the Planning and Zoning website on this. All proposed Design Review Elements were approved. Chris Thorpe said he would email Mark Comeau suggestions for Landscaping and Parking.

The draft guidance manual proposes five separate districts, reflecting Stonington's different commercial geography. Generally it was felt the language was well done, some of the photos might be improved, and an additional section could include "Local Attractions" in the Mystic area featuring the Seaport and Aquarium on a separate page (perhaps also Denison Homestead and Pequotsepos Nature Center). There would also be a section on old historic houses. It was felt that southern boundary for Old Mystic should be Jerry Brown Road.

There was discussion that the two interchange zones (Exits 90 and 92) might be treated as one, but since Mystic (Exit 90) is an established zone, and the other is still developing, it would be better to separate them. For the Pawcatuck interchange (Exit 92) it was suggested that rather than show what is now there, the guidance document could take advantage of existing well done developments elsewhere to show desirable design elements: e.g., Longmeadow, Garden City at Warwick, more hotels and restaurants, pedestrian malls. An appendix will include two pages of architectural details without text.

With a sense of achievement, and approval of work done by Chairman Mark Comeau, the meeting was adjourned at 6:15 PM. The next meeting will be June 17th, at 5 PM at 14 Holmes Street.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary M. Thacher