

Town of Sturbridge
Design Review Committee

Meeting Minutes

January 8, 2015

Meeting convened: 1:31 pm
Meeting adjourned: 2:00 pm

Present: DRC members Chris Castendyk, Elaine Cook, Fran O'Connell, Chris Wilson

Absent: Cindy Forgit

Location: Center Office Building - Second Floor Meeting Room

Agenda

- Call to order and approval of Minutes of December 16, 2014
- Whistling Swan - 502 Main Street
- Old Business
- New Business
- Adjournment

Approval of Minutes of December 16, 2014

Motion to approve: Fran O'Connell and seconded by Chris Castendyk Vote 4-0

502 Main Street - Whistling Swan

Re: The Whistling Swan application for a permanent sandwich board.

Note: Ref: the December 16, 2014 DRC meeting, the Committee postponed taking action on the Whistling Swan application for a permanent sandwich board sign pending review of further information.

Material reviewed: Minutes of the February 21, 2012 DRC meeting which included the application for a pylon sign by the Whistling Swan with the addition of two changeable panels added to the sign, which brought it to a larger dimension than that allowed by the town bylaws.

DRC comments: Discussion centered on the facts in the February 21, 2012 meeting which confirmed the sign application included two changeable panels which were not part of the original design approval in 2011. The DRC approved the design of the sign at the February 21, 2012 meeting, but deferred the oversized dimensions of the sign to the Building Inspector's jurisdiction. During discussion with the applicant at the February

21, 2012 meeting, it was made clear that the inclusion of the two changeable panels would be in lieu of an additional sandwich board.

Motion on the current application for a permanent sandwich board sign:

A motion was made by Fran O'Connell and seconded by Chris Castendyk to deny the application for a permanent sandwich board sign based on the fact that the intent of the DRC's approval of the design portion of the original sign proposal, was that the inclusion of the two changeable panels underneath the main sign was to be in lieu of a need for any additional sandwich board signage.

Vote 4-0

Old Business

None

New Business

Members of the Committee voiced their concern over the number of non-permanent sandwich board signs that may be in non-compliance. A suggestion was made regarding the possibility of having people who need assistance paying property taxes be utilized as "reporters" so to speak, who would take time to drive around the town and make a list of non-permanent sandwich boards and bring the list to the attention of the Building Inspector for his action. The Committee realizes the many duties the Building Inspector has to undertake in a limited amount of time and felt this may be an option and solution.

Next DRC Meeting Date - January 20, 2015 at 1:30 pm

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Fran O'Connell and seconded by Chris Castendyk Vote 4-0

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Wilson

Cc J Bubon, Town Planner
N Burlingame, Building Inspector
Board of Selectmen
S Kennedy, Town Administrator
L Wong
D Trapasso