



TOWN HALL
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DESIGN REVIEW BOARD
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May 17, 2005

Memo to: Bonnie Weeks, Building Commissioner
Christine Brestrup, Associate Planner
From: Jonathan Tucker, interim Director
Subject: DRB Recommendations of April 12, 2005

The Tuesday, April 12, 2005 meeting of the Design Review Board began at 7:37 p.m. in the First Floor Meeting Room, Town Hall. Members Erica Gees, Ludmilla Pavlova-Gilham, and David Henion were present, along with interim Director Jonathan Tucker. The Board made the following recommendations and took the following actions:

#2005-00014, Dr. Atkinson, 29D Cottage Street – Recommend **Approval** of the design of new wall and door signs, as proposed.

#2005-00015, Trade Roots, 233 North Pleasant Street – Recommend **Approval** of the design of an existing wall sign and a proposed new second floor wall sign, with the following conditions:

- 1) On the new upper level sign, the red and yellow 'flag' bands shall be shrunk to provide a larger central field for the name of the store, and letters shall be increased in size and spread further apart.

The applicant agreed to bring designs for a proposed banner sign back to the Board for review at a future meeting.

Pomeroy Village – The Board discussed preparations for one or more public meetings in June, including the need to provide photographs and prepare sample roadway/streetscape cross-sections. It was recommended that the Town website be used to advertise the meetings and make their results public. It was suggested a list of major topic areas be prepared—parking, street trees, lighting, sidewalks, plantings, street furniture, etc.—for members of the public to respond to and indicate preferences. The purpose was to present general ideas and solicit the public's ideas and preferences.

Membership – The Board discussed finding a candidate to fill the current vacant slot and the opening after June 30.

Town Meeting Warrant – The Board reviewed the warrant for the 2005 Annual Town Meeting, and made the following recommendations on four articles (10, 15, 17, and 23).

Article 10 – Recommend **Support** for the CPA funding request for historic preservation projects.

Article 15 – Recommend **Referral** of this proposal to remove parking on the north side of Main Street along the Dickinson Museum properties, to the Select Board.

Article 17 – Recommend **Defeat** of this proposal to place 25-30 acres of the Wentworth farm property in permanent conservation protection, for reasons the Board described the previous two times this article was considered, as well as the following issues:

- The need to treat the buildable and unbuildable portions of this area differently for future changes in designation. [Ms. Pavlova-Gilham]
- There is no urgency. The properties are Town-owned, and there are no pending projects under consideration for them. [Ms. Gees]
- Prior to making any final disposition of these properties, the Town should employ a “smart growth” approach to future public use of this area and the nearby intersection of Belchertown Road, gatehouse Road, and Old Farms Road, including its consideration as a potential future village center. [Ms. Gees]

Article 23 – Recommend **Support** for this proposed procedural improvement to the OSCD development process, on the basis that additional public input will improve the design and neighborhood ‘fit’ of new residential developments.

The Board authorized Mr. Tucker to draft a written summary of its recommendations, to be circulated among the members for review and comment prior to being distributed to Town Meeting.

Next Meeting – The Board set its next meeting for Tuesday, May 10, to be confirmed by an email poll of the members.

The meeting ended at 9:40 p.m.