



TOWN HALL
4 Boltwood Avenue
Amherst, MA 01002-2351

DESIGN REVIEW BOARD
(413) 259-3040
(413) 259-2410 [Fax]
planning@amherstma.gov

February 19, 2008

DRB Memorandum #2008-1

Memo to: Bonnie Weeks, Building Commissioner
Jonathan Tucker, Planning Director
From: Christine Brestrup, Senior Planner
Subject: DRB Recommendations of February 5, 2008

The Tuesday, February 5, 2008, meeting of the Design Review Board began at 7:33 p.m. in the Planning Department, Town Hall. Members Kathleen Fisher, Anita Licis and Janet Winston were present, along with Senior Planner, Christine Brestrup. The members made the following recommendations and took the following actions.

The Board turned to Appointments.

DRB #2008-00005, 11 North Pleasant Street, Arigato

Recommended Approval of the change in lettering on an existing awning for the current Arigato Sushi Restaurant (soon to become Arigato Steak & Sushi Restaurant), with the following conditions:

Ends of the awning

- On the ends of the awning, enlarge the word “STEAK” a little and move it down so that the bottom of the word lines up with the words on the front of the awning
- Eliminate the double black lines on either side of the word “STEAK”

Front of the awning

- Slightly reduce the white space on the left hand side by moving the graphic symbol and the words “ARIGATO STEAK & SUSHI” slightly to the left
- Slightly increase the white space between the word “SUSHI” and the graphic symbol on the right
- Do not move the graphic symbol on the right
- Eliminate the single black lines at the edges of planes of the awning (these lines appear in the drawing, but would not appear on the “real” awning).

The Board turned to Old Business.

West Street and Pomeroy Lane Intersection

Ms. Brestrup reviewed the work that had been done in the past with respect to redesign of the West Street and Pomeroy Lane intersection. She noted that the Board would be asked to participate in the proposed redesign of the intersection, including review of changes that are intended to make the intersection more pedestrian-friendly and strengthen its identity as a Village Center. Ms. Brestrup reminded the Board of their past role in eliciting comments from residents and business-owners in the vicinity of this Village Center. This process had involved at least one public meeting.

Atkins Corner Redesign

Ms. Brestrup described the redesign of Route 116/West Street as it passes through the Atkins Corner area. She noted that the Board would be asked to review 25% design plans when MassHighway has completed this phase of design.

Kendrick Park

Ms. Brestrup reviewed the status of Kendrick Park and noted that the Board would be asked for its comments and recommendations as the Town's plans for Kendrick Park moved ahead.

The Board turned to New Business.

250th Anniversary Proposal for Art Installation

In the absence of Adrienne Terrizzi, Chair of the 250th Anniversary Arts and Literature Subcommittee, Ms. Fisher who is also a member of the Subcommittee, presented the proposal to install a "spirit building" or "spirit frame", designed by John Sendelbach, in honor of the Amherst Academy across from the Jones Library, on Amity Street. Ms. Fisher noted that the Subcommittee is very close to accepting the proposal by Mr. Sendelbach. She stated that there had been discussions about the redesign of the parking lot next to the Amherst Cinema building which may need to accompany installation of the "spirit building".

The Board discussed the design and noted the following issues:

1. Traffic/Circulation - The Board discussed the issue of safety. Members felt that, if benches, street trees or plantings were included, the placement of these items should be done carefully so as not to obscure sight lines for those entering and exiting the parking lot. The members were also concerned about the curb radii for the curbs at the entrance and exit and thought the radii should be more generous. The Board also felt that widening the driveways at the entry and exit might help promote better circulation.

2. Architectural Design Elements – The Board discussed the varying design vocabulary of the structures. The linear design of the spirit frame and the rounded design of the arches in the panels were thought to be too disparate. The overall design would flow

better if the entire design were more unified rather than appearing as two separate entities. The Board suggested that the design of the cupola might be reflected in the design of the panels. The Board also asked if the designer intended the structure to be a destination or a passageway.

3. Display panels – The Board wondered whether the panels shown behind the spirit frame would be used to display (permanently) historical information about the Amherst Academy or would they be used for temporary/changing displays of artwork.

The Board turned to Future Meetings.

Future Meetings

The typical meeting schedule for the Design Review Board has been the first and third Tuesdays of the month. The Board decided on the following schedule for the next four months, to accommodate vacation weeks and the temporary needs of one of the Board members. The Board also decided that it did not wish to meet on these dates if there were no DRB applications or pressing business to discuss.

Tuesday, February 26

Tuesday, March 11

Tuesday, March 25

Wednesday, April 9

Wednesday, April 23

Wednesday, May 14

Wednesday, May 28

Tuesday, June 3

Tuesday, June 17

The meeting ended at 9:20 p.m.

Cc: Kathleen Fisher
Anita Licis
Janet Winston