



TOWN HALL
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DESIGN REVIEW BOARD
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August 30, 2010

DRB Memorandum #2010-8

Memo to: Bonnie Weeks, Building Commissioner
Jonathan Tucker, Planning Director
From: Christine Brestrup, Senior Planner
Subject: DRB Meeting – July 27, 2010

The Tuesday, July 27, 2010, meeting of the Design Review Board began at 6:30 p.m. in the First Floor Meeting Room, Town Hall. Design Review members Janet Winston (Chair), Jonathan Salvon, Katherine Grandonico and Jim Wald were present. Also present were Christine Brestrup, Senior Planner, Stephanie Dalton of Community Action and Jaelyn Michon and Brook of The Chopping Block.

DRB 2011-00003, Community Action for Head Start – 1200 North Pleasant Street – Review of the proposed installation of a shed for storage of toys

Recommended approval without conditions

Ms. Dalton presented the application. Head Start is proposing to install a shed in the northwest corner of the play area at 1200 North Pleasant Street. The play area is surfaced with wood chips. The shed will be 8' x 8' and will be used for storing outdoor toys. It is a pre-fabricated shed and will be painted beige, with beige trim.

Ms. Grandonico expressed concern about the shed's size. Is it large enough? Ms. Dalton stated that the shed has shelving and that hooks can be installed inside, so it has plenty of room. The roof will have brown shingles and the door will be facing south towards the school building. The shed will be raised above the surface of the playground and will have a ramp for access. There will be no windows and no electricity.

DRB 2011-00004, Community Action for Head Start – 61 Strong Street – Review of proposed replacement of existing wooden fence with black, vinyl-coated fence, and addition of fence section.

Recommended approval without conditions.

Again Ms. Dalton presented the application. The Head Start program at 61 Strong Street is proposing to replace the existing wood fencing that goes around the edge of the property with black, vinyl-coated chain link fencing. They are also proposing to add a piece of fencing along the south side of the property and to ring the toddler area with new fencing. The existing wood fencing is cracked and splintering and dangerous for children.

Board members commented that though they didn't like chain link fencing in general, this fencing will be mostly hidden from view from off-site because of the shrubs that surround the site and they agreed that the smooth surface of the new fencing will be safer. They also agreed that black chain link fencing was preferable to silver because it blends into the surroundings.

Old Business

DRB 2011-00002, Jaclyn Michon, 40 Main Street – Review of proposed hanging (blade) sign and vinyl signs on windows

Recommended approval with conditions

Ms. Michon and her associate, Brook, presented a revised design for the blade sign, in accordance with recommendations that the Board had made on July 13, 2010. The new sign is slightly larger, all the letters are white and the lettering has been separated so that it does not overlap, making it easier to read than the initial design. The background color of the sign has also changed to a more muted olive green. The Board members found that the revised sign was still a bit hard to read.

Conditions

- 1) The applicant might consider creating a thicker black outline for the white letters, to improve legibility.

New Business

Mr. Wald noted that Amherst College is applying to demolish a fence at one of its properties on College Street, across from Valentine Hall. The fence is old and deteriorating. The Historical Commission will be holding a public hearing to determine if a demolition delay should be imposed. Although the property is outside of the area of the DRB’s jurisdiction, Mr. Wald stated that members of the DRB might be interested in attending the upcoming Historical Commission meeting to speak as private citizens about the proposed demolition.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Future Meetings Tuesday, August 3, 2010

- Cc: Janet Winston, DRB
- Jim Wald, DRB & HC
- Kathryn Grandonico, DRB
- Jonathan Salvon, DRB
- Nate Malloy, Associate Planner
- Jeffrey Bagg, Senior Planner
- Stephanie Dalton, Applicant
- Jaclyn Michon, Applicant