Minutes: Design Review Board

October 12, 2011

Present: Dan Martin, Jane Roddy, Deborah Kruskal, Chris O'Halloran

Absent: Juan Cruz Molina

Sign Application: Wendy Wheeler Clothing Store

365 Boston Post Rd

Bart Steele of Viewpoint signs presented an application for two wall mounted signs. Mr. Steele also indicated that the applicant wanted a third sign on the East side of the building. The board indicated that the applicant is permitted up to three wall mounted signs provided that the total area does not exceed 39 square feet. The application is for a 10 square foot sign and a 4.25 square foot sign. The board unanimously voted to approve the signs as presented and a third sign of the same 10 square foot dimension as the North facing sign to be placed on the East side.

Sign Application: Herb Chambers of Sudbury 83 Boston Post Rd

Joshua Fox presented an application for an additional wall mounted sign to be relocated from another site. Mr. Fox indicated that the sign, if not internally illuminated, would bring the total square footage up to the maximum allowed in the bylaw for non-illuminated signage. As the sign is self-illuminated, it would exceed the square footage and require a variance.

The board took no issue with the sign itself, but several members were concerned that the proposed location is not suitable for the size of the sign. The location above the western most set of windows and below the roof line appears to be approximately the same size as the proposed sign. The board is concerned that the sign will be too cramped in this location and that the descender of the "J" may cover a portion of the window or the window frame.

Mr. Fox opined that the sign may be temporary as the property is expected to undergo a renovation at which point the signage is likely to be revisited and updated. The board expressed a desire to recommend a variance to the ZBA to allow the sign as presented subject to an expiration date, allowing for sufficient time to prepare for the renovations, if such a condition were possible. The board also suggested that a variance should be subject to the sign fitting within the allotted space without infringing on the window or window frame.

The board suggested that the applicant would be better served by a sign that is more harmonious with the building and strongly suggested that the applicant consider replacing this sign regardless of whether or not there are future renovations.

The board unanimously voted to recommend the variance providing that the sign fits within the proposed location and subject to a time limit set forth by the ZBA if such a limit is permissible.

Commercial Renovation Pongal II

Kalairanan Chandrarekaran presented some architectural drawings for proposed changes to the Pongal II restaurant. The plan drawing seems appropriate for the scale of the building. The board noted that the plan and elevation presented did not seem to correspond. The applicant suggested that one may have been a newer revision. The board would like to see an elevation for the North side of the building (facing Route 20) that includes both the old and new portions of the building before commenting further.

Miscellaneous:

The board approved the minutes of 27 July 2011.