

DRAFT Minutes
Design Review Board
November 20, 2013

Present: Dan Martin, Deborah Kruskal, Juan Cruz
Absent: Paula Hyde, Jen Koffel

Landscape Plan: 65 Union Ave
Methods Machine Tools

Matt Oteri and Dave Duane presented a landscape plan for 65 Union Avenue.

Ms Kruskal noted that the proximity of the crab apple tree to the path could cause some interference with its low branches. Mr Oteri suggested that this could be handled with pruning but would also consider moving them somewhat further from the path while also not interfering with sight lines for trucks entering and exiting the site. Mr Oteri also wants to keep the crab apple tree for its white blooms.

Ms Kruskal also suggested that the applicants choose plants that bloom in colors other than pink for next to the red brick building.

The applicants noted that some of the plants in the rain garden are non-native. The Board has no issue with the plant choices.

The Board unanimously voted to approve the landscape plan with the understanding that some rain garden plant materials may change based on Conservation Commission input.

Sign Application: 65 Union Ave
Methods Machine Tools

Dave Duane expressed a desire to add a halo-lit "M" logo similar to the existing non-lighted version that is on the building.

As the existing signage already exceeds the signage allowance, the Board informed Mr Duane that he would have to go before the Board of Appeals for approval of the sign.

The Board sees no compelling reason for increasing the signage allowance, and suggested to the applicant that instead he should seek permission to replace the existing "M" sign with the proposed halo-lit sign.

The Board unanimously agrees that the existing "M" logo on the building is difficult to read because it is red on top of red brick and that the proposed sign is an improvement to the existing sign. The proposed sign is also somewhat smaller than the existing sign, and seems like an appropriate trade-off.

The Board voted unanimously to write a letter to the ZBA supporting the proposed replacement of the existing wall-mounted "M" sign with a halo-lit sign to be located on the feature wall.

Miscellaneous

The Board approved the minutes of November 13.