

Methuen Historic District Commission
September 25, 2008 at 7:00 P.M.
Great Hall – Searles Building
41 Pleasant Street
Methuen, MA 01844

MEETING MINUTES

1. Call to Order of Regular Meeting

Chairman Dufresne called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

2. Roll Call

Raymond Dufresne, Chair	Present	Joseph Fisichelli	Present
Martha Welch, Vice Chair	Present	Christine Metzemaekers	Absent
Joseph Bella	Present	Katherine Robinson, Alternate	Present
Peter Cameron	Present	David Sigillo, Alternate	Absent
Robert Fabino	Present		

Others in Attendance

Lynn Smiledge, Historic Planner, City of Methuen
Tom Harkins, Northroad Wood Signs
Jim Giuca, Principal, Tenney Grammar School

Deborah Ingalls, Tenney Grammar School PTO
Sheila DeAngelis, Methuen
David Spada, Methuen

3. Acceptance of August 19, 2008 Minutes

MOTION BY Commissioner Robinson to accept the minutes of the August 19, 2008 meeting. Second by Commissioner Welch.

UNANIMOUS VOTE.

4. Old Business

Public Hearing Continuation: Deborah Ingalls/Tenney School PTO

75 Pleasant Street: installation of sign

Commissioner Bella reported on the site visit to the school that took place on Saturday, Sept. 6; participants included Commissioners Fabino, Robinson, Fisichelli, and Bella; Deborah Ingalls; Jim Giuca; Terry Scannell; and Bob Sheehan. The group identified an acceptable alternate location for the sign on the parking lot island facing incoming cars, where a small sign is currently installed. The new sign will be seven (7) feet tall and constructed of steel painted in Bristol Blue; there will be no exterior lighting.

Ms. Ingalls reported that all documentation and support letters requested at the August 19 meeting were supplied to commissioners. She provided sample color swatches for the white sign background and blue frame, and sample black removable letters. She stated that the sign would be secured with two 36 inch footings, approved by Dig Safe. Ms. Ingalls reported that the sign messaging would be the responsibility of the school principal and superintendent and that the sign face would never remain blank.

During the public participation portion of the hearing, Sheila DeAngelis of 4 Durrell Street, Methuen, spoke in favor of the proposed sign. No one spoke in opposition to the sign.

MOTION by Commissioner Welch to approve the application as submitted. Second by Commissioner Robinson.

UNANIMOUS VOTE.

Public Hearing: David Spada
254 Broadway: signage

Mr. Fisichelli asked to be recused from discussion of the application.

Mr. Spada reported that all suggestions made by commissioners during informal discussion at the last meeting were incorporated in the revised signs designs. Mr. Hawkins described the reconfiguration of the directory sign and the materials to be employed; materials include aluminum-clad MDO for the structure, MDF (Exterra), HDU for small elements, Azec post caps, sandwich laminate, mahogany, and gilded dimensional letters.

Mr. Hawkins confirmed that upper and lower case letters would be used for the tenant signs. Mr. Spada expressed his intent for all signs to be consistent in design and materials. Commissioner Dufresne stated that tenant signs do not require historic district commission review unless they deviate from the approved format.

There was no public comment for or against the application.

MOTION by Commissioner Welch to approve the application as submitted. Commissioner Robinson amended the motion with the condition that painted sign surfaces would be semi-gloss or satin finish. Second by Commissioner Fabino.

UNANIMOUS VOTE.

5. Other Business

Violations: Ms. Smiledge will follow up with Mr. Guselli about the unapproved sign at 258 Broadway. Commissioners discussed the longstanding neon violation at Greener Cleaner; Commissioner Fisichelli will discuss the issue with the business owner, Commissioner Dufresne will contact the building inspector, and Ms. Smiledge will send a third violation letter. A sandwich sign or paper sign would present viable alternatives to the neon sign.

Other Business: Ms. Smiledge reminded the Commission of the upcoming Trails & Sails events.

MOTION By Commissioner Robinson to adjourn the meeting. Second by Commissioner Welch.

UNANIMOUS VOTE.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Smiledge