

Minutes

BENNINGTON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Bennington Town Office – Conference Room

November 14, 2016 @ 4:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Anne Bugbee, Michael McDonough, Joseph Hall and Michael Harrington.

Excused: Jeff Goldstone, Also Present, Dwain Wilwol/The Gift Garden, Charlie Jewett/ Bennington Armory, LLC and Beth Antognioni.

1. Proposed Sign Application – 343 Main Street – The Gift Garden

Michael McDonough explained to the applicant, Dwain Wilwol, that the purpose of this meeting was to have a work session with each applicant in hopes of resolving any issues or questions that HPC had regarding their sign application. Michael also noted that if during this work session and the outstanding issues are resolved, HPC can render an opinion to Dan Monks, Zoning Administrator who can in turn approve the application administratively without going to the DRB. Michael then shared the history as to why HPC is involved in any façade work or signage in the Downtown Design Review District.

HPC Members shared the following questions/concerns regarding the proposed sign application:

-The sign does not fit the building, proportions of the sign do not work with the allowed space.

-There was a question as to the background of the sign and it being a bright white, HPC recommended that they choose a muted color for the background.

-The small print is unnecessary on the façade of the sign, HPC recommends the small print be placed on the window below, and the business of the artwork distracting.

Dwain Wilwol noted he will work with the designer of the sign and come up with a background color that is not white, but a light color, he will also take into consideration the other comments regarding the small lettering on the sign. Michael Harrington will have Dwain meet with Dan Monks to go over the allowed sign usage.

Michael Harrington motioned to recommend approval to the Zoning Administrator as to what was previously discussed, Joseph Hall seconded the motion to approve.

2. Proposed Sign Application – 447 Main Street – Bennington Armory, LLC.

Michael McDonough explained to the applicant, Charlie Jewett, that the purpose of this meeting was to have a work session with each applicant in hopes of resolving any issues or questions that HPC had regarding their sign application. Michael also noted that if during this work session and the outstanding issues are resolved, HPC can render an opinion to Dan Monks, Zoning Administrator who can in turn approve the application administratively without going to the DRB. Michael then shared the history as to why HPC is involved in any façade work or signage in the Downtown Design Review District. Michael also noted that HPC works from a document “Time and Place” and three items were of concern.

1. Removing existing signs which add to character.
2. Installing new signs which cover or obscure existing features.
3. Installing new signs which are incompatible in architectural style, scale, location, materials or color.

HPC shared the following comments/questions/concerns:

-How will the sign be attached to the building? The façade of the Fienbergs’ building and lettering is part of the historic fabric of the building and would not want the sign placement to take away from that.

-One of the principal features of the building is the arch way, HPC would not want the sign to detract from the architectural quality of the building.

-Is there any freedom or leeway to have a perpendicular sign on the building?

-The color of the sign is much like the color used in hazard and traffic highway warning signs. HPC recommends when choosing a color, they choose the same colors as the existing signage in the windows.

-HPC also wondered what the thickness of the sign was and if the dimensions fit what is allowed.

- From a sign standpoint, HPC felt it was most appropriate to reference the name of the business, in doing so, they felt it would better convey to the customer what was in the store and that it was not just a gun shop.

- Is there some sort of framing around the panel? HPC feels it necessary to have some kind of framing around the sign to give it some dimension.

Charlie Jewett will work with the designer of the sign regarding the color and also the wording that will be placed on the sign along with framing the sign. Charlie will also touch base with the property owner regarding the placement of the sign. He noted that it was difficult to fit everything on the sign as suggested by HPC. Charlie indicated the sign was 4 ½' square and the thickness was ¼" panel. Michael Harrington will have Charlie meet with Dan Monks to go over the allowed sign usage. Michael Harrington asked Charlie to take recommendations under advisement.

Michael Harrington motioned to recommend approval to the Zoning Administrator as to what was previously discussed, Joseph Hall seconded the motion to approve.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Harrington, HPC Secretary
Director of Economic and Community Development