

Town of Franklin



Design Review Commission
Tuesday, March 23, 2021
Meeting Minutes

Chair Fitzgerald called the above-captioned meeting to order this date at 7:00 PM, as a **Remote Access Virtual Zoom Meeting**. Members in attendance: Chair Mark Fitzgerald, Vice Chair Chris Baryluk, James Bartro, Sam Williams, Gerald Wood, Associate Venkata Sompally. Members absent: None. Also present: Maxine Kinhart, Administrative Assistant.

As stated on the agenda, due to the continued concerns regarding the COVID-19 virus, this meeting will be conducted as a Remote/Virtual Design Review Commission meeting. In an effort to ensure citizen engagement and comply with open meeting law regulations, citizens will be able to dial into the meeting using the provided phone number, or citizens can participate by using the Zoom link provided on the agenda.

Chair Fitzgerald authorized Associate Venkata Sompally to vote.

1. Interactions – 31 Hayward Street - Install Directional Sign.

Chair Fitzgerald noted that this item was initially reviewed at the last meeting. He stated that Mr. Cam Afonso of Signs by Cam, Inc., representing the applicant, made some modifications to the submission indicating it is a directional sign. Chair Fitzgerald stated that he believes this sets the right precedent for directional signage in a large multi-tenant property; it is directional for people once on the property. He suggested that as this may happen again as other areas with mill-type buildings are developed, an internal policy regarding directional signs could be developed. Mr. Afonso addressed the Commission and discussed directional signage.

Motion: To **Approve** the sign package as submitted. Motioned by J. Bartro. Seconded by S. Williams. Roll Call Vote: Williams-YES; Bartro-YES; Sompally-YES; Baryluk-YES; Wood-YES; Fitzgerald-YES. Voted 6-0-0.

2. Create Some Fun – 254 East Central Street - Replace Sign Faces.

Mr. Cam Afonso of Signs by Cam, Inc., representing the applicant, addressed the Commission. He stated that the sign package as submitted is to replace sign faces.

Motion: To **Approve** the sign package as submitted. Motioned by S. Williams. Seconded by J. Bartro. Roll Call Vote: Williams-YES; Bartro-YES; Sompally-YES; Baryluk-YES; Wood-YES; Fitzgerald-YES. Voted 6-0-0.

3. iFixPhones – 15 East Central Street - Installation of a sign without connecting to electricity.

Chair Fitzgerald stated that the applicant must show the Commission where the sign will be placed on the proposed building, not on another building. Commission members discussed the location of the building.

Chair Fitzgerald welcomed Cobi Frongillo, Town Council member, to the meeting.

Chair Fitzgerald noted that the sign must be kept in character with the downtown area and internally lit signs are not allowed in the downtown area. Mr. Bartro noted that the application indicated installation of a sign without connecting to electricity. Chair Fitzgerald stated that these items discussed will require the applicant to redo the submission. He stated he would tell the applicant that whatever existing sign on the building is going to be replaced, the proposed sign would have to fit into that footprint. If it is not lit currently, it stays not lit.

Allahverdi Mammadov, applicant, addressed the Commission. Chair Fitzgerald noted the issues with the sign application. The applicant must show a rendering of where the sign will be placed on the building at 15 East Central Street, and the sign should fit the current footprint as it is in the downtown district. Mr. Mammadov stated he will do both of those items; he confirmed the sign will not be lit. Chair Fitzgerald noted the mounting method must be provided for the building commissioner.

Motion: To **Table** the submission pending resubmission. Motioned by S. Williams. Seconded by V. Sompally. Roll Call Vote: Williams-YES; Bartro-YES; Sompally-YES; Baryluk-YES; Wood-YES; Fitzgerald-YES. Voted 6-0-0.

General Matters: Chair Fitzgerald stated that at the last meeting they discussed an email from Sharon Whalen. Mr. Bartro suggested the spirit of the response should be thanking her for her participation and for taking a step to do something to better the Town. Chair Fitzgerald discussed the wording of the bylaw which indicates in keeping with a New England town character; he questioned what that means. Discussion commenced about the sign Ms. Whalen was referring to and how to word the response to Ms. Whalen. Chair Fitzgerald stated that the response would be read at an upcoming meeting, and Ms. Kinhart would be asked to put the response on letterhead to officially respond. Ms. Kinhart requested the Commission members send her any additional information and photos they have so she could attach the information to the minutes. Chair Fitzgerald stated that in regard to modifying the bylaw, such as they were talking to Mr. Afonso earlier in the meeting, if the Cutler McDermott area ever got off the ground in their tenure, it may be something to start thinking about. He noted it is similar to Hayward Mills. He does not know if there are any other mill set-ups in Town; however, it may be something they should think about regarding signage. He requested the Commission members give this some thought.

Chair Fitzgerald confirmed with Ms. Kinhart that he sent an email to Building Commission Gus Brown about sign violations; he did not hear back from Mr. Brown. Chair Fitzgerald suggested that he may need to speak at a Chamber of Commerce meetings about signs. Ms. Kinhart noted that Mr. Brown is the enforcement officer of signs. Chair Fitzgerald discussed the liability of the Town should a business put a sign up without a permit and it falls down. He stated that it seems rather rampant in Town that businesses are putting up signs without permits. He noted that the Commission is perturbed at the volume of sign lawlessness in the community. Ms. Kinhart requested Chair Fitzgerald put that in an email to Mr. Brown.

Meeting Minutes: March 9, 2021

Motion: To **Approve** the March 9, 2021 Meeting Minutes as presented. Motioned by J. Bartro. Seconded by S. Williams. Roll Call Vote: Bartro-YES; Sompally-YES; Baryluk-YES; Wood-YES; Fitzgerald-YES. Voted 5-0-0. (Mr. Williams did not state his vote.)

Motion to **Adjourn** by M. Fitzgerald. Seconded by J. Bartro. Roll Call Vote: Williams-YES; Bartro-YES; Sompally-YES; Baryluk-YES; Wood-YES; Fitzgerald-YES. Voted 6-0-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Lizardi

Judith Lizardi
Recording Secretary