

**DESIGN REVIEW COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING**

JANUARY 12, 2010

TOWN OF FRANKLIN
TOWN CLERK
2010 JAN 27 PM 5:45
RECEIVED

A meeting of the Design Review Commission was held on Tuesday, January 12, 2010 at the Franklin Municipal Building, Franklin, Massachusetts. The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Present were Chair, Jennifer Peters, Lenley Rafuse, James Esterbrook and Richard Tobin, Jr., representing a quorum. Also present was Beth Dahlstrom, Town Planner.

1. **Hang Tai – 26 East Central Street – Signage.** Present was Rocco Cavallaro of Cavallaro Signs, who had submitted an application and design for a new building sign for the Hang Tai restaurant. The Chair asked if the old sign was being refaced and was advised that this is an entirely new sign, which had received the landlord's approval and incorporated the logo colors of the business. Mr. Cavallaro showed a sample of an alternate black background sign, but did not feel it made the wording visible enough and the members concurred. In keeping with the attempt to have consistency with signage on the building, members felt that as long as the sign size and shape remained consistent, this sign met the criteria. Ms. Peters felt the double edged border on the sign helped as well. Mr. Cavallaro confirmed that the materials and size were consistent with the sign previously approved for the adjoining martial arts studio and that the sign was non-illuminated. A motion was made by Lenley Rafuse and seconded by James Esterbrook, as follows:

Motion: To approve the new non-illuminated Building Sign for Hang Tai, as originally submitted (cream background, with double border), without conditions.

Vote: Approved 4 – 0 (Yes 4 No 0 Abstained 0)

2. **Rick's Restaurant – 28 West Central Street – Addition to Signage.** Present was owner/applicant, Richard Moore, who submitted a request and design for a three-line message board, with interchangeable letters, to be added to the existing pylon sign for his restaurant. Mr. Moore explained that he wanted to advertise seasonal specials such as early-bird dinners in the winter, ice cream specials, etc. Ms. Dahlstrom, Town Planner explained that the Planning Department and Building Department had discussed this issue, and are not in favor of allowing reader boards in the Downtown District and felt that this would set a precedent for future businesses in the downtown. The suggestion was made that the applicant consider a changeable lettered sign on the side of the building instead and the Chair asked if he would consider changing the sign to a green background (which matched his current sign color), with white letters rather than white with black lettering. Mr. Moore requested input as to the size allowed and Ms. Dahlstrom asked that he check with her in the next day or so and she would provide him with the square footage allowed and discuss alternative suggestions. This matter was tabled until such time as applicant submits an alternate request.

General Matters:

1. Acceptance of Minutes. There being no changes or additions to the minutes of meeting of December 15, 2009, a motion was made by Lenley Rafuse and seconded by Richard Tobin, Jr. as follows:

Motion: To accept the Minutes of Meeting of December 15, 2009, as submitted.

Vote: Approved 4 – 0 (Yes 4 No 0 Abstained 0)

2. Mr. Rafuse asked if Do Re Mi Daycare and Kidville had submitted their revised drawings to the Planning Department for the files and were advised that both had done so.

3. Ravi Gas Station. The Chair asked the Town Planner if anything further had occurred regarding the Ravi Gas signage. Ms. Dahlstrom reported that a representative from a national gas station chain had advised the Building/Planning Departments that they will be taking over the Ravi gas stations and requested information on proper procedure, as they will be redoing all the signage; thus settling the outstanding issues with the current owners.

4. Members held a general informal discussion with regard to reader boards/message board type signage. It was noted that any reader boards currently existing in the outskirts of downtown, i.e. DeVita's or on Union Street, were pre-existing, although they are not grandfathered.

There being no further business at this time, a motion was made by Lenley Rafuse and seconded by James Esterbrook, as follows:

Motion: That the meeting be adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Vote: Approved 4 – 0 (Yes 4 No 0 Abstained 0)

Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Brenda Hutchinson
Secretary