

**Exeter Historic District Commission
December 20, 2012**

Members present: Julie Gilman, Len Benjamin, Patrick Gordon, Ron Schutz and Pam Gjettum, Chairwoman

Call Meeting to Order

Chairwoman Pam Gjettum called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm in the Wheelwright Room in the Town Office Building.

New Business: Public Hearing

Continued discussion on the application of the Exeter Area Chamber of Commerce for new signage at 24 Front Street. The subject property is in the C-1 Central Area Commercial zoning district. Tax Map Parcel #72-159. Case #12-14.

The applicant was not present.

The application of Green Bean on Water LLC for new construction and exterior changes to the structure located at 33 Water Street. The subject parcel is located in the WS-Waterfront Commercial zoning district. Tax Map Parcel #72-37. Case #12-17.

Mr. Jeff Turner of the Green Bean on the Water stated he wished to modify the façade of the Trends Gift Gallery located next (west) to the Green Bean restaurant by removing the aluminum façade and replace with wooden clapboard. (Applicant provided a conceptual rendering of proposed renovations). Noting the accompanying photo of the old firehouse, Mr. Turner stated he wished to construct two large arched windows (to mimic the two doors on the firehouse) in proportion to the four arched windows on the second floor. And in doing so, he will need to add a centered door entrance.

Ms. Gjettum read from a memorandum from Doug Eastman, the Building Inspector for Exeter, noting his research on renovations to the building had occurred in the early 1960's and he determined the existing aluminum façade of the building in which Trends Gift Gallery is located has not been in existence for more than fifty years and therefore does not qualify for the review by the Heritage Commission.

Mr. Turner did confirm he was not changing the footprint of the building as it is today. Presently, the door is off centered to the display windows. Noting that, Mr. Gordon offered his observations on the probable architectural components of the building might not permit the door to be centrally located. Suggestions and options were discussed; did re-affirm it is a retail shop so does need to be user friendly.

Ms. Gilman added because of the questions from the Commission members on the proposal, she felt the application is not complete; needs more definition. Mr. Gordon added an architectural drawing should be prepared detailing the renovations; any design should be mindful of symmetry.

Mr. Schutz moved to table the application; seconded by Mr. Gordon. Motion carried.

The application of Jeff Turner and Lori Whitney for exterior changes to the landscaping at 11 Chestnut Street. The subject property is located in the R-3, Single Family Residential zoning district. Tax Map Parcel #64-53. Case #12-16

Mr. Turner stated there are two large pines in the front of the house that have become so tall they are now a hazard to the dwelling. They would also like to add a picket fence and a small driveway to left of property for a parking space (drawing provided depicting trees to be removed, location of picket fence and the parking space).

Mr. Gordon questioned if the existing berm would be cut into and the possibility of constructing retaining walls. If so, he noted there are some existing granite retaining walls on Chestnut St. and if they could mimic those it would be favorable; visually that look would be preferred. Even though Ms. Whitney added they were just inquiring and not part of the application, Mr. Gordon noted in historic review materials are part of the discussion. Mr. Turner confirmed if retaining wall(s) are needed they would be constructed of granite; was willing to include in application.

Mr. Schutz asked before accepting the application were the granite retaining walls to be included. Ms. Gjettum noted a footnote was added (to the application) *if a retaining wall is needed it would be constructed of granite.*

Ms. Gilman moved to **accept** the application with the modification; Mr. Benjamin seconded. Motion passed.

Further discussion focused on the picket fence and the removal of the two trees. Ms. Whitney volunteered it would be a wood picket fence painted white and 32" in height. As for the trees, an arborist had advised them pine trees of this size are a hazard because of their susceptibility for being struck (by lightning).

Ms. Gilman then moved to **approve** the application; seconded by Mr. Gordon. Motion passed.

Other Business

- Approval of minutes for October 25, 2012 meeting
Mr. Schutz moved to accept the draft minutes as presented; seconded by Mr. Benjamin. Motion carried with Mr. Gordon abstaining.
- Approval for minutes of November 15, 2012 meeting tabled; a lack of a quorum of members present.
- 375th Anniversary Celebration
Ms. Gilman spoke on the Committee formed to plan some of the events in 2013 with the theme to be Exeter Thorough the Years. If any members had a suggestion of an event or person to be highlighted please let them know.
- Board discussion of "neon-illuminated" signs.
A complaint has been received of flashing electronic signs in the downtown; the Verizon store and Sugar and Ice 2. Ms. Gjettum reading from the ordinance Prohibited Sign Types stated flashing signs are not allowed in Historic District; will pass on to Mr. Eastman, Code Enforcement Officer.

Ms. Gilman moved to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Benjamin.
Meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Raub