

## Draft Minutes

### Exeter Historic District Commission

April 18, 2013

**Members present:** Heritage Commission rep. Julie Gilman, Pam Gjettum, Chairwoman, Len Benjamin, and Patrick Gordon

#### **Call Meeting to Order**

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

#### **New Business: Public Hearing**

**Continued discussion on 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 WC-Waterfront Commercial zoning district. Tax Map Parcel #72-37. Case #12-17.**

(Postponed until the May meeting)

**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.**

Mr. Mike Schidlovsky from the Exeter Area Chamber of Commerce met with the Commission in November 2012 on the placement of the Chamber sign at the Major Blake Hotel building at 24 Front St and was back to continue the discussion. He talked about where the sign could go, whether free standing or directly on the building. He mentioned it would be appealing to go back to the original design. Mr. Schidlovsky was in front of the Commission applying for a variance because the new sign is not the tight size. Julie Gilman said the new sign is a bit too large. Mr. Schidlovsky said the new sign is workable and not obstructive in any way. He went on to say the landlord, Bert Bourjious, is interested in improving the sign. He said this is a very large building with a lot of residents.

Mr. Bert Bourjious, owner of the Major Blake Hotel, then spoke in front of the Commission. He said his primary interest is to make his tenants happy. He talked about the cost of the new sign saying it would range from \$3,000 to \$4,000. He stated it would make the building look nicer, saying it's not a very appealing building to start with. He went on to talk about the existing sign, saying it has been there 30 years. He told the Commission how he installed the original sign, saying he did not use cement and has no interest in using cement with a new sign. Julie Gilman expressed concern about the width of the new sign. Mr. Bourjious talked about illuminating the new sign, saying he does not want to cause light pollution. Pam Gjettum informed Mr. Bourjious that he can illuminate. Mr. Bourjious asked for clarification as how he would go about illumination. The Commission explained it needs to be on the application.

A motion was made by Julie Gilman and seconded by Len Benjamin to approve the sign as presented. Motion carried – all in favor.

#### **Other Business – Approval of Minutes**

Patrick Gordon moved to accept the December 2012 minutes as presented; seconded by Julie Gilman. Motion carried – all in favor.

Approval of the March 2013 minutes was tabled as there was not a quorum of members' present eligible to vote.

### **Flashing Signs**

There was a discussion about electronic/flashing signs and how they are not allowed in the historic district. Pam Gjettum read the laws about flashing signs. Julie Gilman said the issue is there is a business that has a flashing sign inside in the window. The law says that there cannot be any flashing signs on the outside of a building but there are no provisions about the sign being on the inside of the building. Julie Gilman asked if the Commission has the ability to regulate it even if it is inside, Len Benjamin said it violates the spirit of the law because it has the same effect it would if it were outside. Patrick Gordon asked where the location of their jurisdiction is. Ms. Gjettum stated this seems to be "creeping" down the street as more businesses are catching on. Ms. Gilman said this is the concern of the people complaining. Mr. Benjamin stated he believes the Commission has jurisdiction on this because it does illuminate outside. The members of the Commission were in agreement that inside illuminating signs do violate the historic district laws.

With no further business, Ms. Gjettum adjourned the meeting at 7:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole McCormack  
Recording Secretary