

Exeter Historical District Commission

Final Minutes

January 15, 2015

Call meeting to order. Patrick Gordon called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm in the Wheelwright Room of the Exeter Town Office Building.

Members present: Patrick Gordon, Chairman, Julie Gilman, Selectwoman, Len Benjamin, Fred Kollmorgen, Pam Gjettum, Clerk, and Valerie Ouellette

Patrick started the meeting with new business which is the application of Julie Rost for new signage on the property located at 6 Chestnut Street. The subject property is located in the R-5, Multi-Family Residential Zoning district.

Julie Rost got up and stated that they are planning to re-locate their yoga studio, which was at the Blue Moon. They are moving into the mill area. Julie stated that as far as she knew, they were not in the historical district, except that signage on String Bridge Street, which is where we enter, is in the historic district. We are applying for a couple of signs. There will be a sign on String Bridge Street and another sign on the building. Julie Gilman asked about the materials that would be used. Julie stated that the materials for the sign on String Bridge Street are going to be a wood composite with carved lettering on a wood post, as well as on an iron bracket. Patrick asked if the sign itself going to be painted and Julie stated that it would be. Patrick stated that the commission should approve both signs. Fred quoted from the Zoning Ordinance Article 578, paragraph A3, one free standing or wall mounted sign is allowed with the maximum sign area of six square feet. This is in the R-5 district which is a residential zoning district. Fred stated that the way he reads that, one sign. Patrick stated that it would be one or the other, not both.

Julie Rost stated that it was her understanding that they had a total of six square feet to work with and it did not matter if they had one sign or two, as long as it came within the six feet. Pam read that each business is permitted one primary and one secondary sign. Fred stated that she was looking in the commercial district. This is residential, this is R-5. Patrick asked if anyone had a map defining the historical district for Chestnut Street. They looked at one in the Zoning Ordinance book. They looked and agreed that it was in R-5 district. They also agreed that the whole mill was in the R-5 district. Julie Rost asked to see the map. She stated that she thought she was shown a different map when she applied for the application. Julie stated she thought the map she was shown, just showed String Bridge. Julie Gilman stated that there is a typo in the ordinance. She stated that is all land lined from Chestnut Ave. to the river. Julie Rost stated that she looked at the map in the office next door and wanted to know if she could go and look at it again. Patrick stated that they should look at what Julie looked at so they all could understand. She, Julie and Fred went to look at the map. They returned and Julie Gilman stated that it pretty much shows it the way we have it in our book. Patrick stated that it means only one sign. Julie Gilman agreed, but stated the problem is that none of them show Chestnut Street. Julie Rost stated that the map shows the historic district just a long String Bridge and then sort of around the water. The whole mill itself is in R-5, but not attached. Patrick stated that the R-5 is the historic district.

Julie Gilman stated that the description in the book is misworded so there is a gap. It is very confusing. It goes along Water Street to the river edge and then it talks about Chestnut Street. Julie stated that what happened is that the description skips a step. Julie stated that we have a description that is wrong in the book and an application that shows how she has interpreted it.

Fred asked if the map was correct and Patrick stated our interpretation of this ordinance is that it is written as it is and that is the way the map is represented also. With that being said, one is in and one is not. Patrick stated that the sign mounted to the wall should be removed from the application. It is mounted to the post with wood composite. He asked Julie Rost what the composite is but she did not know. Fred asked if it could just be specified to be MDF. Patrick stated that is exactly what we do not want. We want MDO. Fred then stated to have this specified in the material. Approve it with that.

Patrick asked if the post was going to be 4 x 4 pressure treated and Julie stated it was. Patrick then asked what was going to be the material of the cap. Julie Rost was not sure and asked if it could be one of the requirements. She then stated that she is learning a lot about signs. Patrick asked if anyone had anything other questions and Len stated that the application stated that work was going to begin on 1/6/15. Julie Rost stated that it has not started yet. It is waiting for your approval. She stated that it may have been meant for the other sign.

Fred made a motion to accept the application and Pam seconded. Patrick asked if all were in favor of accepting the application. All were in favor and application accepted.

Julie made a motion to approve a free standing sign. Material to be MDO, carved and painted. 4x4 pressure treated wood post, painted white and capped with wood. Bracket steel painted black. Fred seconded the motion. All were in favor and application approved.

Other Business:

Patrick stated other business was the approval of the December 18, 2014 minutes. Pam made a motion to approve. Len seconded. All were in favor and minutes approved.

With no other business, Len made a motion to adjourn. Fred seconded. All were in favor and meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Herrick
Recording Secretary