

Montpelier Design Review Committee
October 5, 2004
Memorial Room, City Hall

Subject to Review and Approval

Present: Margot George, Chair; Stephen Everett, Vice Chair; Soren Pfeffer; and Vicki Lane. Staff: Valerie Capels

Absent: Eric Gilbertson

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Ms. George at 5:40 p.m.

Comments from the Chair

The agenda items were agreed to rearranged to accommodate the applicants present at the start of the meeting.

Design Review - CB-II/DCD

62 Barre Street

Applicant: Washington County Mental Health (Greg Wright)

- **Replace existing wooden fire escape (already done) with spiral stair case**

Greg Wright, representing the applicant, explained the project. The wooden fire escape and ramp has already been removed. The spiral staircase is 60" wide. The original stairs and ramp were uncovered and extended too far into the travelway. They were in deteriorated condition,

Ramp rail and ballustrade will be ACQ (pressure treated) lumber, rail stock wood, and 2" x 2" spindles with rounded corners. It will have a clear stain. No landscaping or lighting is proposed.

The roof will be regular panel drain channelled galvanized gray metal. It is proposed to be extended to cover the ramp. There will not be a soffit; the rafters will be extended with a plywood fascia painted to match the building.

The committee voted 4-0 to recommend approval with the option that the applicant can install a jelly jar type light fixture next to the upper floor.

Sign Permit Application - CB-I/DCD

107 State Street

Applicant: Legus and Bisson

- 7.5 square foot wall sign

Ms. George recused herself because she is the owner of the subject property. Mr. Everett chaired the meeting.

Tom Quinlan, representing the applicant, explained the details of the proposed sign.

Mr. Quinlan clarified that the height of the letters L & B are 6" and the others are 3 1/2". There was discussion about the placement of the sign above the first floor. Mr. Quinlan noted that it might shift very slightly in order to mount the sign in the mortar. Members discussed the sign's compatibility with the neighboring Thrush Tavern sign. Ms. George noted that that sign is very old, but there are no plans to replace it in the near future.

Ms. George also noted that the photo shows the building without shutters. They were removed for repainting and will soon be reinstalled.

The committee voted 3-0 to recommend approval as proposed.

Design Review & Sign Application - CB-I/DCD

44 Main Street

Applicant: Phil Gentile

- **Wall sign**
- **Replacement of solid wood entry door with black, divided glass door; facade alterations**

Ms. George recused herself. Mr. Everett chaired the meeting.

Ms. Capels noted that the sign application had been submitted that afternoon and appeared to be complete. Though not on the agenda, the committee agreed to review it in conjunction with the facade alterations.

Phil Gentile, the applicant, explained that he would like to replace the existing solid wood door, which is currently painted light blue, with a wood and glass door. The door would be painted black and the frame trimmed in a gold. used in the door will be Everett urged that safe

Mr. Gentile clarified that the sign colors will be limited to black and white with a gold trim on the outside border. The turned post is proposed to be painted black, also with gold accent trim.

Mr. Gentile said the sign is proposed to be illuminated by a downward-facing gooseneck lamp like those used over the neighboring Capitol Video sign. The graphic submitted with the application shows it to be green. Mr. Gentile and the committee agreed that a black light fixture would be better suited for the sign. He would like to use the existing light fixture over the door but replace the shade with one that's dark green. There was discussion about whether the light fixtures should be the same color, whether both dark green or both black. Mr. Gentile explained that he already has the green glass shade he would like to use over the door. Members agreed that because the light fixtures are in different locations and serve different purposes, it was not be a problem if they were not the same color.

The graphic submitted with the sign application shows the panel above the door to be a gray color. Mr. Gentile clarified that he would like to paint it either black or dark green to be consistent with the colors that will be used inside the restaurant. The concrete steps are proposed to be repaired.

The Committee voted 3-0 to recommend approval of the sign as proposed with the light fixture to be black.

The Committee voted 3-0 to recommend approval of the facade alterations, noting the the light fixture over the door is to be dark green and that the flat panel above the door and the trim around it and the entrance door may be painted Lamp Black and/or Rainwet Hemlock in any combination.

Approval of Minutes

Action on the minutes will be clarified at the next meeting.

Other

Valerie Capels distributed a 9/3/04 e-mail from her to Mike Jones affirming that the work being done on City Hall did not require a permit. Ms. George noted that the City Hall window replacement project underway could be a good example of how to properly replace historic windows.

Ms. George provided a brief update about the City Council committee's rezoning project. She recommended that members pay attention to the design component when the first draft comes out. Identifying "buildings of importance" may be a project they would like to be involved in.

Ms. George urged members to seek recruits for the two vacant DRC Alternate positions.

Ms. George provided observations from a recent trip to Paris and how differently public spaces, streetscapes, and building facades are regarded.

There was some discussion about the building inspection program and its possible impacts on property owners.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Capels

These minutes are subject to approval by the Design Review Committee. Changes, if any, will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting at which they are acted upon.