

VILLAGE OF BALDWINSVILLE
ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Monday, March 6, 2006, 7:00 P.M.
Approved 4/3/06

PRESENT: Sarah Baker, Chairperson
Evelyn Mercer
Connie Taft
Dean Johnson

NOT PRESENT: Toni Kleist

ALSO PRESENT: Susan LaQuay, Secretary

GUESTS: Doris Cross
Ray Aziz

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion by E. Mercer and second by D. Johnson that the minutes of the February 6, 2006 meeting of the Architectural Review Board be approved as submitted. Motion passed.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chairperson Baker commented that this will be her last meeting and D. Johnson will chair April's ARB meeting. She is unsure who will be replacing her on the Board at this time. She thanked the Board Members for their courage to agree to start this board, which very few communities like Baldwinsville have. She noted that E. Mercer is already serving on the Planning Board, C. Taft is already serving on the Zoning Board, and T. Kleist and D. Johnson have very busy professional lives and thanked them on behalf of the Board of Trustees and the community. Chairperson Baker stated she feels that the ARB never proceeded punitively and their primary concern has been to preserve a great business atmosphere and keep Baldwinsville's business district attractive and unique.

The Board Members all thanked Chairperson Baker for being the Chairperson on the ARB and wished her well.

OLD BUSINESS

6 Mechanic Street – sign – Crayg M. Dykes...

Ray Aziz is present to address the Board. He stated he feels this Board has benefited the community and likes idea of keeping things architectural. He specifically stated he likes the look of the hardware store. He feels Baldwinsville is unique and believes things are growing here.

Regarding the sign, he stated their business colors are red and white. He presented the sign as was submitted with the application. They will be removing the canopy and put a board straight across, which will say "Wireless Connections." There will be gooseneck lights across the top to light the sign. "Sprint" and "T-Mobile" will not be included on the sign. He stated he feels this sign fits the building well and will look nice.

Chairperson Baker reviewed the sign as submitted. The dimensions are 2' x 24'. The material is 1-sided MDO board with raised foam letters saying "Wireless Connections", which will be centered on the sign.

Mr. Aziz stated that John McFall is doing the sign and had suggested a green background to stand out on the building. “Wireless Connections” would be red. He asked if it would be possible to put the telephone number on the sign as well. D. Johnson suggested putting that on the door. Mr. Aziz stated he would prefer it to be on the sign where “T-Mobile” currently is shown.

Chairperson Baker asked how many goosenecks will be lighting the sign. Mr. Aziz stated he is unsure, but he would like it to look like the hardware store. E. Mercer asked what is the spacing of the Village Hardware lights. D. Johnson referred to a picture and stated they are approximately 5’ apart. Mr. Aziz showed where the lights will be mounted on the picture.

C. Taft questioned the length of the sign. Mr. Aziz stated that John McFall had told them how big the sign could be. Chairperson Baker suggested he check with the CEO just to be sure, but she believes that the sign is within code.

D. Johnson asked if they are removing the large floodlight. Mr. Aziz stated they will remove this. He stated they were thinking 2 to 3 goosenecks per each half of the sign. D. Johnson agreed this would look best and suggested five lights.

Chairperson Baker noted that the color samples provided are the actual colors that will be used. They look different than the colors that printed on the picture. She asked what color the goosenecks would be. The Board suggested green and Mr. Aziz agreed.

C. Taft asked if the wooden frame shown in the photo will stay. Mr. Aziz stated it will remain.

Upon motion by Chairperson Baker and second by C. Taft to approve the sign at 6 Mechanic Street for Wireless Connections. The sign will also include the phone number, the lettering for which will be substantially smaller than the lettering for “Wireless Connections.” . The letters and numbers will be raised foam lettering. The colors are as submitted (light green background with red letters). There will five gooseneck lights in a color to match the existing trim. The existing canopy over the door will be removed. The sign will be 2’ W x 24’ L MDO board. The sign will be subject to the approval of the CEO. **Motion passed.**

NEW BUSINESS

Women’s Garden Club – Blue Star Memorial sign – Doris Cross...

Doris Cross is present to address the Board. She noted the Women’s Garden Club would like the Board’s recommendations regarding this sign. Ms. Cross stated that this is part of a project that Nationwide Federation started in 1945. The Women’s Garden Club has discussed doing this since 1992.

Ms. Cross stated their idea is to have a plaque on a millstone approximately 20’ x 12’. She stated they chose a millstone, as mills were so important to the history of Baldwinsville. The stone will be raised at an angle for visibility. She stated the Garden Club will keep plants around it. She noted the center would not be any closer than 17’ from the road, which will leave room for the sidewalk the Merchants are planning. She also noted it can be moved in the future if necessary.

The plan is to dedicate the memorial on November 11. Originally the intent of these memorials was to honor those who served in World War II, but now it includes those who have served in all wars. Ms. Cross noted the Nationwide Federation will be heavily involved in the dedication ceremony.

D. Johnson stated he feels the stone should be anchored. Ms. Cross agreed, but stated they are not sure exactly how to accomplish that at this point and noted this will be worked out. She stated the plan is not entirely together yet. They wanted the ARB's input so they could put together a plan within 10 days for grant purposes.

Chairperson Baker and C. Taft stated they think this memorial is a wonderful idea. Chairperson Baker feels it will enhance the park and will be lovely.

Ms. Cross stated she appreciates the Board looking at this project and stated they will work out the anchoring. She noted it is a work in progress and will have professional input so it will be done properly. Chairperson Baker stated that the services of the DPW are a possibility. Ms. Cross noted that the Merchants will have sidewalk equipment in use and she will approach them about assistance as well.

Discussion/recommendations regarding Code revisions...

Chairperson Baker stated that all boards and all departments in the Village have been given a copy of the code sections that are applicable to them and have been asked for suggestions regarding revisions/additions. She noted Mayor O'Hara would like the code revised. The Board of Trustees will likely hire a company that writes codes and would like the input from the Boards by March 17th.

Chairperson Baker noted that revisions have been done regarding the ARB sections and she spoke with J. C. Engelbrecht about this. She also spoke with Rolf about his suggestions regarding ARB codes and he felt this Board runs smoothly.

Chairperson Baker noted that problems may arise regarding some sections. Regarding front yard setbacks in B1, B2 and industrial zones, the ARB would prefer little setback. The code, however, refers this to R1, which requires a 40' setback. She noted this is in conflict with ARB guidelines.

Chairperson Baker also noted that the section regarding signage should be looked at closely and stated she will suggest to the Board of Trustees that the company that is writing the codes should look at ARB guidelines regarding signs and include them in Village code, specifically to say that internally lit box signs are not acceptable. She noted that pre-existing signs have been a dilemma. The company writing the codes needs to take ARB guidelines and make sure they do not contradict other codes and amend the code to correspond to ARB guidelines, as this board has been first board to state they will not accept certain signage. She noted there has not been a problem yet, but the concern would be if it were challenged. She noted this type of thing really needs to be in the code.

C. Taft suggested they should have the Board of Trustees and the company they hire look at the ARB booklet and change the Village code to reflect ARB guidelines. E. Mercer noted that the codes predate the ARB and this may cause conflict if the codes are not revised accordingly. Chairperson Baker agreed and stated the main issue of this task is to make certain the code is not in conflict with ARB guidelines and the code should be changed, as the ARB guidelines are what is desired for the Village.

D. Johnson noted that the EDR plan presented supports the ARB guidelines, specifically with the decreased to zero-setbacks.

Chairperson Baker noted that code changes cost money and, therefore, if they can they want to be as thorough as possible now. She noted so far the Board has noted concerns with the code reflecting minimal setbacks in zones covered by the ARB and the Board would like the code to look to the ARB guidelines regarding signage. She also noted that it would be ideal for the code regarding signage to not be so rigid that the ARB would not have leeway when reviewing signs. She noted that interior neon signage is allowed under current code and this will need to be addressed. The ARB will suggest that they would prefer no neon even inside. However, for example, Lake Effect bar signs would still be visible even though they are not in

the windows and maybe the code should say no neon in or around the windows. They may hang them 3' inside, but at least this will be cut back on the neon signage in the Business district. D. Johnson stated he would not want to see the code exclude neon signs completely, as there is some historical significance for certain businesses. The code would have to be well written to address these instances.

D. Johnson stated he feels the entire section of code regarding signs that are permitted without sign permits (57-3B) should be changed.

Chairperson Baker stated she feels the code should also address enforcement. D. Johnson noted that he hates to be punitive to businesses trying to make it, but some signage is just not acceptable.

Chairperson Baker stated she feels sandwich board or A-frame signs should be addressed. She can understand why businesses choose to use this type of singage, but noted they are so numerous and are not aesthetically pleasing.

C. Taft stated she will go though the ARB guideline booklet and will make suggestions at the ZBA relative to signs.

D. Johnson stated he feels section 72-13 (H) needs to be updated.

Chairperson Baker stated that a committee, all departments, and all boards will be looking at the code and hopefully they will be able to clean it up nicely.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m. The next Architectural Review Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 3, 2006 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan A. LaQuay
Architectural Review Board Secretary