

RECV'D: Office of the Town Clerk  
November 16, 2009 at 8:40am

**TOWN OF DURHAM**  
**Historic District Commission**  
Monday, November 2, 2009, 8:00 PM  
Durham Public Library Meeting Room  
Regular Meeting Minutes

**Call to Order, Roll Call, Seating of Alternates:** The meeting was called to order at 8:00 PM by Chairman Duncan Milne at the Durham Public Library.

**Roll Call:** Members Present: Duncan Milne and Sue Woodson. Alternates Present: Linda Bertelsen and Gordon Wolfgang. Staff Present: Trish Dynia.

**Seating of Alternates:** Linda Bertelsen and Gordon Wolfgang were seated.

**Approval of Agenda:** *A motion was made by Linda Bertelsen, seconded by Sue Woodson, to approve the agenda as written. The motion passed unanimously.*

**Public Comment for Items Not on Agenda:** None

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PUBLIC HEARING – 8:00 PM

**APCOA #353, Kyle Backus, Request for Public Safety Message Board/Sign at Fire House:** Chairman Milne opened the public hearing and read the call at 8:02 PM. Frank DeFelice, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee spoke first. He explained that the applicant, Kyle Backus, is a local resident and Eagle Scout candidate who would like to construct a public message safety board at the north end of the fire house property. This would be his Eagle Scout Project. Mr. Backus has appeared before the Safety Committee, Board of Selectmen, Planning & Zoning Commission, and his local Boy Scout Troop Committee, all of whom are in favor of the project.

Kyle Backus spoke next and reviewed the materials to be used. The 30' x 64' sign surface would be mounted and supported by 6 x 6 weather treated timbers. The sign sheet would be mounted in a manner that would allow removal for changes and updates. Lettering would be applied using painted or vinyl self-adhesive 6' lettering in black or dark blue, with red used for emphasis. Messages would be changed periodically and their contact would be controlled by the Public Safety Committee.

Mr. Backus also distributed photographs of similar signs in Cheshire, as well as a diagram of his proposal and photographs of the fire house street area where the sign would be erected. He also reviewed the proposed location on the Fire House Assessor's Map and noted that the sign would be within the state right of way. Therefore his next meeting, if approved here, will be with the State DEP. Solar powered, timed lights are proposed for nighttime viewing and shrub borders would be designed and planted by the garden club.

In reply to several questions posed by Commission Member Sue Woodson, Mr. Backus stated that the lights would be of low voltage, one on each side, and focused on the sign.

Chairman Milne closed the Public Hearing at 8:10 PM.

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**Discussion and Action on APCOA #353:** Linda Bertelsen requested that the lettering be limited to black or blue, rather than red. Members also discussed concerns regarding light timing.

*A motion was made by Sue Woodson, seconded by Gordon Wolfgang, to approve APCOA #353, with the following provisos: Lettering to be limited to black or blue and lights to be timed to go off by midnight. The motion passed unanimously.*

**Informal Discussion with the Owners of the Grange Building:** Architect Doug Williamson presented drawings depicting existing conditions and elevations of the west, north and east sides of the building and design proposals for same. The main design change involved the addition of a handicap access ramp to the north (Fowler Avenue) side. Mr. Williamson explained that such an addition would be necessary for any business use and it is the only side with ample room available. Building the ramp at the rear would remove spaces from the already limited parking area.

Commission members agreed that the general concept for the ramp access was acceptable. Design proposals for the front (Main Street) side proved more troublesome for both the applicant and Commission. All agreed that the addition of small windows on either side of the doorway seemed out of proportion and unappealing to the general eye. More work will be done on this design prior to submission of future plans. Owner Judy House added that they would like to remove the full shutters from all windows in order to let light into the building and hopes to be able to reuse the shutters elsewhere on the building.

**Review and Acceptance of Previous Minutes:** Deferred.

**Payment of Bills:** None

**Suggestions for New Commission Members:** Chairman Milne asked that members put some thought into town residents who might be interested in serving on the Historic District Commission. Currently there are two positions open: one in district and one out of district.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** None

**Adjournment:** There being no further business to discuss, Chairman Milne adjourned the meeting at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Dynia

Recording Secretary

cc: Town Clerk, Commission Members