

APPROVED
Meeting Minutes
Hartford Design Review Committee
July 26, 2018

Members Present: Denise Welch-May, Jonathan Schechtman, Evan Eccher, and Abigail Barman

Staff Present: Lori Hirshfield and Jo-Ann Ells, Department of Planning and Development

Others Present: Tim Sidore, Simran Johnston, and Kim Souza, Selectboard Liaison

Applications

1. Design Review Application by Execusuite, LLC, for a parking lot located on leased Railroad land off the southeast end of Gates St in White River Junction, Lot 46-0047-0000. (Continued from July 12, 2018)

Tim Sidore reviewed changes to the plan since the last meeting including circulation, directional signage and additional landscaping. He noted that no changes to the existing lights were proposed.

It was noted that standard directional signage was proposed.

Evan Eccher asked about landscaping. Tim Sidore indicated the areas on the site plan where grass would be added.

It was noted that a removable barrier was proposed next to a gravel area to prevent vehicles from parking there when the area was not being used for the storage of snow. It was agreed that the design of the barrier needed to be submitted for review by the Committee.

Evan Eccher moved to approve the application on the condition that the applicant submit the design of the removable barrier to the Zoning Administrator for distribution to and approval from the Committee. Jonathan Schechtman seconded the motion. After a brief discussion, Evan Eccher amended his motion to clarify that minor changes to the project could be approved administratively in the future. Jonathan Schechtman seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

2. Application by Margaret Briggs (owner) and Simran Johnston (applicant) for Design Review Approval for a public art project, Lot 45-0158-000, 26 North Main Street, White River Junction.

Simran Johnston gave an overview of the project and noted that she felt that it was be nice to add some beauty to the industrial feel of the parking lot. Kim Souza added that there was a lot of potential in the downtown for public art and she hoped to add something to the Currier Street side of the building in the future.

It was noted that it was anticipated that the installation would change a few times a year, but there was no specific schedule and the installations(s) would be kept in good repair.

Denise Welch-May asked if there were any specific rules or guidelines in Hartford for the display public art. Lori Hirshfield stated there were not. All agreed this should be researched.

There was a discussion about approving a larger area than what the applicant had applied for to allow flexibility for future installations. Ultimately, it was agreed that the Committee would limit their review to the application as presented and discuss guidelines for public art installations at a future meeting.

Kim Souza noted that there is an existing window sill that will be incorporated into the installation as shown in the photographs.

Ultimately, the Committee agreed that the applicant should “tape out” the 4’ x 8’ panel areas to scale and submit a photograph for review by the Chair of the Committee.

It was clarified that the Committee was noting on the specific application before them and an application to the Committee would need to be made for future applications/installations.

Evan Eccher moved to approve the application on the condition that the applicant submit a photo to the Zoning Administrator showing the 4’ x 8’ “taped out” installation areas for approval by the Chair of the Committee. Jonathan Schechtman seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Administrative Matters

1. The Committee was excited about the thought of future public art installations. It was agreed that Jo-Ann Ells would research public art rules and guidelines in Vermont and the Committee would meet in September to discuss the issue.

2. Minutes

Denise Welch-May moved to approve the minutes of July 12, 2018. Evan Eccher seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned.