

MELROSE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Meeting and Public Hearing
Tuesday, April 23, 2019
6:15 PM
Cassidy Conference Room, City Hall, 562 Main Street

PRESENT: Brad Hutchinson, Justine Sterling, Kevin Erb, Robin Peevey, Michael Coleman, Judith Sullivan, and Charlene Marinelli

ABSENT: None

Emma Schnur, Senior Planner, was present.

The meeting was called to order at 6:14 PM by Mr. Hutchinson.

In accordance with the Open Meeting Law, Mr. Hutchinson inquired whether anyone would be making a video or audio recording of the meeting. No one in attendance indicated that they would be making such a recording.

I. APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATES OF APPROPRIATENESS

Application for Certificate of Appropriateness: Robin Peevey, 529 Main Street (public hearing)

Robin Peevey was present to describe the signage and lighting proposed for Buckalew's General Store at 529 Main Street. Since she is the Applicant for this case and also a Historic District Commission member, Ms. Peevey acknowledged that she must abstain from the vote. While the application stated that the address was 525 Main Street, Ms. Peevey confirmed that the correct address should be 529 Main Street.

The Applicant explained that this location, compared to the previous one, has a larger window space but no awning. The building owner recently improved the storefront at 529 Main Street and does not want an awning to be hung. Since there is an issue with sun on that side of the street, Ms. Peevey may install an interior shade or add UV protection film to the windows.

According to the Applicant, the proposed sign is the same style of the sign from the previous location and it is meant to evoke the nostalgic feel of an old time general store on Main Street. The sign will be centered above the door on both the brick façade and the black beam below it with metal brackets. It is meant to line up with current Whittemore Hardware and Plaza Barber Shop signs for consistency on that block. The sign will be metal with a black frame and a high density sign foam insert that looks like weathered wood. Ms. Sullivan asked if the faux wood would be in a white color. Ms. Peevey explained that the color is a washed-out light grey, which members preferred over white. The foam insert will be attached to the metal backing with glue and screws.

Sign letters will be in Garamond 100 Style font and will consist of 3/8-inch thick, black acrylic letters that will be screwed in from the back. In the application, "Buckalew's" is depicted with 6.3-inch capitalized letters and "General Store" is shown with nine-inch capitalized letters. Members noted that the sign would be improved if it had slightly smaller letters and more visible white space. The Applicant will work with the sign maker to update the design to include smaller letters.

An overhead light by Kenroy Home will be hung in the alcove in front of the door, mainly for security reasons. The light will not be very bright and should be minimally visible from the sidewalk.

In order to better activate the storefront, the Applicant will be adding white acrylic decals to the door and windows that identify the store, its address, and what it sells. Ms. Sterling asked if the decals will go on the inside or the outside of the windows, and she suggested placing them on the inside so the windows can be easily cleaned from the outside. The Applicant agreed that it is most logical to attach the decals to the inside of the windows. Ms. Peevey also intends to install track lighting in the windowsill. Mr. Hutchinson explained that since those are internal modifications, they do not have to be approved by the Historic District Commission.

Mr. Coleman MADE a MOTION to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness for the signage and lighting proposed for 529 Main Street as described in the application. Ms. Sullivan SECONDED the MOTION. All members voted in favor with Ms. Peevey abstaining from the vote. None were opposed.

II. MINUTES

Ms. Sullivan MADE a MOTION to approve the minutes from March 18, 2019. Mr. Coleman SECONDED the MOTION. All members voted in favor. None were opposed.

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 PM.