

MELROSE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, October 8, 2024
7:00 PM
Cassidy Conference Room
City Hall, 562 Main Street

PRESENT: Chair Michael Coleman, Chair, Richard Curl, Kevin Erb, & Lindsay Toghill

ABSENT: Robert Tullis

Lori Massa, City Planner, was present.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by Chair Coleman.

I. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Curl made a motion to approve the September 10, 2024 meeting minutes. Ms. Toghill seconded the motion. All voted in favor. None were opposed.

II. Applications for Certificate of Appropriateness

538 Main Street, Victoria Hill Wine, Spirits & Gourmet (Public Hearing)

Jennifer Corvino of Sign Edge, appeared to present the case for signage for a new business, Victoria Hill Wine, Spirits & Gourmet at 538 Main Street. Ms. Corvino presented the sign design submitted with the application. No one from the public appeared to speak about the case.

The Commission discussed how for the past several sign approvals in the district they have required that the signs have a frame with a contrasting color and this one does not have a frame. This application is different because the signs are replacing signs that have the same qualities as the existing signs that they are replacing. Also, the signs are individually applied letters that will be applied to the sign band as opposed to a sign that is made of one piece with integral letters. The Commission also considered the design of other signs on the block.

The Commission discussed if the font of the words “Spirits & Gourmet” differed from the rest of the words and Ms. Corvino said that they do not. The letters’ font and size are the same as the existing sign. Members also discussed the placement of the sign on Essex Street and Ms. Corvino said that although the rendering may not accurately reflect that the sign will be centered across the storefront length, it will be installed in the center.

She also said that the black band on the storefront where the previously installed window signs were located will be removed.

The window graphics are outside of the jurisdiction of the Commission; however, the Commissioners informed Mr. Corvino that per the zoning ordinance they must be placed on the inside of the windows.

The signs will not be lit.

Mr. Curl made a motion to grant the Certificate of Appropriateness for the signs as presented. Mr. Erb seconded the motion. All voted in favor. None were opposed.

Documents: Application for Certificate of Appropriateness

III. Discussion of review of interior window signs

The Commission discussed their authority with regard to window signs and found that since they are placed on the interior of windows, as required by the Zoning Ordinance, they are not within their jurisdiction which is limited to exterior architectural features.

IV. Other

The property at 662 Main Street replaced railings on a porch, which are visible from West Emerson Street, with a different design and materials and the owner should apply for a Certificate of Appropriateness.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.