

MELROSE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, December 10, 2024
7:00 PM
Cassidy Conference Room
City Hall, 562 Main Street

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

ABSENT: None

Lori Massa, City Planner, was present.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chair Coleman.

I. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Tullis made a motion to approve the November 12, 2024 meeting minutes. Mr. Curl seconded the motion. All voted in favor. None were opposed.

II. Applications for Certificate of Appropriateness

511 Main Street, Fastsigns of Quincy for Btone Fitness (Public Hearing)

Frank Meroney of Fastsigns appeared to present the case for the signage at 511 Main Street. Mr. Meroney explained that his company made an error and the sign has already been installed. They are working on installing signs for this business in other locations and it was missed that this location did not have a building permit. Mr. Meroney gave an overview of the materials of the sign. The sign is on a 2 inch deep grey aluminum backer with a ½ inch painted acrylic letters. It is not illuminated. The dimensions are 90 by 36 inches.

No one from the public appeared to speak about the case.

The Commission discussed how it was unfortunate that the sign was already installed; however, they are reviewing the proposal as if it was not yet installed. The branding for the business can be accomplished with tweaks for this location to be appropriate in a historic district.

The main sign panel should be 4 inches wider on each side (8 inches total) and 4 inches shorter in height. These proportions would help the sign better relate to the proportions of the brick panel on which it is mounted.

They appreciated that the lettering is dimensional and protrudes ½ inches forward of the backing panel to give depth to the sign.

They favored having a projecting frame bordering the sign panel but were not requiring it. If there was a frame it could protrude at least ½ inches forward of the panel and be at least one inch in face-width or the frame could be achieved with a routed reveal if the applicant felt strongly that the brand should have a flush frame. The top and bottom parts of the frame would fall within the proposed overall height of the sign panel as to not crowd the brick surround the sign. The color of the frame could be a contrasting color – either darker grey or one of the other two colors on the sign.

The Commissioners felt that the colors were acceptable as well as the letters and background panel; however, the size of the panel should be changed, as the proposed proportions do not work appropriately with the sign band of the building, and they would welcome a boarder treatment, both as specified above. The window graphics per zoning need to be installed on the interior of the glass and are out of the purview of the Commission. They did comment that the graphics were well designed and add a vibrancy to the storefront.

Mr. Meroney requested that the Commission continue the application to the next meeting to have time to incorporate the changes into the plans.

Mr. Erb made a motion to approve the request to continue the case to January 14, 2025. Ms. Toghill seconded the motion. All voted in favor. None were opposed.

Documents: Application for Certificate of Appropriateness

Mr. Curl made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Toghill seconded the motion. All voted in favor. None were opposed. The meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.