

The mission of the Architectural Review Board is to “evaluate applications for site, building, or sign development or redevelopment and construction from an architectural and aesthetic perspective with the goal of preserving the quality of our heritage and environment”.

Site Plans are reviewed for building scale and style, and compatibility with their neighborhood. Appropriateness of landscape design is evaluated with respect to location and type. The Architectural Review Board makes available to applicants *Design Review Guidelines* for use in conjunction with the Zoning Regulations for signs, landscaping, and parking.

When reviewing signs, the Architectural Review Board makes recommendations to the Zoning Officer with regard to compatibility with adjacent signs with regard to types, colors and placement. Of particular concern is review of the lighting of signs to avoid excessive illumination, glare in the public right of way and protection of the environment in relation to the Dark Skies Initiative.

Façade renovations are an important concern of the Architectural Review Board as they are not generally reviewed by the Zoning Commission and have the potential to adversely affect the neighborhood. Loud and garish facades and corporate designs are not encouraged because they are not compatible with the small town character that the Board is trying to preserve and enhance.

Of major importance this year is the Zoning Commission’s revisions to their regulations with regard to Incentive Housing and Town-wide Design Standards. The Architectural Review Board has held numerous workshops to review the proposed regulations and provide input to the Zoning Commissions in areas where these proposed regulations will be an invaluable tool for the Architectural Review Board to use in the accomplishment of its mission.

Once again this year, the Architectural Review Board presented its Design Awards to give special recognition to projects that especially preserve or cultivate the long-standing character of the town. The Architectural Review Board gives these awards for renovations and new constructions with an eye towards appropriate scale, design and use to create an overall sense of respectful neighborliness – a quality inherent in the New England village architecture.

David H. Wight, Chairman