



TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK
Architectural Review Board

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Executive Board
Emily Grochowski, Chairman
Edward Armstrong, Vice Chairman
Kate Caldarella, Secretary
Donna Leake
Kathryn Toolan
Alternate Members
Tina Rupp
Andre LaFerriere

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, March 22, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.
Teleconference via Zoom

I. REGULAR BUSINESS

A. Roll Call

The Chair, Emily Grochowski, called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Members present: Emily Grochowski, Edward Armstrong, Kate Caldarella, Donna Leake, Kathryn Toolan, Tina Rupp (arrived at 7:09 pm) and Andre LaFerriere

The Chair moved to hear the agenda item “Minutes” after “New Business.”

II. NEW BUSINESS

A. “Pearls & Plaid” Application for Certificate of Zoning Compliance for Signs

875 Boston Post Road, Map 36/Lot 1, Shopping Center Business B-2 District

B. “Post Road Supply” Application for Certificate of Zoning Compliance for Signs

875 Boston Post Road, Map 36/Lot 1, Shopping Center Business B-2 District

Katie Zera, with Artistic Sign & Design presented the applications for both “Pearls and Plaid” and “Post Road Supply.” They propose signs of 32 x96,” ½” thick pvc with vinyl lettering, white letters on black background, wall mounted. Members stated they like the look as well as the contrast of white on black. Miss Zera explained that there is one entrance for both stores, Pearls & Plaid and Post Road Supply.

MOTION by K. Toolan to recommend approval of “**Pearls & Plaid**” Application for Certificate of Zoning Compliance for Signs and “**Post Road Supply**” Application for Certificate of Zoning Compliance for Signs, 875 Boston Post Road, Map 36/Lot 1, Shopping Center Business B-2 District; **SECONDED:** E. Armstrong; **VOTING IN FAVOR:** E. Grochowski, E. Armstrong, K. Caldarella, D. Leake; K. Toolan, T. Rupp, and A. Laferriere; **ABSTAINING:** None. **OPPOSED:** None. **APPROVED:** 7-0-0.

C. “Choice Pet” Application for Certificate of Zoning Compliance for Signs

28 Spencer Plains Road, Map 26/Lot 12 Gateway Business B-4 District

The applicant was not present.

MOTION by E. Grochowski to continue to the next meeting **“Choice Pet” Application for Certificate of Zoning Compliance for Signs**, 28 Spencer Plains Road, Map 26/Lot 12 Gateway Business B-4 District; **SECONDED:** K. Caldarella; **VOTING IN FAVOR:** E. Grochowski, E. Armstrong, K. Caldarella, D. Leake; K. Toolan, T. Rupp, and A. Laferriere; **ABSTAINING:** None. **OPPOSED:** None. **APPROVED:** 7-0-0.

D. “Smithland Supply” Application for Certificate of Zoning Compliance for Signs
923 Boston Post Road, Map 29/Lot 4 Shopping Center Business B-2 District

Tracy Becker, representing Smithland Supply, explained the proposed signage. The company is rebranding and changing their signage with new logo and increasing the size of 'Agway'. The size of the signs stay the same, both wall mounted and monument sign. The proposed wall sign is wood grain vinyl with acrylic lettering, 1/2” painted lettering. On the monument sign the panel would be swapped out for a new panel, with black background and white 1/2” acrylic painted letters.

Members agreed that the white background of the wall sign was not in keeping with ARB guidelines. E. Grochowski explained that it was not long ago that the current signage was approved through a special exception and great care was taken at that time to arrive at the final design. She stated that the proposed sign would not have passed approval had it been proposed during that special exception application. She stated that the white grain background is not in keeping with what the special exception approvals were, and does not find it an improvement on the appearance. Members agreed that the sign with black background is more legible. A. Laferriere also noted that given the depth of the parking lot it would be easier to see the white letters against a dark background. D. Leake commented about having too many colors on one sign, and questioned whether the monument sign has too many colors.

T. Rupp suggested charcoal gray for a background color for the wall sign, as black may be jarring and the white is stark. Members agreed with the suggestion of charcoal gray background.

E. Grochowski discussed the condition of the wood beams above the roof, how it has weathered in comparison to the wood frames below the porch area. She asked that the applicant forward her comments to Smithland Supply to ask that they address the appearance of the building, in particular the wood beams above the porch.

MOTION by E. Grochowski to continue to the next meeting **“Smithland Supply” Application for Certificate of Zoning Compliance for Signs**, 923 Boston Post Road, Map 29/Lot 4 Shopping Center Business B-2 District; **SECONDED:** T. Rupp; **VOTING IN FAVOR:** E. Grochowski, E. Armstrong, K. Caldarella, D. Leake; K. Toolan, T. Rupp, and A. Laferriere; **ABSTAINING:** None. **OPPOSED:** None. **APPROVED:** 7-0-0.

E. “Coldwell Banker Realty” Application for Certificate of Zoning Compliance for Signs
21 Main Street, Map 37/Lot 50, Central Business B-1 District

Richard Burg presented the application. Coldwell Banker is rebranding and the new sign will be the same size as the current sign. The color blue is slightly different and the new sign will include the new logo. The sign is routed high density foam with inset white letters on blue background. He also stated the blue awning will be replaced, which has no branding on it.

MOTION by E. Armstrong to recommend approval of “Coldwell Banker Realty” **Application for Certificate of Zoning Compliance for Signs**, 21 Main Street, Map 37/Lot 50, Central Business B-1 District; **SECONDED:** K. Toolan; **VOTING IN FAVOR:** E. Grochowski, E. Armstrong, K. Caldarella, D. Leake; K. Toolan, T. Rupp, and A. Laferriere; **ABSTAINING:** None. **OPPOSED:** None. **APPROVED:** 7-0-0.

F. **“Battle Axe Tattoo Studio” Application for Certificate of Zoning Compliance for Signs**
1550 Boston Post Road, Map 26/Lot 29, Gateway Business B-4 District

The applicant Noel Rodriguez presented the application. He reviewed dimensions of both the window decal and the free-standing sign. He would like to bold the letters on the free-standing sign. The Board recommended that the letters be white, without the drop shadow, and bolded. The applicant agreed.

MOTION by E. Grochowski to recommend approval of “Battle Axe Tattoo Studio” **Application for Certificate of Zoning Compliance for Signs**, 1550 Boston Post Road, Map 26/Lot 29, Gateway Business B-4 District with the change that the word “Tattoo” on the free-standing sign be bold, white lettering with no drop shadow; **SECONDED:** K. Toolan; **VOTING IN FAVOR:** E. Grochowski, E. Armstrong, K. Caldarella, D. Leake; K. Toolan, T. Rupp, and A. Laferriere; **ABSTAINING:** None. **OPPOSED:** None. **APPROVED:** 7-0-0.

III. REGULAR BUSINESS

B. Minutes

MOTION to approve the meeting minutes of March 8, 2021 as presented; **MADE** by E. Grochowski; **SECONDED:** E. Armstrong; **VOTING IN FAVOR:** E. Grochowski, E. Armstrong, K. Caldarella, D. Leake; K. Toolan, T. Rupp, and A. Laferriere; **ABSTAINING:** None. **OPPOSED:** None. **APPROVED:** 7-0-0.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 p.m. to the next special meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 25, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom; **MADE** by E. Grochowski; **SECONDED:** K. Toolan; E. Grochowski, E. Armstrong, K. Caldarella, D. Leake; K. Toolan, T. Rupp, and A. Laferriere; **ABSTAINING:** None. **OPPOSED:** None. **APPROVED:** 7-0-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meryl Moskowitz
Recording Clerk