

Montpelier Design Review Committee
Minutes of June 8, 2004
Memorial Room, City Hall

Members Present: Steve Everett (arrived at 5:55 p.m.), Vicki Lane, Soren Pfeffer, Margot George, Chair; Stephanie Smith, Staff.

Others Present: Tisa Rennau, The Vermont Institutes.

The meeting was brought to order by Margot George, Chair at 5:50 p.m.
There were no comments from the Chair at this time.

Design Review and Sign Permit-HDR/DCD
45 College Street

Applicant: Tisa Rennau, The Vermont Institutes

Application: A 2.9 sf two sided ground sign

Tisa Rennau presented the application. She indicated that the Vermont Institutes are moving to the Bishop Hatch Building on the Union Institute campus and that they would like to install a sign to mark their entrance. The Union Institute and University has an approved sign plan that is part of the their master plan. Tisa Rennau indicated that the sign design is within the parameters of the approved sign plan.

The committee recommended that the post from which the sign would be hung, should be no larger than a 4" x 4" post. The master plan, which a letter from Paul Carnahan references, calls for all posts on the campus to be painted white. The applicant had no problem with this requirement of the sign plan. The sign plan also calls for the post to include a finial cap, but the applicant was advised to be consistent with the CCV ground sign that currently exists on the campus

Ms. George reviewed the design review criteria (please refer to the recommendation sheet).

The DRC recommended approval of the application with the noted adjustments on the recommendation sheet, 4/0.

Other Business

The committee had some additional comments that they wished to be included on the May 4, 2004 minutes. Soren Pfeffer was not at the May 25 DRC meeting where the committee reviewed the minutes, and the committee wanted to include his comments with regard to the 56 College Street preliminary review for NECI.

Mr Pfeffer reiterated his comments to staff

- 1) that the proposed structure has the same mass as the existing buildings. He felt that the proposed structure should be appear smaller.
- 2) A way to do this was to wrap the side porch from the main building around to the front of the proposed building. This would provide an identifiable entrance to the building, visually minimize the mass of the building, and provide a relationship to the existing main house.

3) Another way to minimize the scale of the building could be to step the building back.

However, it was noted by the architect that this would not allow the building to have an elevator.

Comments from Chair

Ms. George said that she spoke with someone who might be interested in becoming a member of the DRC to fill one of the two vacant alternate positions. His name is Guy Tapper and he lives on the corner of North Street and Cross Street. Ms. George asked if staff could call this gentleman up to tell him about the committee. She also suggested that when the advertisement runs in the paper, it should include a better description of the committee's function and the types of interests the applicant should have. She thought by including more information we would have more applicants. Staff agreed.

The committee discussed meeting earlier in the day on their meeting days. The committee agreed to meet at 5:30 p.m. Staff will look into initiating the change.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie A. Smith
Planner