

**Montpelier Design Review Committee**  
**February 23, 2010**  
**City Council Chambers, City Hall**

*Subject to Review and Approval*

**Present:** Stephen Everett, Chair; Eric Gilbertson, Nancy Mears and Muffie Conlon.  
Staff: Clancy DeSmet, Planning and Zoning Administrator.

**Call to Order:**

The meeting of the February 23, 2010 Montpelier Design Review Committee was called to order by Stephen Everett, Chair.

- I. 59 Elm Street – CB-II/DCD**  
Applicant: Central Vermont Basic Education  
Owner: Timothy Ayer  
Projecting Sign.  
Jim Thompson appeared on behalf of the applicant.

Jim Thompson, Volunteer and Communications Coordinator for Central Vermont Basic Education, appeared before the DRC on behalf of the applicant. There are two signs. This is a new location for them. They were at 58 Barre Street and now they are subletting this location from Vermont Ethics on the corner of 59 Barre Street. There is an existing bracket for a hanging sign and there were existing anchors in the brick wall beside the door to use for a sign.

Mr. Gilbertson asked if the sign before the door is an information sign.

Mr. Thompson replied it describes the services and they found it useful at their other site for people who walked by.

Ms. Mears said they said somehow they are going to secure it so it doesn't actually swing. How does that work?

Mr. Thompson said the sign company told him there are two methods. One is the rods that hold the sign are stiff instead of a chain. The other method he mentioned is a fish line from the corner.

Mr. Everett said that history shows that stiff rods provide better long term stability. Ultra violet light tends to do funny things to the fish line over six months.

Ms. Conlon asked if there was a sign to the right of the existing door.

Mr. Thompson replied just the holes for it. There used to be one there.

Mr. Everett said he doesn't remember that there was a sign to the right of the door with the last applicant. He asked if they would be using the existing anchors that are there now.

Mr. Thompson replied he was.

Ms. Mears inquired if there was going to be new lighting.

Mr. Thompson replied no. There is an overhead light over the door and a light beside the door they assume would work. They aren't adding any lighting.

Mr. Everett asked if they had moved into the space. Mr. Thompson replied yes.

The Design Review Committee reviewed the criteria. The structure is in a historic district although he isn't sure that it could be considered a historic structure. The sign is acceptable.

Mr. Gilbertson said the only note he would add is the sign is being placed where previous signs are posted. Both signs are using an existing bracket and existing anchor holes.

Mr. Everett said the proposed signage is being mounted using existing overhanging bracket and anchors and brick building face. The application was approved on a vote of 4 to 0.

**Other Business:**

Guy Tapper said Montpelier Alive is interested in putting some planters on the street. Although they are stone or some kind of natural material it is actually a polyethylene. He wanted the DRC's input. If it looks good but isn't a natural material would it matter.

Ms. Mears asked if it was made out of recycled materials.

Mr. Tapper replied it is. It isn't made out of recyclable materials but is able to be recycled. They look really nice. Most of them are a solid color. The only one they are talking about would be the more expensive one that looks like a natural material.

Mr. DeSmet asked what the dimensions were.

Mr. Tapper said they come in four sizes. There are 42", 36", 30" and 24" for the width.

Mr. DeSmet asked if they would be placed in similar spots as the oak barrel ones.

Mr. Tapper replied they haven't made a determination yet. They are looking at this as opposed to some other options for a number of reasons. One, the city is going to be putting them in and out and the weight was a consideration along with storage. They are less expensive and easy maintenance. Greg Gossens has been involved with these before and he liked this company and its product.

Mr. Everett inquired what the exterior material was.

Mr. Tapper said it is a polyethylene.

Mr. Gilbertson said he sometimes worry about plastics.

Mr. Everett said they are ideal for high traffic areas. They won't chip or crack. He said the whiskey barrels took an awful beating. Some got turned over.

Mr. Tapper said they felt these would look better than the stuff in front of the Post Office. They have ordered some samples.

Mr. Gilbertson said he is generally against artificial materials but he doesn't see any choices. It is either whiskey barrels or this because it can't be made out of granite.

Mr. Everett said they do make a structure that is a mesh form and then spray Ferris concrete, which is like foam. It is very light weight and it is essentially a concrete material.

Ms. Mears asked how many they were thinking about ordering.

Mr. Tapper replied it is a money issue. They are just getting started on this project. They hope to try a couple this year and see how they work before buying many more.

Mr. Everett replied he thought they would be fine. In European countries they have a garden tractor and put a pressurized tank with a hose on it to water the plants early in the morning.

**Approval of January 12, 2010 Minutes:**

Mr. Gilbertson moved approval of the January 12, 2010 Minutes. Mr. Everett seconded the motion. The January 12, 2010 DRC Minutes were approved on a vote of 3 to 0.

**Adjournment:**

Upon motion by Ms. Mears and Ms. Conlon the Design Review Committee adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Clancy DeSmet  
Planning and Zoning Administrator

Transcribed by: Joan Clack