

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD
DARIEN, CONNECTICUT
MINUTES
MAY 19, 2015

Members Present: Lawrence, Brown, Gadsden, Hughes, Macdonald

Staff Present: Keating

The meeting was called to order at 8 pm in Room 213 of the Darien Town Hall.

1. ARB #12-2015

Chez Ernie's Café, 25 Tokeneke Road, CBD Zone.

Proposed wall sign.

Steven Palmer presented a proposal to install a new wood carved sign for Chez Ernie's Café. The proposed sign, has a Hunter Green background with carved gold leaf 8" high letters for Ernie's, with Chez and Café in smaller lettering. The 14" x 72" sign will be mounted above the café storefront, to align with adjacent storefronts. The application was approved.

2. ARB # 13-2015

Mobil Gas Station, 179 Noroton Avenue, SB Zone.

Proposed wall signs.

The proposal from John Alegria, of Ratchet & Clank Auto Service, calls for a sign "Ratchet & Clank Auto Service" above the entrance door on the Noroton Avenue side, and a single, generic "Service" sign above the center door of the three garage bays. Staff noted that the Mobil sign and Pegasus logo above the entrance door do not conform with the sign regulations due to size (or area) of the sign and thus they must be removed.

On the West Avenue side, the proposal includes a "Ratchet & Clank Auto Service" sign above the window. Staff noted that the Mobil sign and Pegasus logo on the Noroton Avenue façade do not conform with the sign regulations and must be removed.

Subject to the removal by May 31, 2015 of the Mobil and Pegasus from the front and side facades as described above, the Board approved the proposal, and requested that the address number "179" in white letters, be placed on the transom glass above the front entrance door on the Noroton Avenue façade.

3. ARB #14-2015

Darien Consignment, 523 Boston Post Road, DB-2 Zone.

Proposed wall sign.

Erik Christman, from Christman's Inc. presented a proposal to install new lettering for an existing signboard from the previous Christman Furniture store. The proposed letters for "Darien Consignment" are 14" high for the upper case D and C, and 10" high for the lower case letters. The letters are an Empire Green on a white background. The Board approved the proposal.

4. ARB #15-2015

Patriot Bank, 233 Boston Post Road, SB-E Zone.

Proposed wall sign, pole sign and on-site directional signs.

Richard Tomasetti, AIA, from Lovas & Tomasetti Architects, Wilton, CT, presented the proposal for a pole sign, positioned behind the 30' setback from the Boston Post Road, adjacent to the bank's parking area. The top of the sign will be 15' high above the ground. The structural tube column with a matte silver epoxy finish, has an interior illuminated Patriot Bank sign, with 9" high Patriot blue letters on a white background.

The wall sign proposed for the Post Road elevation is 6'-5"L x 10"H with cut raised 1 ½" high pin mounted letters in a Patriot blue metallic finish, positioned in the fascia sign band over the window.

Three 1' high by 2" wide directional signs will be installed to mark the entrance, the exit, and the drive-thru. The words "Patriot Bank" and the logos must be removed from the directional signs.

Subject to the deletions from the directional signs, the Board approved the application. The Architect will discuss with the client the possibility of applying to the Zoning Board of Appeals for an additional sign of the exterior of the wall facing the parking lot. If they want, they will submit a proposal for that sign at a later date.

5. ARB #16-2015

Verizon Wireless, 1071 Boston Post Road, CBD Zone.

Proposed new awnings.

The proposal includes the removal of the existing black awnings on the Boston Post Road storefront façade, and replacing with a 16' wide awning to cover the entrance door and the window. It will be made with a new Jockey Red Sunbrella material with "Verizon Wireless Zone" in white lettering. The "Verizon" letters are 10" high with a 12" high letter Z. The "Wireless Zone" letters are 2.5" high. The proposed phrase "premium wireless retailer" does not comply with the signage regulations and must be deleted from the new awning's design. A plain Jockey Red Sunbrella awning is also proposed for the side entrance door.

The application was approved with modifications. The Board supports the removal of the curved black awning over the front door, which will reveal the door's handsome transom glass window, now hidden beneath the awning. The Board recommends that the numbers 1071 be applied in black lettering at or over the door.

Approval of Minutes.

The minutes from the ARB meetings of 20 January 2015 and 21 April 2015 were approved. The meeting was adjourned at 9:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rita Gadsden