

Town of Franklin



Zoning Board of Appeals

Thursday, January 4, 2024
Meeting Minutes

Chair Bruce Hunchard called the above-captioned Remote Access Zoom Virtual Meeting to order this date at 7:30 PM. Members in attendance: Bruce Hunchard, Philip Brunelli, Robert Acevedo, Christopher Stickney. Members absent: Meghan Whitmore. Also in attendance: Casey Thayer, Administrative Assistant.

This meeting is being conducted as a Remote Access Zoom Virtual Meeting. The Zoom meeting link and the Zoom meeting call-in number are provided on the agenda. The meeting is being televised and recorded for the public's information.

860 West Central Street - Cam Afonso

Abutters: None.

7:30 p.m. Applicant is seeking to install a sign that has an electronic LED message center. The building permit is denied without a Variance from the ZBA. Applicants present: Cam Afonso of Signs by Cam.

Mr. Afonso stated that they are requesting to erect a new sign for the GlenPharmer Distillery. He discussed that this will be an LED sign just like the one the Black Box has located downtown; however, this sign will be newer and higher resolution. He said that there will be no scrolling or moving graphics. He noted that GlenPharmer is now doing many weddings and events, and they need to advertise those things. He said it is a completely wireless sign, and it has firewalls to prevent people from hacking into it. He said there are controls for brightness and timing within the software.

In response to questions from ZBA members, Mr. Afonso reviewed the placement of the sign which is on a flat-ground area, 12 ft. back from the property line. He said there is no obstruction of line of sight. He confirmed the plans indicate 10 ft. back, but it is actually 12 ft. back. He confirmed the current sign would be removed and replaced with this new sign in the existing location. He discussed that the sign would be changing words every 15 minutes or so, or periodically, with no scrolling or flashing or distraction of any kind. He said there would be simple messages on the sign. He said he thinks this sign would be about four to five messages per hour and not changing as often as the Black Box sign does.

Chair Hunchard explained that when they approved the Black Box sign, they had no idea it would be scrolling. He said the ZBA could set parameters for this sign. Mr. Afonso said that would be okay. He reiterated that there would be no scrolling and no flashing. He said the owners do not want it to look flashy; they want it to look clean and classy. He stated that the site plan is being drawn up, and they are going to submit the new plan with the permit for approval. He stated that he does not have to, but he will be going to the Design Review Commission for approval. He said Building Commissioner Gus Brown already approved the whole concept, but wanted them to go through ZBA to get the ZBA's approval. He said the sign is 48 sq. ft. total.

Chair Hunchard, in discussing other signs in town such as at the high school, noted that the Town of Franklin is exempt from zoning. He stated that if a plan is coming from Mr. Afonso, the ZBA would like to see the plan in order to meet the obligation of the application. He asked Mr. Afonso if there is a big rush on this or can they wait two weeks. Mr. Afonso said it takes eight weeks to make one of these signs. Ms. Thayer stated that the next meeting is on January 18, 2024. Mr. Afonso said the plan will be done in two weeks. Chair Hunchard said this item can be continued two weeks to get the plan submitted. Mr. Afonso said that he would email the plan to Ms. Thayer.

***Motion made by Philip Brunelli to continue the public hearing to January 18, 2024, at 7:35 PM.
Motion seconded by Robert Acevedo. Roll Call Vote: Brunelli-YES; Acevedo-YES; Hunchard-YES.
Unanimous by the Board.***

General Business: 237 Pleasant Street – John Harding Email about Subdivision of Property

Chair Hunchard said there was a request by the developer to have the ZBA sign the subdivision plan because the ZBA approved the project. He stated that it needs a minimum of two signatures; it is a mylar. He confirmed that there is a copy currently at the Town Hall for Mr. Brunelli and Mr. Acevedo to sign.

Motion made by Philip Brunelli to sign the plan as presented for 237 Pleasant Street, the 40B which the ZBA approved. Motion seconded by Robert Acevedo. Roll Call Vote: Brunelli-YES; Acevedo-YES; Hunchard-YES. Unanimous by the Board.

Meeting Minutes November 30, 2023

Motion made by Robert Acevedo to approve the Meeting Minutes as presented for Thursday, November 30, 2023. Motion seconded by Philip Brunelli. Roll Call Vote: Brunelli-YES; Acevedo-YES; Hunchard-YES. Unanimous by the Board.

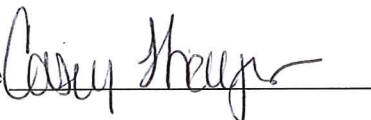
Motion made by Philip Brunelli to adjourn the Remote Access Zoom Virtual Meeting. Motion seconded by Robert Acevedo. Roll Call Vote: Brunelli-YES; Acevedo-YES; Hunchard-YES. Unanimous by the Board.

Meeting adjourned at 7:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Lizardi
Recording Secretary

Signature



Date

1/23/24