

Town of Sharon Planning Board

Minutes of 10/8/20

Sharon Community Center

Planning Board Members

Shannon McLaughlin, Chair absent	Pasqualino Pannone
Kai Yu, Vice Chair	Peter O'Cain, Town Engineer
Rob Maidman	
David Blaszkowsky	

Other Attendees:

Chrissy Ripley Jones - Sharon Credit Union Sign

Meeting Initiation

Vice Chair Yu called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

Meeting Minutes

Mr. Blaszkowsky moved to accept the minutes of 9/24/20 and Mr. Maidman seconded the motion. The Board voted 3-0-1 (Yu) in favor of approval.

Sharon Credit Union Sign 42 Pond Street

The discussion continued regarding the sign requests for Sharon Credit Union. They propose (1) 9 square foot pylon and (2) a building sign with a soft glow behind the letters and greater than 7 feet. This 7 foot sign will be mounted to the background and painted to match the building.

Mr. O'Cain referred to section 22116 and 22119 of the bylaws. These state that the sign is allowed to be 6 feet and also 50 percent more which would allow for 9 square feet.

A brief discussion ensued and Mr. O'Cain said he has no issue with the wall sign. With reference to the standing sign it would be 8.5 by 11.5 with white space. He reviewed the 8 allowable conditions for the sign and 5 of the 8 design guidelines must be determined by the Sign Committee to have been met to qualify for the sign area bonuses.

The BP gas station sign is 25 square feet for reference of signs in the area.

Mr. O'Cain said the sign being requested is 11.15 square feet and the maximum is 9 square feet. He feels the 24 hour ATM statement is a public service and should not be counted in the calculation.

Mr. Blaszkowsky said the identification component is smaller.

Mr. Maidman said this example shown is a vast improvement over where the process started. Given the business' place in town, he has no objections.

Mr. Pannone said he is fine with the sign being slightly oversized.

Mr. Yu asked if a 15 square foot sign would be permissible.

Mr. Pannone said we have been lenient and have always worked with the applicant. This is more about the spirit of the law.

Mr. Blaszkowsky said with the guidelines, we have some discretion.

Mr. O'Cain asked if the sign was going to be internally or externally lit.

Ms. Jones said it will have soft lighting with a soft glow on the edge of the acrylic and halo effect on the letters.

Mr. O'Cain said the Board should limit the hours the sign is being lit.

Mr. Pannone said if it is a soft light it is fine to have a glow. Mr. Yu agreed.

Mr. Maidman said there should be consistency with when other banks lights turn off in town. He said the size of the sign is well in accordance with the scale and culture of the neighborhood.

Mr. Pannone said he does not want the light level to be offensive.

Mr. Blaszkowsky moved to accept the applicant's proposal with respect to signage for the standing sign and wall sign for SCU with consensus for Option A for the main sign and also to remain lit until 11 PM as a possibility once it is determined what the other financial institutions in the area do. The time to remain on is contingent on what others do. The Board also authorized Peter O'Cain to verify the cut off time termination based on surrounding businesses/banks in Post Office Square and will grant lighting hours comparable to those entities. The Board voted unanimously 4-0-0 in favor of this motion.

Mr. O'Cain said the building permit on line has a fee of \$60.

Future Agenda Topics

Review of Post Office Square Design Guidelines

Role of Planning Board in site plan review

Discussion on the need for a Town Planner

Zoning Bylaw 4391

Future Scheduled Meetings

10/29 (cancelled), 11/12

Adjournment

Mr. Pannone moved to adjourn and Mr. Blaszkowsky seconded the motion. The Board voted 4-0-0 to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 PM.