

Architectural Review Board

Darien, Connecticut

MINUTES

February 28, 2023

Members Present: E. Geiger, C Green, and D. Humphrey, D. Reilly, L. MacAulay, R. Morrison, A. Lopaynsky, A. Janis

Staff Present: H. Hamon

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M.

**New Business:**

ARB-8-2023 (PL-23-16 Viewpoint online system)

**Granola Bar**, 1020 Boston Post Road, New Signage

Presented By: Kate Perez of Baywater Properties. Dana Noorily and Julie Mountain, owners of Granola Bar.

Description: Granola Bar is moving into the former Parlor Pizza location. Granola Bar is applying for the following signage; one wall sign (15.5" x 44.5") at the front door facing the pedestrian walkway, three blade signs (15" x 30") – Blade #1 adjacent to Boston Post Road at the north side of the property, Blade #2 adjacent to the southern pedestrian walkway and Blade #3 adjacent to the northern pedestrian walkway.

The requested signage is compliant in terms of square footage. However, the quantity of blade signs is not compliant. Granola Bar is respectfully requesting the Board's review in helping guide customers to this location which isn't visible from the public roadway.

ARB Comments; ARB discussed the location of blade signs, as well as concerns with number of blade signs and confusion navigating to the business based on the location of the signs.

Outcome; Favorable Report for one wall sign at the door and Blade #3 adjacent to the northern pedestrian walkway.

ARB-9-2023 (PL-23-26 in Viewpoint online system)

**One Medical**, 104 Heights Road, 2 new signs

Presented By: Kevin Kane of Hung Well Signs. Will Kessinger of Identiti Signs

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Description: One Medical is applying for the following signage.

1. Wall Sign; Aluminum Shoebox Panel & Side-Lit Push-Thru Acrylic. Size 12"x112". White acrylic letters in a black cabinet.
2. Blade Sign; Aluminum Panel w/Dimensional Letters, Non-Illuminated. Size 12"x24". Bracket mount. White letters on black panel.

One Medical is also proposed installing a film on sections of their glass storefront to conceal mechanical equipment.

ARB Comments; ARB generally approved of the signage and glass treatment.

Outcome; Favorable Report

ARB-10-2023 (PL-23-29 in Viewpoint online system)

**Citibank**, 40 Heights Road, 4 wall signs

Presented By; Gina Stirling of Sign Star

Description: Citibank is applying for three wall signs. Each will replace existing signage and will consist of halo-lit channel letters, blue in color. Sign A is located at the south façade over the front entrance and will be 18"x70". Sign B is located at the west façade next to the driveway and will be 14"x54.5". Sign C is located at the north façade over the rear entrance and will be 14"x54.5". Citibank is also applying for a wall sign at the existing ATM canopy, to be face-lit channel letters, blue in color, 12"x46.75".

ARB Comments: ARB reviewed the signage illumination and layout/location of Signs A, B and C. ARB recommended removing Sign B, as well as changing the signage illumination to 5,000K. ARB also asked that Citibank come back to discuss the ATM lighting.

Outcome: Favorable Report with the recommended changes. We can issue administrative approval once revised drawings are submitted.

ARB-11-2023 (PL-23-27 in Viewpoint online system)

**Tuff Shed**, 211 Boston Post Road, Storage Shed

Presented By: Stan Gorski of Tuff Shed

Description: Tuff Shed is applying for the installation of a new storage shed behind the fencing at the Mobile gas station. The wood-framed shed will be 12'x14' with golden cedar color shingles, plywood siding and 6'x6'7" double door.

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ARB Comments: ARB recommended that the shed color should match the color of the existing fence and the roof shingle color should match the color of the existing Mobile gas station roof. Also, the orientation of the shed roof should be the same as Mobile gas station roof line.

Outcome: Favorable report with the recommended changes.

ARB -12-2023 (PL-23-30 in Viewpoint online system)

**Naya**, 146 Heights Road, 3 new signs

Presented By: Kevin Kane of Hung Well Signs. Craig Eischen of Oculus

Description: Naya is applying for the following signage.

1. Wall sign: Edge-lit “NAYA” lettering in green. Size 13”x30”x1.75”, set 2” off the wall via the electrical raceway. Bottom of the lettering is aligned with the top of the entrance door frame at 98” high.
2. Blade sign: Non-illuminated blade sign. Size 24”x24”x2”, set 6” off the wall via a 6” by 6” mounting plate. Bottom of the sign is 96” high. Plus thru “NAYA” letters, 6” in height, as well as surface mounted acrylic letters: “MIDDLE EASTERN COUNTER AND GRILL”, 1” in height.

Naya also presented options for art displays at a shadow box area at the storefront, which will be 2’x3’ deep. Direction 1; recycled cardboard/paper sculptures. Direction 2; art pieces by Middle Eastern artists.

ARB Comments: ARB discussed the letter height of the wall sign and potentially aligning the height with the bottom of the window transom and the top of the windowsill above. The letter height was ultimately determined to be ok, but the wall sign should be centered over door. ARB also asked that “MIDDLE EASTERN COUNTER AND GRILL” be removed from the blade sign and placed on the door or window if needed, as well as reduction in the thickness of the blade sign from 2” to 1.5”

ARB expressed concerns with the quality of the cardboard/paper sculpture art option and requested more information regarding the lighting. Approval of the art display will require an additional presentation.

Outcome: Favorable report for the signage with the recommended changes.

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**Old Business:**

ARB-6-2023 (PL-23-6 in Viewpoint online system)

**Seamore's**, 140 Heights Road, Wall & Blade sign revisions

Presented by: Jay Wainwright, Seamore's owner

Description: Seamore's reviewed prior ARB suggestions related to their wall sign, blade sign and Lighting. Wall sign suggestions, which were presented with architectural rendering, included the following; corner wrap of the Seamore's signage, one sign ("Seamore's" only) over the awning at the south façade, two signs ("Seamore's" only) over the awnings at the south and east façade. Mr. Wainwright expressed that they prefer the original design. "Seamore's" with the fish logo over the awning at the south with a letter height of 16" and fish logo height of 21" as well as "Seamore's" over the awning at the east façade.

ARB Comments: ARB generally agreed that the original design of the wall sign was acceptable at the discussed heights but questioned the position of signage and suggested they both line up with the edge of the awning below. The wall sign lighting was also discussed, and it was determined to be halo lit, but the illumination should be reduced to 5,000K.

Outcome: Favorable report with the recommended changes.

ARB-7-2023 (PL-23-8 in Viewpoint online system)

**The Commons**, main entrance (update)

Not presented.

**Discussion:**

Large artwork on Heights Road – preliminary presentation

Not discussed.

Process to change Blade Sign Regulations

Elizabeth Geiger, ARB Chairman, presented the steps to change the Blade Sign regulations, which generally includes the following over a 3-6 month period: review/document proposed changes, determine how they comply with the Town Plan, file proposed changes with the Town

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Clerk, proposed changes are reviewed at a public hearing and also presented to Planning and Zoning.

ARB agreed that changes to the Blade Sign regulations should be addressed. Anna Janis also suggested that the current regulations may not be being interpreted as intended; specifically, should they size limitations apply to the overall blade sign size or each face of the sign separately.

**MINUTES:**

Minutes for the following meetings were approved:

December 2022 – Cherie Greene

January 2023 – Anna Janis

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

David S. Humphrey