

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD
DARIEN, CONNECTICUT
MINUTES
April 18, 2023

Members Present: D. Reilly, A. Janis, R. Morrison, E. Geiger, C. Hart, C. Green, D. Humphrey
Staff Present: Hamon

The meeting was held in person and was called to order at 7:02 PM.

❖ **Old Business:**

[ARB-21-2023 \(PL-23-61 in Viewpoint online system\)](#)

La Taqueria, 1077 Boston Post Road
Presenter – Dennis Lake
Proposal – Outdoor Seating/Lighting

Additional Information from Presenter:

- Desires seating under the pergola.
- Four outdoor tables and four chairs each table.
- Lighting like other outdoor lighting in town and on timers on at 5pm off by 10pm. 5-10pm.

Comments:

- Needs planter boxes to anchor space.

Chairs comments:

- Administrative Approval Issued - Need specs to proceed
- Lighting is approved.

[ARB-20-2023 \(PL-23-62 in Viewpoint online system\)](#)

Darien Commons, 102 Heights Road
Presenter – Patrick McMahon
Proposal – Entrance, Monument

Additional Information from Presenter:

- Simple corten steel, pin mounted lettering – ¼” depth rolled steel – letters will not be lit.
- Letters project 1” off the wall
- The size of the lettering is 18” for Darien and slightly smaller for Commons.

Chairman –

- Favorable report – sign will change within the month.

[ARB-19-2023 \(PL-23-63 in Viewpoint online system\)](#)

Darrien Commons, 110 Heights Road
Presenter – Patrick McMahon with Federal Realty and Iona Barac
Proposal – Art Wall

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Additional Information from Presenter:

- Ms. Barac – talks about her concept which is a school of fish, how things move, and the order of nature/movement. Trying to create currents – waves/movements. The sculpture will wrap around the building.

Comments:

- Lighting – How to make the light extend out.
 - Answer – Light needs to come out from the wall.
 - D. Reilly – Look at Pure Edge lighting.
- C. Green – What color temp?
 - Answer – as close as daylight as possible and dimmable.
- R. Morrison – question about brick maintenance
 - P. McMahon – every ten years – Ms. Barac – piece will be on tracks.

Chair Final Comments:

- Favorable report - install summer

[ARB-12-2023 \(PL-23-30 in Viewpoint online system\)](#)

Craig Eischen

Naya, 146 Heights Road

Presenter – Craig Eischen

Proposal – Shadow Box and Exterior Seating

Additional Information from Presenter:

- Bathrooms in the front/windows to solve issue they will create a shadow box to decoratively hide the windows.
- Light will not project out of the space. Lighting will not be seen – lighting on the outside of the wall pointing in towards the art.
- Shadow box walls and ceilings are white. The floor of the box is wood.
- Artwork would change around every six months. Artwork that changed out will be run informally by the ARB.

Comments:

- D. Reilly – Issue with having to constantly run the artwork by the board.
 - E. Geiger – Try out the idea of running the artwork by the board and if not needed going forward we can table this. Copy not to be promotional material.

Chairs Final Comments:

- Favorable report – we aren't the judge of the art just make sure it is appropriate.
- Exterior seating – nice looking.
 - Hamon – exterior seating needs to go to planning and zoning. – Closeness of tables and ADA accessibility. ARB can approve the tables but not the layout.

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❖ **New Business:**

[ARB-14-2023 \(PL-23-55 in Viewpoint online system\)](#)

St. Thomas Moore Church, 374 Middlesex Road

Presenter - Elizabeth Leon

Proposal – Awning

Additional Information from Presenter:

- Canopy to go over school side entrance – covering the ramp.
- Awning projects 5’ off the wall
- Galvanized steel frame – posts painted – frame is not
- Awning itself will be dark green

Comments:

- E. Geiger – awning should extend to end of building.
 - Answer – added post not in budget.

Chairs Final Comments:

- Favorable report – but consider extending the awning

[ARB-15-2023 \(PL-23-57 in Viewpoint online system\)](#)

Darien Consignment, 523 Boston Post Road

Presenter – Isemene Clairvil

Proposal - painting façade

Additional Information from Presenter:

- Wants to paint the building dark grey – and the window trims white.
- Paint the door a contrasting grey.
- Side of the building – paint and sand
- Three arborvitaes will flank each side of the building.

Comments:

- E. Geiger – will get in touch with landscape architect on the board- to talk about the plantings.
- H. Hamon – sign will need to be reduced in size
- D. Humphrey – mock sample of color

Chairs Final Comments:

- E. Geiger – sample colors on the building after that administrative approval – signage needs to come back for – suggestion will be given on plantings.

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[ARB-16-2023 \(PL-23-58 in Viewpoint online system\)](#)

Shoes n' More, 15 Corbin Drive

Presenter – David Genovese

Proposal - new signage, no mullions on windows, awnings striped

Comments –

- Hamon – try mullions not on bottom but only the top.

Chairs Final Comments:

- Favorable report - approved

[ARB-17-2023 \(PL-23-59 in Viewpoint online system\)](#)

Hot Phit, 25 Old King's Highway North

Presenter - Monique Crous

Proposal - new awning and blade sign

Additional Information from Presenter:

Hot fitness studio

Comments:

- D. Humphrey – only Hot Phit can be on the blade sign.

Chairs Final Comments:

- Approved though note:
 - Ten percent of window signage is allowable.
 - No sandwich boards.
 - Blade sign – cannot say far infrared fitness – need to resubmit Photoshop image showing new sign.

[ARB-18-2023 \(PL-23-60 in Viewpoint online system\)](#)

Roots Steakhouse, 14 Grove Street

Presenter – Robert Maslan

Proposal - outdoor seating/dining

Chairs Final Comments:

- Tabled until next month.

[ARB-22-2023 \(PL-23-65 in Viewpoint online system\)](#)

Stitch-Stash Needlepoint, 847 Boston Post Road

Presenter – Patti Hoffmann

Proposal - new wall signs

Additional Information from Presenter:

- Took over previous needlepoint shop and went over previous signage without ARB approval.

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Comments:

- Issue with size of signs and that the green that is in the adjacent storefronts is not carried to this storefront,

Chairs Final Comments:

- E. Geiger – Green – should be carried across to match the adjacent storefronts.
- Mock-up of different schemes – as the lettering is too big and “needlepoint” can’t be above the second bay.
- Will try to approve administratively.

1. Other Business:

Introduction of new member – Christina Hart

Discussion:

David Genovese – temp. mural

- “You are not alone” – mural project – conversation about mental health
- Will be there for a month – collaboration with Darien Youth about mental health awareness.

Chairs Final Comments:

- All in favor

Blade signs – size and regulations

- No projection could go past the sidewalk.
- Projection should be less than 40”
- Grandfather current signs

Chairs Final Comments:

- Not Ready to Vote – tabled until next month.

❖ **Minutes Approval:**

February 2023

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30pm

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Morrison

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