

**Village of Franklin
Historic District Commission
Regular Meeting
Monday, November 7, 2011, 7:30 P.M.**

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Franklin Historic Commission was called to order by Gary Roberts, Chairman, at the Franklin Village Hall, 32325 Franklin Rd., Franklin, Michigan at 7:30 P.M.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Madeline Haddad, Garrett Keais, Gary Roberts, Pat Burke, Bonnie Cook, Mary Ann Liut

Absent: Mike Brassfield (excused)

Also Present Eileen Pulker, Village Clerk; Bill Dinnan, Village Building Official; Amanda Davis, Consultant; Amy Sullivan, Village Administrator

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Roberts requested that two (2) additional discussion items be added to the Agenda concerning the new Market Basket sign and Tigers and Apples.

The agenda was approved unanimously as amended.

IV. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

A. Regular Meeting of October 3, 2011

Motion by Burke, supported by Haddad, to approve the minutes of the October 3, 2011 Regular Historic Commission meeting.

Motion was approved unanimously.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments were made at this time.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Consider Sign Application for 32751 Franklin Road (Glamour Puss).

Amy Regal, owner, briefly explained that she would like to have a sign above her front window in order to define her space and draw attention to her business. She showed the Commissioners two (2) prototype signs. One is of wood with the letters routed out and the other is metal with laser cut letters, each mounted on a solid colored surface. She also stated that she has the standard materials which had been recommended to her. The materials of the sign can vary, depending on the Commission's approval but she is concerned about the longevity of the sign since she has already replaced both of her wood signs due to weathering. In terms of color, she would like to follow those of her hanging sign, black and gold. Hopefully, the graphics can also mimic the hanging sign.

She stated that if the wood material was preferred it could be stressed to look like barn wood, noting that actual barn wood would be too heavy.

Location of the sign on the building, its size, shape and color were discussed. It was noted that Main Street Franklin is meeting with the owner of the building to suggest potential improvements to the facade. It was determined that the design could include sign positioning which may slightly delay a decision that could work for both businesses, Glamour Puss and Bead Works.

Roberts explained that the wood sign would be preferable. It was concluded that the metal sign and the font was too contemporary and that the font on the hanging sign or something as

close to it as possible would be more appropriate. If the wood could be stained very dark a lighter lettering could then come through it.

Motion by Liut, supported by Burke to postpone the decision of the Sign Application for 32751 Franklin Road (Glamour Puss) until the next meeting of the Historic District Commission, pending the owner conferring with HDC members Burke and Liut to discuss an appropriate sign.

Motion was approved unanimously.

B. Consider Sign Application for 32800 Franklin Road

Bill Meade, representing Karen Brown, the owner of Savvy Chic, explained that Savvy Chic will be occupying the first floor space at the rear of the Van Every building, facing north. He is asking the HDC to grant approval to add the name to the existing multi-tenant sign in front of the Van Every building facing Franklin Road. It would be the same size, color, and design as the other segments of the sign.

Dinnan explained to the commissioners that he and Meade had had a discussion regarding the reconfiguring and construction of a new sign so it would accommodate any additional businesses which might locate in the Van Every building. Meade would bring the new sign design to the HDC for approval.

Motion by Keais, supported by Liut to approve a new sign at 32800 Franklin Road for the new tenant Savvy Chic. The sign will be the same in size, color, font, and detailing as that of the business Linda Gee.

Motion was approved unanimously.

VII. DISCUSSION

1. Market Basket Sign

Roberts led the discussion concerning the “look and feel” of the newly erected sign on the Market Basket façade. The issue appears to be the sheen or glossiness of the sign, giving it a more contemporary look which is inappropriate within the Historic District. Apparently, there had been some miscommunication with the sign maker concerning the required permitting and approvals for signs.

Burke re-iterated that the new sign was supposed to coordinate/replicate in color, tone, and texture what is on the side of the building so the entire building would look like a cohesive plan. The approved sign design was perfect in its design to accommodate the lower window ledges. Not only is the wording different from the approved sign but also the letters are adhered to the background as opposed to being painted. She opined that the only thing that is the same is the font.

Several suggestions to rectify the problems, such as, redoing the background color to more closely match the other signs on the side of the building and making it a matte finish, were made and will be forwarded to the sign maker by Roberts.

Keais suggested that a notification be documented indicating that the owner is not in compliance with HDC.

2. Tigers and Apples

Roberts introduced the subject concerning the locations for the Tigers and Apple sculptures. Several alternate locations and storage were discussed.

Dinnan updated the commissioners in regards to the house and property at the top of the Franklin Rd. hill.

3. Review of Items Necessary for CGL Designation

Davis updated the commissioners on the CGL application, noting that Amy Arnold is still the coordinator. She reviewed the remaining requirements that need to be completed. Arnold is asking that the HDC goals be more specific and quantifiable. Roberts led a discussion about the goals which have been fulfilled or are in the process of doing so. He asked Davis to work on those goals on behalf of the HDC. It was decided that both Davis and Cook would coordinate their efforts.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 P.M.

Submitted,

Gail Beke, Recording Secretary

Eileen H. Pulker, Clerk