



## *New Bedford Historical Commission*

February 23, 2015 – 6:00 PM - **Minutes**  
Main Library, 613 Pleasant Street, New Bedford, MA

### ***Members Present:***

Diana Henry, Chairman  
Bill King, Vice Chairman  
Bill Barr  
Keri Cox  
Jill Maclean  
  
Corey Pacheco

### ***Members Absent:***

### ***Secretary:***

Anne Louro

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#### 1. Call to Order:

D. Henry called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m., confirming a quorum.

#### 2. Approval of Minutes:

**A motion to approve the corrected minutes of the 01.05.15 meeting as written was moved by C. Pacheco and seconded by K. Cox. All voted in favor and the motion passed.** The reading of the minutes was waived.

#### 3. PUBLIC HEARING: CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS:

**25 Elm Street-** new signage, new construction of ATM, expansion of parking and driveways. Attorney Bob Feingold presented for the applicant. Also present were Carl Taber, Executive Vice President at BayCoast Bank; Peter Meyer, President and Publisher at Local Media Group; Bob Shaker, Project Manager at PACE; Richard Poyant, President at Poyant Signs and Steve Gioiosa, President at SITEC Engineering. Mr. Feingold explained that both the applicant, BayCoast Bank and the property owner, Local Media Group (Standard Times), were committed to good design, appropriate landscaping, and adjusted their original plans throughout the process to better fit the desires of the commission.

Steve Gioiosa presented the site plan and explained the need to widen the driveway and expand the parking surface to accommodate the drive-thru lane. He then went on to explain the signage and the use of a retaining wall in the landscaping in order to incorporate a sign on the Rte. 18 side of the property. He explained that the use of the wall would allow the sign to be smaller in height than what was originally proposed. The Rte 18 sign and the entrance sign on Elm Street are wood carved with ground lighting. Mr. Gioiosa went on to point out the large swaths of landscaping that would be better defined in preparation for the Planning Board's review. The drive-thru canopy was presented with notation that it was designed to match and compliment the building. Mr. Gioiosa also proposed new down-lit LED lighting to replace the current parking lot lights.

B. King asked if there was an elevation drawing of the retaining wall and for the height of the wall. Mr. Gioiosa explained that they did not yet have a drawing and that the height would be 2-1/2' to 3' in height and would taper into the ground in the northern part of the property.

B. Barr asked about the internally lit signs on the building facades and asked if the applicant would consider utilizing a halo-lit sign verses and internally-lit sign. The application team felt that the halo-lit lighting was an acceptable modification to their plan. Peter Meyer confirmed that the current Standard Times building signage is not lit.

J. Maclean sought clarification regarding the height of the Rte.18 sign and D. Henry expressed confusion regarding the signage due to the presentation of new designs since the application was initially submitted. Anne Louro took a moment to clarify the signage locations, heights, designs and methods of illumination. She also made note the presence of non-illuminated traffic control signs within the parcel.

J. da Silva asked for further information regarding the entrances. Bob Shaker explained that the widening was minor to accommodate a turning lane.

**A motion to open the public hearing was moved by B. King and seconded by J. Maclean. All voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously.**

*Public comments in favor:* None.

*Public comments not in favor:* None.

*Public comments not in favor:* None

*Public comments recorded not in favor: None*

**A motion to close the public hearing was moved by B. King and seconded by B. Barr. All voted in favor and the motion passed.**

NBHC members discussed the application. B. King stated that he did not feel that lighting was necessary for the building façade signs. J. Maclean suggested that the lights be timed to coordinate with the business hours, which the applicant found to be acceptable. A. Louro noted that there was a blue accent strip on the drive-thru canopy, which Bob Shaker explained was homage to the bank's logo and a way in which to address the lack of signage on the canopy.

**A motion to approve the Certificate of Appropriateness with the following modifications to the application was moved by J. Maclean and seconded by K.Cox.**

**Modifications:**

- **Parking lot lights to be 15' maximum height.**
- **Building façade signage to be halo-type and to be operational one hour before and after business hours.**
- **No use of blue corrugated accent strip on drive –thru canopy.**

**A roll call was taken and the motion passed unanimously 5-0.**

**J. Maclean left the meeting at this point to attend another meeting within City Hall.**

Attorney Feingold asked if he could seek a modification to the timing of the lights since it was brought to his attention that the Standard Times roof sign on the east side of the building was lit all night.

**A motion to allow the east façade BayCoast building sign to remain lit until 10:00PM was moved by K. Cox and seconded by C. Pacheco. A roll call was taken and the motion passed unanimously 4-0.**

4. Old Business:

No old business was discussed.

5. New Business:

- Election of Officers

**A motion to appoint D. Henry as Chairman and B. King as Vice Chairman was moved by K. Cox and seconded by C. Pacheco. A roll call was taken and the motion passed unanimously 4-0.**

- Review of Application Fees...A. Louro will forward comparable commission fees to the members for their review.
- District Newsletter...discussion postponed to a future meeting.

6. Communications

- Member appointments...discussion regarding A. Louro becoming the Secretary of the commission and that J. da Silva would become a member along with Meghan Kish, the new superintendent of the NBWNHP. Also, that Jennifer Clarke would be replacing A. Louro as the Planning Office designee.

**A motion for staff to draft a letter to the Mayor for his consideration of the new appointments was moved by B. King and seconded by K. Cox. A roll call was taken and the motion passed unanimously 4-0.**

7. Date of Next Meeting: The next regular commission meeting was scheduled for 03.02.15.

8. **There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was moved by B. Barr and seconded by K. Cox. All voted in favor and the motion passed.** The meeting was adjourned at 8:20p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Louro  
Secretary to the commission

*Approved April 6, 2015*