

FARMINGTON HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING

July 23, 2024

Present for the hybrid meeting were Chair Bombara, Commissioners Calciano, Lawson, Mix, Phelan and Alternate Commissioner Sanford. Town Planner Rutherford and Clerk Michaud were also present. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.

Present in the Council Chambers were Town Planner Rutherford, Clerk Michaud, Chair Bombara, Commissioners Calciano, Lawson, Phelan and Alternate Commissioner Sanford. Commissioner Mix was present online. Alternate Commissioners Gemski and Renehan were absent.

Secretary Phelan read the legal notice into the record.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

Bianca Signs Plus LLC – 771 Farmington Avenue

Temporary Certificate of Appropriateness to replace sign at 771 Farmington Avenue. *Tabled from the June 18, 2024 meeting. Decision must be made by July 25, 2024.* Dr. Kumar stated he is moving his dental practice to Farmington and would like to install a sign on the building. He has had some discussions with staff regarding comments from the Architectural Design Review Committee and is willing to make adjustments to the sign if the Commission requests. Jaslin Jimenez, Bianca Signs Plus, was present to answer questions about the proposed attached wood sign. The sign proof states the sign will be a .5” MDO Wood Panel, 16.5” high by 216” wide, white background with black lettering. Commissioners asked for clarification on the lettering. Ms. Jimenez responded that the lettering will be painted. Commissioners sought confirmation on the additional signs already installed on the building. Dr. Kumar stated the smaller signs were already installed and Ms. Jimenez stated the smaller signs have vinyl lettering. There was some discussion about the proposed building sign size and lettering. The owner of the building prefers the font used in the word “Dentistry” but used on the sign for all lettering. Ms. Jimenez responded they can change the sign to one font.

There was no public comment in favor or in opposition to the application.

The public hearing closed at 5:19 p.m.

Upon a motion made and seconded (Calciano/Phelan) it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the Bianca Signs Plus application for Temporary Certificate of Appropriateness to install Family & Cosmetic Dentistry building sign as presented with the condition that one font (from the word “Dentistry”) be used on the sign. The Commission also approves a Temporary Certificate of Appropriateness for the two Brickwalk Dentistry signs as presented and on file in the Planning Office for 771 Farmington Avenue.

St. James Episcopal Church – 3 Mountain Road

Temporary Certificate of Appropriateness to replace six doors and one storm door at 3 Mountain Road. Robert Sudell, St. James Episcopal Church Building Committee, stated the doors are approximately fifty years old and in need of replacement. He submitted photographs of the existing doors, explaining the location of each door on the building. Mr. Sudell also explained some doors will be replaced with fiberglass doors and others will be steel doors. Specification sheets of the new doors were provided as part of their application packet. The Commissioners asked for additional clarification. Mr. Sudell responded that the main door on the north side of the building will be replaced with fiberglass. A patio door, along the Miss Porter's School driveway, along the east side of the building is proposed to be replaced with a steel door. The mailbox door (including transom window) on the south side of the building facing Mountain Road will be replaced with a fiberglass door. A patio door on the south side of the building will be replaced with a fiberglass door. The kitchen door on the north side of the building will be replaced with a steel door. The second story door to a classroom above the kitchen door on the north side will be replaced with a steel door. All new doors will have the same look as the existing doors. The storm door is proposed over the stained-glass door. The two doors on the south side of the building facing Mountain Road and one door on the west side of the building. A Commissioner expressed concern with approving fiberglass and steel doors, voicing a preference to wood doors and then asked for clarification on the mullions, if they were between the glass, simulated or true divided. Other Commissioners commented they have approved fiberglass in the past and that it has the appearance of wood. The applicant was asked to confirm that the two doors facing Mountain Road will be replaced with fiberglass and that the door off the driveway will be replaced with fiberglass. Mr. Sudell responded yes. During further discussion it was determined the doors to the rear or north of the building and to the east are not the purview of the Commission and do not require a Temporary Certificate of Appropriateness ("TCA"), only the three doors along Mountain Road (south side) and the driveway (west side) require a Temporary Certificate of Appropriateness. Regarding the mullions on the doors that require a TCA, the applicant is asked to check with the manufacturer for information on simulated divided lights.

Skip Mason, 198 Talcott Notch, spoke in support of the application.

Bonnie Sudell, 164 South Road, spoke in support of the application.

The public hearing closed at 6:02 p.m.

Upon a motion made and seconded (Calciano/Phelan) it was unanimously

VOTED: To continue this matter to the September 17, 2024 meeting for the three doors requiring the TCA.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

No Other Business.

**STAFF REPORT**

Hartford Baking Company

The business owner has installed ductwork for air conditioning along the building and removed a wall air conditioner at a second-floor window, replacing it with a piece of plywood. The Town Planner has called the property owner about the discovery and the business owner about the requirement to submit an application for a Temporary Certificate of Appropriateness to the Farmington Historic District Commission and that this type of work requires a building permit. The business owner has been given ten days to submit an application.

**MINUTES**

June 18, 2024 Minutes

Upon a motion made and seconded (Lawson/Phelan) it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the June 18, 2024 Farmington Historic District Commission meeting minutes.

**ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:14 p.m.

*SJM*