Annual Report of the Design Review Committee - 2018

The mission of the Design Review Committee (DRC) is to serve the people of Medway in a capacity that openly, creatively and appropriately reviews site, building, and sign design for private and public development. The DRC is tasked with serving as an advocate for the preservation and enhancement of Medway’s natural, scenic and aesthetic qualities to achieve the pleasing composition of places within the context of the Medway Master Plan. The DRC works with the broad intention of maintaining and/or improving the quality of life, value of property and viability of commerce through the use of thoughtful and community-appropriate design practices as represented by the Medway Design Review Guidelines.

I am pleased to report that the DRC reviewed eighteen sign proposals this year, many of which incorporated recommended changes and produced very effective signs. The DRC’s laptop computer and design software have continued to be a vital tool, used continually during the year at DRC meetings.

- O’Reilly’s Auto Parts (106 Main Street) - 01/08/2018
- Medway Eye Care (89 Main Street) - 02/05/2018
- New England Quality Cabinetry (112C Main Street) – 03/05/2018
- FBT Medical Aesthetics (165 Main Street) – April 2, 2018
- All Fur Love (126 Main Street) – April 23, 2018
- Irving Gas (71 Main Street) – April 23, 2018
- O’Brien & Sons (17 Trotter Drive) – 06/04/2018
- Medway Fire Department (42 Milford Street) – 06/04/2018
- Sign Design (9 Trotter Drive) – 06/04/2018
- Town of Medway STOP/No Dumping (Various) – 06/04/2018
- Medway Smoke Shop (100 Main Street) – 07/16/2018
- Family Medicine Associates (74 Main Street) 07/16/2018
- Community Pediatrics of Medway (116 Main Street) – 07/16/2018
- Oui Dance Studio (42 Milford Street) – 08/08/2018
- Aoude Gas & Repair Service (73 Main Street) 08/08/2018
- Medway Community Church (200 Main Street) – 09/10/2018
- Verizon (92 Main Street) – 12/03/2018
- Hogan Tire (85 Main Street) – 12/17/2018

The DRC reviewed seven site plans this year which generally included several meetings with applicants and architects during the informal, pre-application phase of site planning. We provided review letters to the Planning and Economic Development Board and the Zoning Board of Appeals as requested and participated in the public hearings where applicable.

- Milway Auto (50 Alder Street) - 01/22/2018
- CTS (9 Trotter Drive) – 05/07/2019
• Glen Brook Way Multifamily Housing (33 West Street) – 06/18/2018
• Medway Community Church Parking Expansion (9 & 11 Slocomb Place) – 08/20/2018
• Multifamily Housing (22 Evergreen Street) – 10/15/2018
• Multifamily Housing (39 Main Street) – 11/05/2018
• Medway Department of Public Works Building (46 Broad Street) – 12/03/2018

The DRC was vital in providing informed recommendations to help the Town move forward with plans for a LED Changeable Message Sign at Choate Park. The DRC helped design a stone base for the sign and created a presentation board for the Annual Town Meeting on 11/19/2018. The sign is expected to be installed and functioning in 2019.

On 10/22/2018, members of the DRC participated in the Oak Grove Zoning command provided their support in a hands-on workshop to help steer the design of the Oak Grove Development project.

We were pleased to welcome Rachel Wolff Lander during 2018 as a newly appointed DRC member. Continuing members include Seth Kendall, Dan Connolly, Rachel Walsh, Jess Chabot, Tom Gay, and Matt Buckley. The DRC continues to seek a member from the business community representing the Medway Business Council.

Looking forward to 2019, the DRC intends to:
• Support the LED Changeable Message Sign at Choate Park implementation and provide support with developing design guidelines for the messages to be displayed.
• Provide a signage program for the EPFRAC projects that can be applied to all municipal signage.
• Return to the process of reviewing the current sign bylaw and drafting new regulations so its provisions align more closely with the Design Review Guidelines and effectively serve the community.
• Work to help develop design guidelines for banners for the new light poles on Main Street/Route 109.
• Provide more updated information through the Committee’s page on the Town’s website.
• Continue providing design review of all signage applications to ensure they align with the Design Review Guidelines.
• Continue providing site plan application review to ensure they align with the Design Review Guidelines.

The commitment of the DRC is to assist in shaping what can be the very best built environment for Medway. Each member is motivated to employ their skills in all related aspects of the community both private and public. We continue to reach out to each and every Town board and committee to involve the DRC where possible and to utilize our specific skill sets. The DRC attempts to encourage design that is attractive, inviting, harmonious with its surroundings, and enhances the visual experience of the community. I believe we have been successful in working toward that goal 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Buckley, Chairman