

TOWN OF WESTPORT ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD

MEETING MINUTES JULY 23, 2024

Members Present: Vesna Herman, Acting Chairman; Jake Watkins, David Halpern. Staff: Donna Douglass. Minutes from the meeting of May 23, 2024, were approved.

1. **535 Riverside Avenue.** To review and comment on proposed new canopy at 535 Riverside Avenue (Parcel ID #C06/057/000) submitted by Rick Hoag, Frederick William Hoag, Architect LLC, for property owned by 535 Riverside Avenue LLC which is located in Zone RORD2. (Property Survey Waldo & Associated LLC 8/3/17; Plans, Frederick W Hoag)
2. **Appeared:** Rick Hoag, Architect

Mr. Hoag gave an overview of the history of the building, which is a restaurant. His proposal is for the addition of a canopy on the south elevation over the main entrance door.

- Coreten Steel retractable canopy shaped as a parallelogram
- Suspended from a Warren Truss
- Will be painted gray to match building trim

Mr. Hoag said the canopy will identify the entry.

David Halpern asked if the intent is to identify the primary entrance. Mr. Hoag said yes. The entrance off Riverside Ave. goes straight into the bar and there is also an entrance on north side. This entrance goes into a small vestibule. Mr. Halpern said the building has a nice floor plan. He felt the canopy was a little weak. There is so much traffic in the area, it is an opportunity to make more of a presence by making the parallelogram larger.

Mr. Hoag said that technically, the awning is supposed to be operable so can be pulled up with a pulley. Coverage requirements won't allow a larger canopy. It is a little modern gesture. Mr. Halpern asked if they had considered taking out the front door. Mr. Hoag said he wanted to leave it as it is.

Jake Watkins said he agreed with Mr. Halpern about the canopy size and asked if it was possible to add more panels. The truss is big. Mr. Hoag said it was subjective, on balance, everything is horizontal, so this is purposely asymmetrical. Mr. Watkins asked about the lights. Mr. Hoag said he wanted to replace the current lights.

Vesna Herman asked if the truss will be the untreated Coreten. Mr. Hoag said it will be painted gray. Ms. Herman said, given the zoning constraints, the "small gesture" works ok. It doesn't take away from the building and she had no problem with it as a gesture to identify the side entrance.

Board members agreed they understood that, given the restrictions, the canopy was not to intended to provide protection but was an attractive addition. Ms. Herman verified that they were all in agreement.

THE APPLICATION FOR A PAINTED CORETEN CANOPY IS APPROVED
(Unanimous)

2. **950 Post Road East:** Proposed new signage at 950 Post Road East (Parcel ID #F09/059/000) submitted by Alyson Ibbotson, Laurentano Sign Group, for property owned by King Pet LLC which is located in Zone HSD. (No property survey; sign by Laurentano Sign Group 6/6/24)

Appeared: Allison Ibbotson

Ms. Ibbotson said the sign structure is 67.64 s.f. due to where it is being mounted in the building's entrance and to fit the letters on the raceways. The sign is:

- Sign script varies from 4'6" to 2.37" for a total of 49.27 s.f.
- Letters are translucent white acrylic with aluminum returns and say Spot On Vet
- Colors are white LED lights with black aluminum returns

Vesna Herman verified that the sign would be lighted and asked if it would be lit 24/7. Ms. Ibbotson said she doubted it.

Jake Watson asked if they are applying for a variance. Ms. Ibbotson said no, the sign meets regulations. He asked why the raceway is necessary. Ms. Ibbotson said it is where the electrical connection points are. Mr. Watson said it looks like, the way it is configured, the letter size could be reduced. Regulations aside, it is overall too big, especially for a lit sign.

David Halpern agreed and suggested they should take another shot at reducing the size. It would help the sign.

Vesna Herman also agreed that the sign was too big for this elevation. Even so, it will not be very readable against the background, it is lost in the entrance. She suggested colored letters might help it to be more noticeable from the Post Road.

There was discussion with the applicant who had concerns about a smaller sign's visibility and the time it will take to receive an approval. She was told that a smaller sign might not even require ARB approval.

APPLICANT WAS ASKED TO RETURN WITH A SMALLER, MORE LEGIBLE AND COMPLIANT SIGN. (Unanimous)