

**Non- Residential Design Review Committee Meeting Minutes
January 9, 2015**

The Bethany Beach Non-Residential Design Review Committee (NRDRC) held a meeting on Friday, January 9, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. in the Town Council Meeting Room, 214 Garfield Parkway, Bethany Beach, DE.

Members present: Lew Killmer, who presided; John Hendrickson; Jerry Morris; Jim Weisgerber; Susan Frederick, Building Inspector

Also present: Stephen Lett, Bethany Beach VFC President and applicant for proposed new wall sign and modifications to existing electronic LED message sign for Bethany Beach Volunteer Fire Company, Inc.; Brian Martin, Bethany Beach VFC Chief; Dan Lyons, Bethany Beach VFC member; and Nathalie Fernandes, Administrative Assistant.

Call to Order

Mr. Killmer called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

Approval of the Agenda

Ms. Frederick made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Morris seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

New Business

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss and vote on an application submitted by Stephen Lett, President of the Bethany Beach Volunteer Fire Company, Inc. located at 215 Hollywood Street, is requesting approval for a new wall sign and modifications to their existing electronic LED message sign for the property located at Lot 7-19, Block 108, in the R-1 Residential Zoning District, Bethany Beach, DE.

Mr. Killmer suggested that they begin the discussion with the proposal for a new wall sign. All agreed. Mr. Lett began by explaining that currently on the right side face of the building, there is "STATION 70" in channel lettering that will be removed because it does not mean much to the community. Replacing that sign will be a black, gold, and red shield.

Mr. Morris stated that the new sign is very attractive. Mr. Killmer added that it is much nicer because it will explain what the building is rather than just having "STATION 70." Mr. Lett explained that Station 70 is their dispatch number and he added that the new sign is back lit.

Mr. Killmer affirmed that the sign passes all requirements. Mr. Morris made a motion to approve the new wall sign. Mr. Hendrickson seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Next, Mr. Lett explained how the Fire Company needed to update the electronic LED message sign, but the software company who made the sign is no longer in business. The same box will be used and the sign on the north side will be removed. All updates will be within the same frame work.

Mr. Killmer wanted to clarify that the sign is facing south and if there would be anything in place on the side facing north. Mr. Lett stated that the north side would just be blank. He added that he

has been working with Ms. Frederick throughout the process and the sign will actually be 200 square inches smaller than what is up now.

The electronic LED message sign for the Bethany Beach Volunteer Fire Company was grandfathered in because the Town does not permit LED signs.

Mr. Lett stated that most of what is posted is a public message. For example, it would transmit that property owners need to check that their smoke detectors are working properly.

Mr. Killmer explained that in the electronic LED message sign would have to follow the regulations found in the Town Code, Chapter 530 Design Code, Article VIII Nonconforming Signs. Under §530-28 Legal nonconforming and discontinued signs, Section A (3):

- (a) The modified sign will not be expanded and no new illumination will be added, rather, the sign will be 200 square inches smaller and the north facing side of the sign will no longer be illuminated.
- (b) The reason for this meeting was for repair and alterations due to the prior software company no longer in business.
- (c) The sign will be in the same position and remain in the same location.
- (d) On the south facing side, the white background will be removed and the sign will be the black LED message board. On the north facing side, it will be completely white.

Mr. Killmer stated that once the new sign is up, the Bethany Beach Volunteer Fire Company cannot change the sign to what it looked like before.

Mr. Martin wanted to clarify that if they wanted to expand the electronic LED message sign once the new sign is placed, they would not be able to. Mr. Killmer replied that that was correct.

Mr. Lett stated that Ms. Frederick was very helpful during the process.

Mr. Killmer added that if the electronic LED sign were to be on both sides, then the NRDRRC would not allow it. Mr. Hendrickson commented that the north side is not even visible. Mr. Lett stated that the trees block the north side so it would be unnecessary to have the message on both sides.

Mr. Morris asked for a better description on what the sign will look like. Mr. Lett explained that the sign will be entirely black and square and the other side of the sign will be entirely white. Mr. Lyons added that it looks similar to the sign seen at the Millville Volunteer Fire Company.

Mr. Weisgerber made a motion to approve the modified electronic LED message sign. Mr. Morris seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Approval of Minutes from the Meeting held October 24, 2014

Ms. Frederick made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Morris seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Mr. Killmer stated that on January 16, 2015 the Town Council will be approving the final version of the Non-Residential Design Guidelines that will include the Commercial Lodging District (CL-1). Once Council approves the Guidelines, then the Non-Residential Design Review Committee will be able to review the signs proposed for the new hotel for discussion and approval.

Motion to Adjourn

Mr. Weisgerber made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Hendrickson seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 10:22 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Nathalie Fernandes
Administrative Assistant