

**DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD
MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR HEARING
Thursday August 1, 2024**

A regular meeting of the Barre City Development Review Board was held in person and video conference. The hearing was called to order by Vice Chair, Sarah Helman (Ward II) at 7:00 pm., noting quorum was met.

Present: Ward I members Chrysta Murray; Ward II members Vice-Chair Sarah Helman; Ward III members Katrina Pelkey and Colin Doolittle and At-Large members Kendall Schmidt and Jessica Egerton.

Absent: Ward II member; Jayme Bauer and; At-large Vacant Seat

Staff Present: Michelle La Barge-Burke, Permit Administrator

Public Present (from presentations and sign-in sheet): Jim Thibeault, Peter Anthony (in-person)

1. **Adjustments to Agenda:** Vice Chair, Helman noted an announcement to be read by M La Barge-Burke, Permit Administrator after adjustments.

- Vice Chair, Helman, called on Michelle La Barge-Burke to make an announcement. M La Barge-Burke announced a Request for Reconsideration for 58 Circle St Decision that was received and the request for reconsideration will be warned for next meeting, September 5, 2024. The Reconsideration will be decided and if accepted it will open the hearing to receive new testimony.

2. **Visitors and Communications:** None

3. **Old Business:**

a. **Consideration of July 12, 2024 Minutes:**

Motion to approve the minutes was made by C. Doolittle and seconded by K. Schmidt, **motion carried unanimously 6-0-0.**

b. **Consideration of July 12, 2024 Decision:**

Motion to approve the decisions for 821 N Main was made by K. Schmidt and seconded by C. Murray, **motion carried unanimously 6-0-0.**

4. **New Business:**

Motion to open hearing by C. Murray and seconded by K Schmidt. Hearing opened 7:05pm

Capital Candy Company Inc., 20 Burnham St. Seeks conditional use approval for demolition of historic building; Special Flood Hazard Area, IN Zoning District.

The Oath was administered by S. Helman, Vice Chair to Jim Thibeault and Peter Anthony.

Vice Chair S. Helman asked Jim to step up to the mic and offer any additional information.

- J Thibeault had nothing to add.

Vice Chair Helman asked each of the Board members if they had any comments or questions.

- C. Doolittle asked if J. thibeault was the owner and when the building was purchased and it's condition. Thibeault shared he was the General Manager and the building was purchased about 5 years ago at the current condition except for recent flood damage.
- C. Doolittle asked what the intention was for the space. Thibeault shared that it was to rehab the space. They have used it for shelve storage but no repairs have been done as they had testing done and found lots of asbestos in the office section of the building. He was not sure if the owners were aware of the building being a historical structure at the time of purchase.
- C. Murray asked if research was done to look at the cost to rehab the building; Thibeault said they have no official costs but had a discussion with company that refurbished a building in New Haven. They also spoke with a moving company from Berlin and they could not see how to move it. Owners did offer to donate it to Vermont Granite Museum but received no interest.
- K. Schmidt asked if they could re-purpose the inside, Thibeault share there was a fire in the early 60's making it difficult.
- K. Pelky asked if the previous owner was Scott Macaskill and if it was on the historic registry when purchased. Thibeault confirmed.
- J. Egerton asked if the applicant looked into architectural or historic construction companies that specialized in refurbishing historic structures and if they were opposed to using the round granite shed. Thibeault shared that their current warehouse is a refusrbished granite shed. Thibeault said they are not opposed and had asked a company to look at it and there was no light for refurbishing.
- K. Schmidt asked if there was any way to save the round part and demo the rest of the building. Thibeault shared that the back section of the round was removed for a square addition.
- K. Pelkey asked if there was current plumbing, heating and electricity to the building. Thibeault said no.
- C. Doolittle asked if there was any reports or records from the communication with the contractors, they spoke to about moving and refurbishing. Thibeault said, no, not that he is aware of currently.

Vice Chair, Helman then asked if there were any additional comments or questions and invited Peter Anthony to speak.(Sworn in earlier)

- P. Anthony identified himself as a long time member of municipal government and that he serves on the board for the Vermont Granite Museum.
- P. Anthony shared that the Vermont Granite Museum was indeed interested in the Round Granite Shed but the obstacle was moving it.
- P. Anthony shared that it was a last serving remnant of the historic era and that he hulled granite for about 15 years right up to 20 years ago and the crane etc. was still

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working in the granite shed. He also noted that even with the burnt timbers it has held up in the VT snow.

- P. Anthony apologies for losing track of the demolition process when it left City Council and was moved to the DRB for demolition on historic structures and a lack of requirements to assist the DRB in the process of determining if the criteria was met and that it was not clear for the DRB.

Vice Chair Helman read a letter into record from Laura Trieschmann, Vermont State Historic Preservation Office, which will be included with the minutes.

With no further comments from the Board, staff or the public, Vice Chair, Helman stated that the Board would go into deliberative session after the hearing to make a decision, and the applicants can call Michelle tomorrow morning for the decision if rendered, and will receive a letter within two weeks.

A motion was made by C. Murray and seconded by C. Doolittle to end the hearing at 7:26 pm

5. Deliberative Session

Motion by C. Murray and seconded by K. Schmidt to go into deliberative session at 7:27 pm, **motion carried unanimously 6-0-0.**

Motion by C. Doolittle and seconded by K Schmidt exit deliberative session at 7:28 pm, **motion carried unanimously 6-0-0.**

Motion by C. Murray and seconded by J. Egerton to enter deliberative session and invite M. La Barge-Burke to join them at 7:29pm, **motion carried unanimously 6-0-0.**

Motion by K. Pelkey and seconded by C. Murray to leave Deliberative Session at 7:50 pm, **motion carried unanimously 6-0-0.**

- **20 Burnham:** Motion by J. Egerton to deny as requested due to lack of information, no second – Motion died
- **20 Burnham:** Motion by C. Doolittle to request more information specifically around 2202. G – Demolition, Part 1, Sections A, B, C, D Seconded by J. Egerton **motion carried 6-0-0.**

6. Roundtable:

- S. Helman shared that the Heritage Festival went well and the Barre Partnership did a phenomenal job.

7. Executive Session: None.

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8. **Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned at 7:55pm on motion from C. Murray seconded by K. Schimdt.

The open portions of this hearing were recorded on the video meeting platform.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle La Barge - Burke, Permit Administrator
Recording Secretary

DRAFT