

TOWN OF WELLESLEY



MASSACHUSETTS

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

TOWN HALL • 525 WASHINGTON STREET • WELLESLEY, MA 02181-5992

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1997 NOV 26 A 9:11

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ZBA 97-98

Petition of Town of Wellesley/Wellesley Free Library
530 Washington Street

Pursuant to due notice, the Special Permit Granting Authority held a Public Hearing on Thursday, November 20, 1997 at 8 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room (Conference Room B) at the Town Hall, 525 Washington Street, Wellesley on the petition of TOWN OF WELLESLEY/WELLESLEY FREE LIBRARY pursuant to the provisions of Section XXIIA and Section XXV of the Zoning Bylaw to allow a two-sided standing sign, to be installed in front of its premises at 530 WASHINGTON STREET, in a Single Residence District, that will exceed the allowed area of 4 square feet, as the sign will have an area of 14 square feet per panel, or a total area of 28 square feet. The sign will have an allowed height of 4 feet and an allowed setback of 15 feet from all property lines.

On November 3, 1997, the petitioner filed a request for a hearing before this Authority, and thereafter, due notice of the hearing was given by mailing and publication.

Presenting the case at the hearing was David Hinkley, Assistant Director of the Wellesley Free Library. Mr. Hinkley said that there is no visible sign identifying the library. The existing wall sign is about 100 feet from the street. The library is a major public facility and needs identification.

Mr. Hinkley said that the Design Review Board reviewed the sign and had some concerns about the lettering, which the Board felt should match the existing sign. The proposed sign has been revised. It is smaller, and the lettering has been matched to the sign over the doorway. The sign has been made more contemporary, as the original sign was more colonial in design.

The Board requested that a copy of the revised sign with a letter of explanation be sent to the Design Review Board, as the Board had voted not to approve the original design.

The Board asked what color the sign would be. Mr. Hinkley said that, although the Design Review Board had recommended a black ground with gold lettering, the sign will have a dark green ground with gold lettering, similar to the sign identifying the Wellesley Hills branch library.

No other person present had any comment on the petition.

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Statement of Facts

The subject property is located at 530 Washington Street, in a Single Residence District, and is the site of the main branch of the Wellesley Free Library. The library has one wall sign located above the main entrance at a distance of about 100 feet from the street.

The petitioner is requesting a Special Permit for a two-sided standing sign at a height of 4 feet, set back 15 feet from the front property line, to exceed the allowed area of 4 square feet. The sign will have a total area of 28 square feet (14 square feet per panel). The carved wood sign will have a dark green ground with gold lettering and borders.

A design of the sign (Drawing 6LB-10) drawn by Richard Honan Signs; a Site Plan dated 10/23/97; and photographs were submitted.

On September 25, 1997, the Design Review Board reviewed a proposal for a colonial style standing sign with a total area of 42 square feet at a height of 5 feet 6 inches. The sign required special permits to exceed the allowed height and area for signage in a Single Residence District. The Board recommended that the colonial style be changed to reflect the contemporary architecture of the library and its existing signage. Furthermore, the Board recommended a low, horizontal sign with a black background and gold lettering matching the font and size of the existing wall sign, and that the sign be installed on a brick base. The Board voted not to approve the proposed sign.

Prior to submission to the Board of Appeals, the petitioner revised the sign to incorporate some of the Design Review Board recommendations. The area of the sign was reduced from 42 to 28 square feet. The height of the sign was reduced from 5 feet 6 inches to 4 feet, so that a Special Permit for height was no longer necessary. Although the background of the sign is to be dark green rather than the recommended black, the font of the sign was changed to reflect that of the existing wall sign.

On November 18, 1997, the Planning Board voted to recommend approval of the sign request.

Decision

This Authority has made a careful study of the materials submitted and the information presented at the hearing. The petitioner is requesting a Special Permit for a two-sided standing sign which will exceed the allowed area of 4 square feet, as the total area of the sign will be 28 square feet.

It is the opinion of this Authority that this major municipal building requires proper identification, and that the proposed sign is in harmony with the intent and purpose of the current Zoning Bylaw.

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Therefore, a Special Permit is granted, as voted unanimously by this Authority at the Public Hearing, to install a two-sided standing sign with a height of 4 feet, and a total area of 28 square feet, to be set back 15 feet from the front property line, on the following conditions:

1. Said sign shall be installed in accordance with the design and site plan submitted.
2. A copy of the revised sign and a letter of explanation shall be sent to the Design Review Board prior to the issuance of a sign permit by the Inspector of Buildings.

The Inspector of Buildings is hereby authorized to issue a permit for said sign upon receipt and approval of a sign application, but subsequent to the petitioner's compliance with the aforesaid Condition Two. No sign shall be installed until a sign permit has been issued.

APPEALS FROM THIS DECISION,
IF ANY, SHALL BE MADE PURSUANT
TO GENERAL LAWS, CHAPTER 40A,
SECTION 17, AND SHALL BE FILED
WITHIN 20 DAYS AFTER THE DATE
OF FILING OF THIS DECISION IN
THE OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK.

cc: Design Review Board
Planning Board
Inspector of Buildings
edg



Kendall P. Bates, Acting Chairman



William E. Polletta

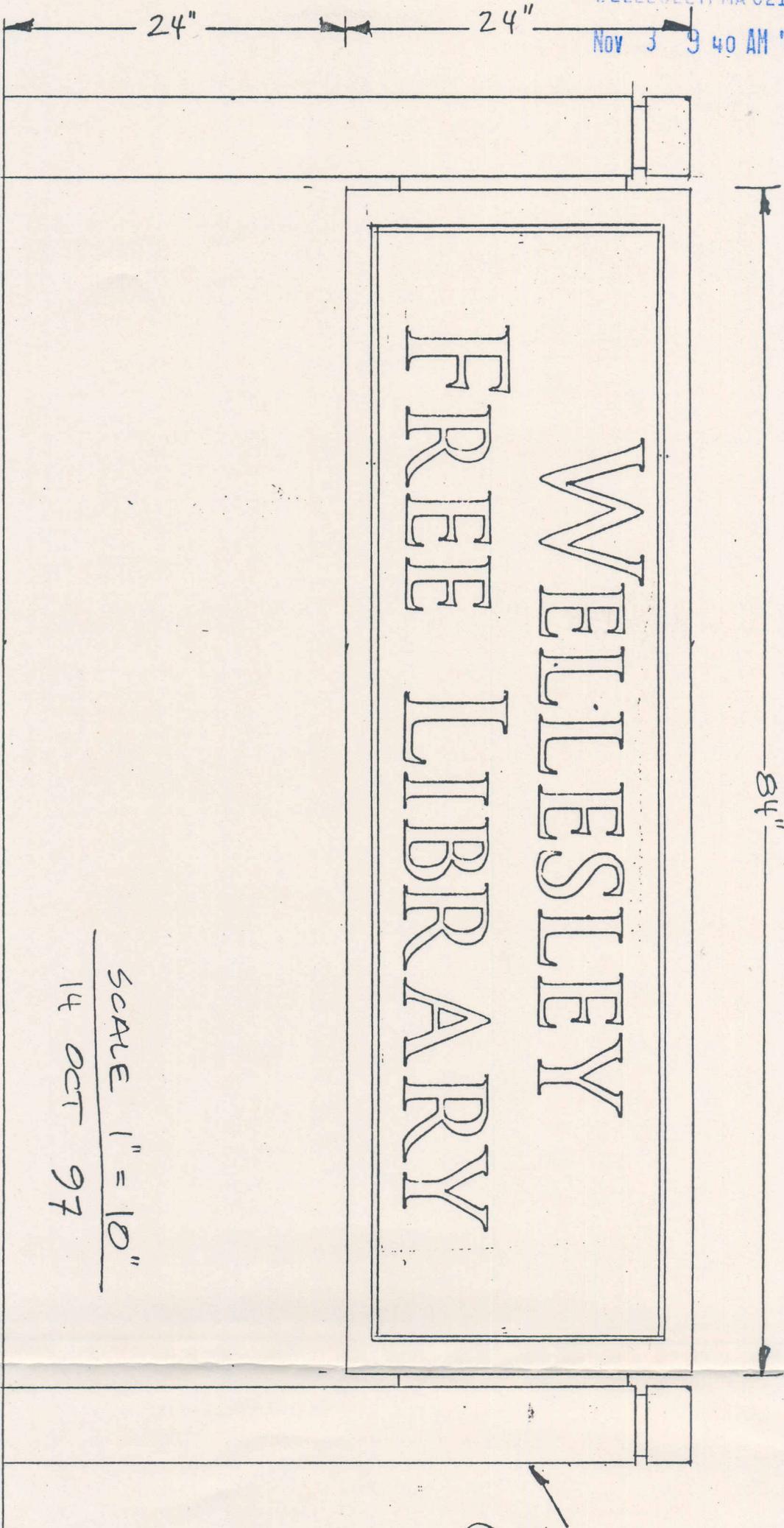


Robert A. Bastille

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CARRIED WOOD, TWO SIDED, HUNTER GREEN
PAINTED BACKGROUND, 24K GOLD LEAF
LETTERS AND BORDER

RICHARD HONAN SIGNS
Specializing In Carved Signs
66 Crest Avenue Winthrop, MA 02152
(617) 846-5972

DRAWING
6 LB-10

6" X 6"
PRESSURE TREATED
POSTS
(STAINED)

N/F HUNNEWELL SCHOOL

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N/E TOWN OF WELLESLEY

MUNICIPAL PARKING AREA

DRIVE

LIBRARY

CONCRETE WALK

PROPOSED SIGN

85'±

152'±

15'

CONCRETE SIDEWALK

WASHINGTON STREET

PLOT PLAN PROPOSED LIBRARY SIGN

10/23/97

SCALE 1" = 40'

"WELLESLEY FREE LIBRARY"

ABOVE ENTRANCE

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LIBRARY

BITUMINOUS DRIVE

CONCRETE

WALK

94'±

PROPOSED SIGN

15' (MINIMUM)

CONCRETE

SIDEWALK

WASHINGTON STREET

PROPOSED SIGN LOCATION ~ WELLESLEY
FREE LIBRARY

SCALE 1/16" = 1'

OCT. 24, 1997