



ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
TOWN HALL WELLESLEY, MA 02181

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ZBA 91-9
Petition of Wellesley Free Library, Hills Branch
210 Washington Street

Pursuant to due notice, the Permit Granting Authority held a Public Hearing on Thursday, February 28, 1991 at 8 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room (Conference Room B) of the Town Hall, 525 Washington Street, Wellesley on the petition of the WELLESLEY FREE LIBRARY, HILLS BRANCH requesting a variance from Section XXIIA and pursuant to the provisions of Section XXIV-D of the Zoning Bylaw to exceed the signage requirements of area, height and setback in a Single Residence District, by erecting a two-sided standing sign, approximately 35 square feet, at a height of 5.5 feet, with a minimum setback of 5 feet in front of its premises at 210 WASHINGTON STREET, in a Single Residence District.

On February 11, 1991, the petitioner filed a request for a hearing before this Board and thereafter notice of the hearing was given by mailing and publication.

Presenting the case at the hearing was Sue Brickman, representing the Committee for the Branch Libraries, who said that the library has never had a sign, and that there is a need to identify the building. Mrs. Brickman stated that there are other buildings in the area which have signs of similar size that are located closer to the street than the proposed sign. The sign, with a navy ground and white letters, will be two-sided to provide identification from both Route 16 and the Route 9 Ramp. The sign will have a detachable "Open" hanging portion, rather than specific hours of operation, because the hours at the branch library change according to the monies budgeted.

Eileen Howard, 196 Washington Street, expressed opposition to the petition.

The Board stated that it would require a letter of support and authorization for the sign from the Board of Library Trustees standing as the owner of the property.

Statement of Facts

The subject property is located at 210 Washington Street, in a Single Residence District, on land owned by the Town of Wellesley, over which the Board of Library Trustees has jurisdiction.

The petitioner wishes to identify the premises and is requesting a variance to erect a two-sided standing sign which would exceed the area requirement of 1 square foot, the height requirement of 4 feet, and the minimum setback requirement of 15 feet. The proposed standing sign, with a navy ground and white letters, would have two sides, each 17.5 square feet, totalling 35 square feet, a height of 5.5 feet and a setback of 5 feet from the property line.

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A drawing of the sign, a plot plan showing the location of the sign, and photographs were submitted.

The Design Review Board reviewed the sign on February 14, 1991, and voted to approve the design and placement of the sign with the recommendations that the sign have a navy blue face and white letters, and that the sign be positioned further toward Grantland Road so the hedges along the library walkway do not obstruct the sign.

The Planning Board, on February 26, 1991, voted to offer no comment on the request.

Decision

This Authority has made a careful study of the evidence submitted. The petitioner is requesting a variance to erect a non-illuminated two-sided standing sign to identify the Wellesley Free Library, Hills Branch at 210 Washington Street.

It is the opinion of this Authority that the library is in need of identification and that a two-sided standing sign is necessary for identification from both Route 16 and the access ramp to Route 9. This Authority is of the further opinion that the area, height and setback of the sign are necessary for visibility at this site.

Therefore, a variance is hereby granted for a non-illuminated two-sided standing sign with a navy ground and white letters, as depicted in the drawing noted in the foregoing Statement of Facts, to be located no closer than 5 feet from the property line, and subject to the following condition:

1. A letter of authorization for and approval of the erection of said sign, signed by the Board of Library Trustees, standing as the property owner, must be submitted to the office of the Board of Appeals prior to the issuance of any permit by the Inspector of Buildings.

The Inspector of Buildings is hereby authorized to issue a permit for the sign, subsequent to compliance with the aforesaid condition, upon his receipt and approval of an application.

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: Planning Board
Inspector of Buildings
edg


John A. Donovan, Jr., Chairman

Kendall P. Bates


William E. Polletta

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TWO-FACED, NON-ILLUMINATED SIGN OF MEDEX BOARD INSTALLED BETWEEN TWO 6" SQUARE POSTS. COPY IS CARVED ON BOTH FACES AND GOLD-LEAFED. BACKGROUND OF SIGNS AND POSTS ARE PAINTED FOREST GREEN.

