



City of Barre, Vermont

“Granite Center of the World”

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**Development Review Board
Agenda for the Regular Hearing on
Thursday, March 4, 2021
Virtual Hearing via ZOOM**

<https://zoom.us/j/9694459147?pwd=YIEwNmE4TVBwR25rSW5pN3F0KzIqZz09>

Meeting ID: 969-4425-9147

Pass Code: 206312

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A regular meeting of the Barre City Development Review Board held by video conference was called to order by Vice-chair Jeffery Tuper-Giles (Ward I) at 7:00 pm. In attendance, participating on video or phone were Board Members, Ward II Richard Deep, and Ward III Board Member Katrina Pelkey and James Hart III, and At-Large Member Denise Ferrari. Also in attendance was Heather Grandfield Permit Administrator. The Chair determined a quorum was present.

Absent: Ward I Chair Linda Shambo, Ward II Board Member David Hough, At-Large Members Betty Owen and Jessica Egerton.

Adjustments to Agenda: None

Visitors and Communications: None

Old Business:

Consideration of minutes from the November 5, 2020 Hearing:

- Motion to approve the minutes made by Board Member Deep and seconded by Board Member Ferrari, *on a roll call vote motion carried unanimously.*

Consideration of November 5, 2020 Decision:

- Motion to approve the decision made by Board Member Pelkey and seconded by Board Member Hart, *on a roll call vote motion carried unanimously.*

Vice-Chair Tuper-Giles went through the basics of how the hearing will work. In order for an application to receive approval, there must be a minimum of five (5) affirmative votes. Because there was not a full board this evening, the Vice-Chair afforded the applicant the opportunity to table their hearing until a full board was present to receive full review. The applicant chose to proceed. He also stated that anyone wishing to speak or be on record must sign in, and would be sworn in when testimony was to be given. As this is, a video conference Permit Administrator would write down the names of those in attendance.

New Business:

Green Block, LLC/Elizia Meskill (Applicant & Property Owner), 81 N. Main Street, Barre, VT seeks Site Conditional Use approval to add a fifth apartment to the first floor, rear of the current multi-use building. The project is located in UC-1 Zoning District, Design Review District and Flood Hazard Area AE.

Elizia Meskill sworn in at 7:03 PM

Ms. Meskill spoke about the purchase of the building and that her first hope for it was to be used as a Daycare. However, she could not find anyone to operate one out of this facility. She then decided to open a Brazilian Steak House, finding a couple that would like to move to Barre, VT and operate it. However, they would need a space to live and after seeing, the space decided that this back area would make a good apartment and the best use of the space. She explained about how she would make the new apartment sound proof, add a bike rack to the back porch for all the tenants, and add storage area's for all the tenants in the basement.

Discussion took place about whether they would need to get an architect involved in the process. It was explained that the space would only need a few walls, a shower to be installed and some minor adjustments to make it into an apartment.

Discussion took place about the parking spaces available. Discussion about lighting and no new lighting would be needed.

Discussion took place about what is in the space now and what was there before and how it was used. Discussion about laundry facilities and that there is already machines in the basement that are available for use. Discussion took place in regards to bulk storage and making sure that there would be access for all the tenants through the existing bulkhead.

Discussion took place about the number of seats for the restaurant. At this time, it is unknown due to the COVID-19 pandemic. They will be working with the Fire Marshal and Health Department on this.

Discussion took place about the Tax Office. At this time they aren't seeing many clients and may have to think about renting the space to another financial advisor.

At this time, Vice-Chair Tuper-Giles thanked the participant and advised them that the board would be entering into deliberations and they could contact Permit Administrator Heather Grandfield in the morning as to the outcome or wait for the written decision.

To be approved at May 6, 2021 Development Review Board Hearing

Other Business: None

Roundtable: None

Executive Session: Not needed.

Deliberative Session: On a motion by Board Member Ferrari and seconded by Board Member Pelkey (*on a roll call vote, Motion carried unanimously*) the board entered deliberative session. Permit Administrator Grandfield was invited into the session at 7:27 PM.

On a motion by Board Member Hart and seconded by Board Member Deep the Board (*on a roll call vote, Motion carried unanimously*) came out of deliberative session at 7:31.

A motion was made by Board Member Pelkey and seconded by Board Member Hart to approve the application as presented by Green Block, LLC, Elizia Meskill; *on a roll call vote, motion carried unanimously*.

The Development Review Board adjourned at 7:37 PM on a motion by Board Member Ferrari, and seconded by Board Member Pelkey; *on a roll call vote, motion carried unanimously*.

An audio & video recording of the hearing is available through the City's Planning and Permitting Office.

Respectfully Submitted,
Heather L. Grandfield, Permit Administrator