

REPORT OF THE DESIGN REVIEW BOARD

During this past year the Design Review Board held 20 regular meetings during which 69 projects were reviewed, including five (5) major construction projects, eight (8) minor construction projects, and fifty-five (55) sign applications.

The Design Review Board completed the Town's largest construction project review ever with the Linden Square Project, which included over 13 meetings in FY06, and the review of 14 structures (new and renovated), landscaping, site furnishings, and potential signage. The Board completed its review of the adaptive reuse of the Walnut Street Fire Station to three condominium units and had two initial meetings with the Wellesley Country Club and the Wellesley Inn. The Board had one review of the Department of Public Works and Municipal Light Plants additions and new garage facility as well as having one review of a proposed barn at Dana Hall.

The Board reviewed a number of minor construction storefront renovations including 200 Linden Street, 5 Overbrook Drive, Benjamin Franklin Bank at 330 Washington Street, and the new Eileen Fisher store at 53 Central Street. The Board reviewed the rear parking lot of 54 Washington Street and the proposed landscaping as well as a new antenna located on the roof of 372 Washington Street. Town projects reviewed included additional concern and review of the Reidy Field dugouts and review of the DAS antenna system proposed by the Municipal Light Plant, which would locate small cellular antennas at the top of telephone poles. The magnitude of several of the proposed projects including Linden Square, The Wellesley Inn, and the Wellesley Country Club will drastically alter several key areas and structures in Wellesley. The reviews by the Board have integrated many facets of Design including architectural form and function, aesthetics, landscaping, and lighting.

The Design Review Board members participated in the Comprehensive Plan Phase II workshops held by the Planning Board. The Board offered recommendations on several projects requiring site plan review including the Walnut Street Fire Station and the Linden Square Project.

Section XXII of the Zoning Bylaw, "Design Review", authorizes the Design Review Board to review and make recommendations on all applications for commercial signs and awnings, as well as all projects defined as Minor and Major Construction Projects and Projects of Significant Impact in Section XVIA (Site Plan Approval) of the Zoning Bylaw.

The Board continues to publish and have available its agenda, meeting minutes, sign regulations, design guidelines, project updates as well as other related matters on the town-wide web site and in the Planning Board office

The Design Review Board's regular meetings are scheduled for the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Planning Board office. Residents are encouraged to attend.

Membership

The Wellesley Design Review Board consists of five members appointed by the Planning Board as specified in Section XXII (Design Review) of the Zoning Bylaw and three alternate members.

Serving on the Design Review Board during 2005-2006 were:

David Grissino, Chairman
Robert Broder, AIA, Vice Chairman
Ingrid Carls
Robert Skolnick
Edward S. Hand, Alternate
Arshag Merguerian, AIA, Alternate
Sheila E. Dinsmoor, Alternate

Also serving on the Design Review Board during 2005-2006 was:

Helen Robertson, Alternate

The Board sadly lost a long-standing member of the Board when Arshag Merguerian passed away in November of 2005. Mr. Merguerian served on the Design Review Board from the Board's beginnings in 1978 to his passing in 2005. He will be greatly missed.