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MEMO

DATE: December 12, 2007
TO: Rich Joly & Bedford Planning Board
Cc: Bedford Selectman
FROM: Pamela J. Brown *PJB*
RE: Projecting Sign Bylaw

The HDC suggested projecting signs for the Blake Block at the beginning of the permit review process. At that time I advised that the Town of Bedford Sign Bylaw prohibits projecting signs. In response to this issue, and the apparent desire for projecting signs, I attach the following article proposing an amendment to the General Bylaws to allow such signs.

In addition, while reviewing the Sign Bylaw, I noted that awning signs are not permitted in the Commercial or Industrial Zones. It would appear that awnings might be a desirable feature in these zones. If you agree, the second article simply eliminates this problem.

We would appreciate the Planning Board's consideration of sponsoring this Article(s) for the Warrant for Annual Town Meeting.

DRAFT ZONING BYLAW – PROJECTING SIGNS

Article ____

To determine whether the Town will vote to amend Article 39 the Bedford General Bylaws to allow projecting signs by creating a **new section 39.4.3 M** by adding the following text:

M. Projecting Signs.

A projecting sign shall not extend beyond the curb line nor more than forty eight (48) inches, exclusive of any supporting structure from the building. A projecting sign shall not hang lower than ten (10) feet from the ground level at the base of the building, over a vehicular way, ten (10) feet over a sidewalk, or lesser distance so long as public safety is not endangered nor more than twenty (20) feet from the ground level to the top of the sign. Allowable area of a projecting sign shall not extend above the building, nor be more than ten (10) square feet in area.

This Article would promote economic activity by furthering business recognition, especially for businesses located in pedestrian oriented areas. Projecting signs would be appropriate in scale to the building. Projecting signs would be allowed in the Business Zones should Article ____ be approved.

Article _____

To determine whether the Town will vote to amend the Bedford General Bylaw by deleting text from section 39.4.4 to allow awning signs in Commercial and Industrial zones, as follows:

Amend Article 39.4 Section 4 by deleting the words “except for Awning Signs (which are not permitted)” so that the Section would read:

All signs in Commercial Zones shall conform to the regulations set forth above for Business Zones except for Flags. Flags in a Commercial Zone shall not exceed forty (40) square feet in area or eight (8) feet in length.

This article would amend the zoning bylaw to allow awning signs in the Commercial Zone should Article _____ be approved.