

TOWN OF POMFRET  
ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

DRAFT Minutes of Hearing  
May 15, 2018

MEMBERS PRESENT: Alan Blackmer (Chair), Shaun Pickett, and Michael Reese

MEMBERS ABSENT: Loie Havill

OTHERS PRESENT: Tayo Skarrow, Karen Hewitt (Zoning Administrator)

A hearing was convened for the following application:

**Application #ZP18-05 by ArtisTree Community Arts Center** for Non-Conforming Use of a stationary on-premises sign greater than 6 square feet in size at 2095 Pomfret Road (Parcel ID #0123).

HEARING:

The hearing was convened at 5:04 PM by chair Alan Blackmer. Tayo Skarrow was sworn in by Alan Blackmer (Chair). There were no interested persons present. No abutters contacted Karen Hewitt, Zoning Administrator. No conflicts of interest were declared. The hearing was not recorded.

Documents received from the applicant at this hearing include a digital mockup of the proposed sign plan and placement of sign on the barn from Sparky Potter Design Group Wood & Wood 98 Carroll Road, Waitsfield, VT 05673.

A summary of the discussion follows:

Eleanor Pizzani contacted Tayo Skarrow and Shaun Pickett after receiving a notice as an abutter from Karen Hewitt, the Zoning Administrator. Eleanor Pizzani did not contact Karen or request interested party status, so interested party status was not granted.

Tayo Skarrow spoke about the small campus setting that ArtisTree has and the need to put up signs on the buildings to lessen the confusion of people on what buildings are used for. The signs on the building would be subtle but visible and would not be lit. The proposed sign on the barn would be visible to the view of The Grange building and would make it easier to direct traffic.

Tayo Skarrow explained that the large sign would have individual letters approximately 9 to 9 ½ inches in length. There would be no ground lights and nothing would be lit.

Michael Reese mentioned The Town of Pomfret sign bylaws and that ArtisTree is asking for an exception with the sign as presented.

Alan Blackmer asked if the sign could be useful to ArtisTree but placed in an area that could not be seen from anyone driving by on Pomfret Road and Stage Road.

Tayo Skarrow replied that there is really no place other than where presented in the mockup.

Alan Blackmer stated the requested sign is 4 times larger than the zoning bylaws allow.

Tayo Skarrow stated that the block letters were chosen so as not to be intrusive and would call attention to where the certain places of the ArtisTree buildings are.

Alan Blackmer asked if it were possible to go smaller on the sign, to which Tayo Skarrow replied that anything less than 6 square feet would be too small.

Tayo Skarrow explained that they could possibly downsize the letters by a couple of inches. Alan Blackmer stated that even downsized would still be over 6 square feet. Tayo Skarrow explained that if ArtisTree were allowed only 6 square feet for a sign they would opt to not have one.

Shaun Pickett stated that he was concerned about setting precedence by allowing a sign that is over 6 square feet. He thinks the sign looks good but is wondering if it could be shrunk and still look good.

Tayo Skarrow explained that there is flexibility in sizes, ArtisTree selected the letters which appeared most aesthetic on the building. Tayo stated that they could mock up certain sizes to get a size that would be good for both the ZBA and ArtisTree.

Alan Blackmer explained to Tayo Skarrow that the right to appeal a decision to Environmental Superior Court could only be done by her.

By unanimous vote, the ZBA closed the hearing at 5:34 PM.

These minutes approved at Pomfret, Vermont, this 21 day of MARCH, 2018.



Alan Blackmer, Chair, Zoning Board of Adjustment