

**MINUTES OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2016**

A Planning & Development Committee Meeting was held on Thursday, September 15, 2016 at 7:00 P.M. in the City Council office.

Committee Members: Chairperson William Macek, Councillor Andres Vargas and Councillor Joesph Bevilacqua. President Michitson and Councillor Melinda Barrett also attended.

Department Heads: William Pillsbury – Planning & Economic Development Director

Attendees: Ted Gaiero and Mark Nysteat

The following item was discussed:

1. **Doc.# 82** – Communication from Councillors Vargas, Barrett, and Macek requesting discussion on city-wide design review.

Councillor Macek started the meeeting with an overview of current lack of design control.

Councillor Barrett spoke and reviewed a number of ways in which other communities handle their community's design review.

Mr. Pillsbury gave his opinion of what we already had for built in controls in various commercial districts and why residential controls are problematic in general. He also said he spoke with the Mayor and the Mayor said he was not in favor of design controls. Mr. Pillsbury went on to discuss the need for some signage standards and tightening down on some things.

Councillor Bevilacqua said he believes signage is very imprtant and that our signs need some review. He went onto say that Chicago prided itself on its constrution diversity. Also, to seek out quality development and to not impose strict design standards as it may drive some developers away. He sated that today that buildings need to be designed to support its tenants draw, i.e., Harbor Place's glass atrium.

Mr. Pillslbury stated how we have been able recently to get new developers to build with compatible facades.

Councillor Barrett stated we need to be communicative with new builders.

Mr. Ted Gaiero spoke in regards to the traffic patterns.

Councillor Vargas agreed that we need to be sensitive to developers. He brought up historic district and how we night go forward with protecting certain areas.

A motion was made to have Mr. Pillsbury provide, in writing, his recommendations regarding signage and desgin oversight along with guidance for the futrue with developers. Once receiver, the Planning & Development Committee will present it to the full City Council for adoption. Unanimously approved 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

William J. Macek, Chairperson
Planning & Development Committee
Haverhill City Council

September 15, 2016