

Sign Special Permit 16-13  
436 Great Road  
Joyful Feet  
7/22/2016

JUL 22 2016  
TOWN CLERK  
ACTON



Planning Board

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## **DECISION**

16-13

### **Joyful Feet**

Sign Special Permit

July 22, 2016

**GRANTED with CONDITIONS**

Decision of the Acton Planning Board (hereinafter the Board) on the application of Yabin Zhau and Michael Barry (hereinafter the Applicant) for property in Acton, Massachusetts, owned by Georgios Keramaris of 16 Strawberry Hill Road. The property is located at 436 Great Road and shown on the 2015 Acton Town Atlas map C4 as parcel 27 (hereinafter the Site).

This Decision is in response to an application for a sign special permit, received by the Acton Planning Department on May 31, 2016 pursuant to Section 7.13 of the Acton Zoning Bylaw (hereinafter the Bylaw) and the Sign Special Permit Rules and Regulations (hereinafter the Rules).

The Applicant presented the subject matter of the special permit to the Board at a duly noticed public hearing on July 19, 2016. Board members Mr. Jeff Clymer (Chairman), Mr. Mike Dube (Vice Chair), Mr. Derrick Chin, Mr. Bharat Shah, and Mr. Ray Yacouby were present throughout the hearing. The minutes of the hearing and submissions on which this decision is based upon may be referred to in the Planning Department or the Town Clerk's office at the Acton Town Hall.

## **1 EXHIBITS**

Submitted for the Board's deliberation were the following exhibits:

### **1.1 Items and documentation required by the Rules consisting of:**

- A properly executed Application for a Sign Special Permit, received in the Planning Department on May 31, 2016.

- Sign renderings.
- Certified abutters list.
- A sign location description.
- A cover memo from the Applicant to the Board.

- 1.2 Interdepartmental communication received from:
- Acton Engineering Department, dated June 2, 2016;
  - Acton Tree Warden, dated June 2, 2016;
  - Acton Planning Department, dated July 11, 2016.

Exhibit 1.1 is referred to herein as the Plan.

## **2 FINDINGS and CONCLUSIONS**

Based upon its review of the exhibits and the record of the proceedings the Board finds and concludes that:

- 2.1 The Site is located within the LB zoning district.
- 2.2 The Applicant requests a special permit for additional Sign on the Site that would not otherwise be allowed under the Bylaw:
- a) There is an existing freestanding sign that was permitted administratively for LASER MD in October 2014.
  - b) The additional proposed Sign (hereinafter the Sign) meets the by-right dimensions listed in section 7.8.5.1 but section 7.8.1 only allows one freestanding Sign per lot.
  - c) The Sign's display area is 12 square feet and the height equals the maximum of 7 feet, which is allowed under section 7.8.5.1.
  - d) In all other respects the Sign would comply with by-right requirements of the bylaw.
- 2.3 The Sign is not indicated on the submitted plans as being illuminated.
- 2.4 The Sign may be allowed on the Site by special permit in accordance with section 7.13.1.1.
- 2.5 The Sign are consistent with the character and uses of the area and with the Zoning District in which they will be located.
- 2.6 The Sign is appropriate in scale, design, and proportion relative to the buildings in the area and to the general surroundings. It is attractively designed, appropriately located, and will be compatible with the buildings to which it principally relate, and it is in harmony with the general area of the LB zoning district.
- 2.7 The Sign is a continuous part of an integrated architectural design of the entire Site.
- 2.8 The colors and materials of the Sign are restrained, and in harmony with the buildings.
- 2.9 The materials used for the Sign are appropriate and do not detract from the aesthetic qualities of the surroundings.
- 2.10 The number of graphic elements on the Sign is held to the minimum needed to convey their primary messages and are in good proportion to the area of the Sign's faces.
- 2.11 The Sign will not unduly compete for attention with any other signs in the area.
- 2.12 The Sign is necessary for adequate identification of the business at this Site.

- 2.13 The Sign as approved herein is appropriate for the Site; is consistent with the Master Plan; is in harmony with the purpose and intent of the Bylaw, specifically Section 7; will not be detrimental or injurious to the neighborhood where it is proposed; and comply in all respects to the applicable requirements of the Bylaw and the Rules.
- 2.14 The Board has received comments from various Town departments, which are listed in Exhibit 1.2 above. The Board considered these comments in its deliberations, made them available to the Applicant, and incorporated them into this decision as deemed appropriate.

### **3 BOARD ACTION**

Therefore, the Board voted to GRANT the requested special permit subject to and with the benefit of the following conditions and limitations.

#### **3.1 CONDITIONS**

The following conditions shall be binding on the Applicant and its successors and assigns, and shall be enforceable by the Zoning Enforcement Officer (ZEO) in his administration of the sign permits under section 7.6 of the Bylaw. Failure to adhere to these conditions shall render this special permit null and void, without force and effect, and shall constitute grounds for the revocation of this special permit, and of any sign permit issued by the ZEO hereunder. The Town of Acton may elect to enforce compliance with this special permit using any and all powers available to it under the law.

- 3.1.2 Prior to erecting the Signs, the Applicant shall obtain a sign permit from the ZEO pursuant to section 7.6 of the Bylaw.
- a) The applicant shall submit a new updated plan showing where the Sign will be located on the property in compliance with the Bylaw. No portion of this sign shall be placed within 7 feet off the sideline of Great Road.
  - b) The applicant shall also submit a new landscaping plan for the Sign. The landscaping plan shall show a landscaped area around the Sign in compliance with the specifications of the Bylaw section 7.8.3, measuring at least 196 square feet.
- 3.1.3 If in the future the Sign is illuminated then the Sign must meet the illumination standards in section 7.4.3.
- 3.1.4 The Sign shall be erected in accordance with the Plan approved and amended herewith, and shall otherwise comply with all applicable requirements of the Bylaw.
- 3.1.5 All taxes, penalties and back charges resulting from the non-payment of taxes, if any, shall be paid in full prior to issuance of a sign permit.

#### **3.2 LIMITATIONS**

- 3.2.1 This special permit shall be limited as follows:
- 3.2.2 The foregoing conditions have been stated for the purpose of emphasizing their importance, but are not intended to be all-inclusive or to negate the remainder of the Bylaw and the Rules.
- 3.2.3 This special permit applies only to the Site identified in this decision and to the proposed Signs as shown on the Plan.

- 3.2.4 Other approvals or permits required by the Bylaw, other governmental boards, agencies or bodies having jurisdiction shall not be assumed or implied by this decision.
- 3.3.5 This special permit shall lapse if substantial use thereof has not commenced within two years of the filing date of this decision with the Town Clerk, except for good cause, or if construction under this special permit is not continued through to completion as continuously and expeditiously as is reasonable. A request to extend said time limits must be made in writing to the Board at least 30 days prior to said expiration dates. The Board herewith reserves its rights and powers to grant or deny such extension, to issue any appropriate changes to the special permit and to require any appropriate modifications of the Plan.
- 3.3.6 The Board hereby reserves its right and power to modify or amend the Plan and the terms and conditions of this special permit with or without a public hearing upon the request of the Applicant, his designees or assigns, or upon its own motion.

#### **4 APPEALS**

Appeals, if any, shall be made pursuant to MGL, Ch. 40A, S. 17 and shall be filed within 20 days after the date of filing this decision with the Town Clerk.

Signed on behalf of the Acton Planning Board



Roland Bartl, AICP, Planning Director  
for the Town of Acton Planning Board

This is to certify that the 20-day appeal period on this decision has passed and there have been no appeals made to this office.

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Eva Szkaradek, Town Clerk

Date

Copies furnished:

Applicant -  
certified mail #

Engineering Department  
Town Manager

Town Clerk  
Owner

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