

A regular meeting of the Planning Board of the Village of Cooperstown was held in the Village Office Building, 22 Main Street, Cooperstown, New York on May 20, 2014 at 4:30 p.m. Members in attendance were Chair – Charles Hill, Eugene Berman, Chuck Knull, Richard Sternberg and alternate – Paul Kuhn. Zoning Enforcement Officer – Tavis Austin and Deputy Village Clerk – Jennifer Truax were also present. There were two members of the public present.

Mr. Hill called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

29 Pioneer Street (Melissa Manikas – State Farm Insurance Agency) – Purposed new wall signage

Mr. Hill reviewed the application for new wall signage for the State Farm Insurance Agency at 29 Pioneer Street. He explained that Ms. Manikas would like to remove the existing wall signage and install a new sign which is 6' x 3' and in a slightly different location. Mr. Hill shared photos of the building and the proposed location for the new sign. He explained that the previous sign would not fit in the newly proposed location due to its length. Mr. Hill stated that there are no other wall signs on the front façade of this building and that he feels the proposed sign is compatible with the building, neighboring buildings and neighboring signage.

Mr. Kuhn asked if the proposed sign is a corporate logo.

Ms. Manikas stated that this is the corporate logo and the company is trying to get all agents to come into compliance with their signage. She submitted a red sample of the corporate color.

Mr. Berman asked the square footage of the proposed sign and if it meets the requirements of the law.

Mr. Hill stated that it does meet the requirements of the law and will be 18 square feet in size. He further stated that he feels that this is a good size sign for the location due to the fact that should a second business go into this building and want to have wall signage it would leave 22 square feet of allowable space for a wall signage.

Mr. Berman made a motion to approve the wall sign for State Farm Insurance at 29 Pioneer Street as submitted. Mr. Sternberg seconded the motion and a vote had the following results:

AYES: Berman, Hill, Knull, Kuhn, Sternberg

Motion carried.

73 Elm Street (Bill Rigby) – Proposed new freestanding sign for his home occupation in the residential district

Mr. Hill reviewed the application for a new freestanding sign at 73 Elm Street. He stated that Mr. Rigby was granted permission to have a temporary sign during the 2013 holiday season and is now requesting a permanent free standing sign. Mr. Hill reviewed the proposed sign design and location.

Mr. Rigby clarified that the sign design was on the 8 ½ X 11 photo paper but the actual sign colors were attached on the smaller sample.

The board reviewed the size of the proposed sign (18" x 24") and the mounting plan.

Mr. Hill asked Mr. Rigby to review the proposed location.

Mr. Rigby stated that the proposed location is 5' from the inside of the sidewalk (street line). He explained that due to the large tree on the property placing the sign further from the sidewalk will cause the tree to obstruct the view of the sign from one direction. He further stated that he would like to place the sign fairly close to the driveway as he does not feel it would be appropriate to place the sign directly in front of the home in a residential district.

Mr. Hill stated that the total height of the sign and post is 3' 6".

Mr. Rigby stated that was correct.

Mr. Hill reviewed the standards for signs placed in a residential district. He stated that the height is under the four feet maximum permitted in a setback but the law also indicates that the sign must be placed at least 10 feet from the street line and the proposed location is only 5 feet from the street line.

Mr. Rigby stated that he could move the sign back to be 6' 6" from the street but any closer would be inhibited by the tree.

Mr. Hill stated that a variance would be required to place the sign less than 10' from the street line.

Mr. Kuhn stated that the sign design is beautiful but placement is a concern.

Mr. Rigby stated that after the submission of the current application his wife had suggested placing the sign on an iron bracket affixed to the tree and that he would be okay with this option if it was more feasible to the board.

Mr. Austin suggested that the board allow Mr. Rigby to put his sign in place during the next month prior to the public hearing with the understanding that should the variance not be granted the sign would need to be immediately removed.

The board discussed the option of the placement of the sign on the tree and the fact that it would still not be able to be placed higher than four feet from the ground due to being within the 10' setback.

Mr. Sternberg stated that he is not in favor of locating the sign on the tree but does feel that the freestanding sign is appropriate and that Mr. Rigby should be allowed to put it in place temporarily while he waits for the public hearing and the board's final decision.

Mr. Berman concurred.

Mr. Kuhn stated that he feels that allowing Mr. Rigby to place the sign temporarily while waiting for the public hearing is appropriate as the board has reviewed the application.

Mr. Sternberg stated that he would prefer that the placement of the sign be six and a half feet from the street, which is as far from the street as possible, to minimize the required variance.

Mr. Hill made a motion to allow the freestanding sign for Zinn Brilliant Ornaments at 73 Elm Street to be temporarily placed 6 ½ feet from the inside of the sidewalk and 5 feet from the

westerly side of the driveway for one month pending a variance with the design as submitted. Mr. Kuhn seconded the motion and a vote had the following results:

AYES: Berman, Hill, Knull, Kuhn, Sternberg

Motion carried.

A public hearing was set for 4:30 PM on Tuesday, June 17, 2014 from the sign law section 227-3 B (1) c for a variance of 3.5 feet from the minimum required location of 10 feet from the street line.

134 Main Street (Brewery Ommegang) – Proposed new projecting sign

Mr. Hill stated that the application for this sign in the Stables Building was received just prior to this evening's meeting. He asked the board if they wanted to review the application this evening or if they felt it should be held over until the June meeting.

The board agreed to review the sign application at this time.

Mr. Hill stated that the proposed sign would replace the existing sign and would use the existing bracket and remain in the same location.

Mr. Sternberg asked if the proposed sign meet the requirements of the sign law.

Mr. Austin stated that it does meet the requirements of the law.

Mr. Sternberg stated that he has no objection to the sign and feels that it is aesthetically pleasing.

Mr. Hill stated that no changes to the awning are proposed at this time.

Mr. Sternberg made a motion to approve the projecting sign for 134 Main Street, Brewery Ommegang, as submitted. Mr. Knull seconded the motion and a vote had the following results:

AYES: Berman, Hill, Knull, Kuhn, Sternberg

Motion carried.

CPA Waiver

Mr. Austin stated that the County Planning Agency has requested that the Village review the current waiver and request changes as necessary. He explained that certain projects within 500 feet of the municipal boundaries require the approving body to refer the project to the County Planning Agency. He continued to explain that the CPA Waiver gives permission for certain projects as described in the waiver to be exempt from review by the County Planning Agency. Mr. Austin stated that the Planning Board can either accept the portions of the waiver which apply to them as is or request changes be made.

Mr. Hill reviewed with the board the areas of the waiver which pertain to the Planning Board.

Mr. Kuhn made a motion to recommend that CPA Waiver remain as previously submitted. Mr. Sternberg seconded the motion and a vote had the following results:

AYES: Berman, Hill, Knull, Kuhn, Sternberg

Motion carried.

Other Business

Mr. Hill stated that the owner of the building at 131 Main Street asked about painting a mural on the side of the building. Mr. Hill stated that he had advised the owner that although a mural may be allowed it could not represent any type of advertising for his business.

The board reviewed the sign law and how a mural or other “art” might be prohibited or allowed based on its content.

Mr. Hill agreed to contact the building owner.

Minutes

Mr. Berman made a motion to approve the minutes of April 15, 2014 as submitted. Dr. Sternberg seconded the motion and a vote had the following results:

AYES: Berman, Hill, Knull, Kuhn, Sternberg

Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 5:26 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Truax
Deputy Village Clerk