

Village of Skaneateles
Historical Landmarks Preservation Commission Hearing
August 12, 2009

In the matter of the application submitted by Evan & Elizabeth Dreyfuss for a Certificate of Approval from the Commission to install a gate and front walk for the property addressed as 100 East Genesee Street in the Village.

Present: Charles Williams, Chairman
Mona Smalley, Member
Andrew Ramsgard, Member
Pat Blackler, Member
Kihm Winship, Member
David Neibert, Member
Katharine Dyson, Member

Jorge Batlle, Clerk to the Historical Commission

Evan Dreyfuss, Applicant

Suzanne Pittard, Skaneateles

Absent: Mary Fran Strodel, Member
Karlene Miller, Member

Chairman Williams opened the public hearing at 7:45pm announcing the application of Evan & Elizabeth Dreyfuss for 100 East Genesee Street.

Evan Dreyfuss said, “the site plan is pretty straight forward. This is Genesee Street. There’s a walkway that comes right out from the house right now. We have and you did approve some fencing already in between our house and the church that matches this. There will be some fencing that you also approved a gate, a door here, and a gate here in the porte-cochere. We’d like to put a gate in at the front of that walkway that’s 3 feet or 30 inches...I know it matches what we have in the back of the house by the Lake.” Member Ramsgard said, “if it small it would be more like 30 inches, but that looks taller than 30.” Dreyfuss said, “I don’t know. It might be 36. I figures you guys would ask but I don’t know.” Member Ramsgard said, “thirty inches would be pretty normal.”

Dreyfuss said, “the reasoning really is that this sidewalk has much more traffic than we ever anticipated. We have young kids and I like to go out sometimes and mow the lawn, or they want to go out and draw chalk on the sidewalk, and I’m nervous because we have not crowds, but there’s quite a few people out there who gawk. Seriously, we have had 2 or 3 come up the walkway and want to take a closer look at that wall, and want to look at the roof – so with my kids I’m nervous. So, it makes it such, rather than lock it, but it makes it a little more a

permanent barrier. There are some hedges there already. So, it will be inside the hedge lines, so in the Winter when the plow comes by, it won't hit the fence. It will match exactly what's there now, with the black. I think it will be really nice. It will help close off our yard little bit."

Member Blackler asked, "you are not having a fence on each side of the sidewalk?" Dreyfuss said, "no. Right in here. It is just a gate – no fence." Member Neibert asked, "so it's all hedges on either side and there is just a gate." Dreyfuss said, "yes, just a gate, to make it a little tougher for people to come walking in."

Member Neibert asked, "what goes down along the side between there and your fence that's in the back?" Dreyfuss said, "there are hedges all the way around. (pointing) Right here there are hedges and there's a gate." Member Ramsgard asked, "on the old sidewalk coming out?" Dreyfuss said, "this right here is an old sidewalk that they put in then the Poole's owned it or something. There's sidewalk coming out from the house right out to the street." Member Ramsgard asked, "it comes of straight? What's the thing on the other side, is that another sidewalk?" Dreyfuss said, "that must be a gas line of something. I don't know what that's on there." (multiple conversations) ...there is a hedge here, a hedge here and a hedge here." Member Neibert asked, "so your hedges go the full width of your property?" Dreyfuss said, "exactly. There's an opening for the driveway and there's an opening for that walkway." Member Neibert said, "then from the hedge back along each side, what is along there, anything?" Dreyfuss said, "hedge. There's a hedge here. A hedge here and on church side there's a small white picket fence they put in – the church did, the Episcopal Church." Member Winship said, "there's an old chain link fence." Dreyfuss said, "on our side there is. Which will come down someday."

Member Dreyfuss said, "so the hedge goes across the front and then down the side, on both sides?" Dreyfuss said, "yes, on both sides. There's no fence over here, this is just hedge. Then between here and the Lake there's some old fence that needs to be replaced."

Member Winship said, "tell me if I'm correct – I think the point is that you just want it to look less welcoming to strangers. You are not putting up razor wire." Dreyfuss said, "no. It will look very similar to what they did at the Thayer House. Maybe not quite as short, but a gate in front to make it so it's kind of defined that you don't just walk in to. We've had 2 or 3 and my kids are young and it makes me a little bit nervous. I'm also worried that they will run out into Genesee Street. It's not to be restrictive and it will be unlocked." Member Neibert asked, "what is the width?" Dreyfuss said, "it is the width of the sidewalk, probably 30 or 36." Member Ramsgard said, "sidewalks are usually 3 or 4 feet." Member Neibert said, "so the gate would be 36 inches wide and 36 inches tall." Member Ramsgard said, "with posts on the outside of the sidewalk. So it is a little bit wider." Member Winship says, "it sounds eminently reasonable. And you are saying it matches the existing." Dreyfuss said, "exactly. This is exactly what's up already. So, it will match it."

Member Smalley asked, "in the front yard, is a big concrete square thing." Dreyfuss said, "a box – between us and by the Church? A transformer that the Village put in. We have a lot of power coming in the house, so we upgraded the electric service. So, the Village put a transformer right there. It is to get the power from the line to the house." Member Smalley said, "I suppose

you can plan a bush around it or something because it's very ugly. And back here there's another great big concrete thing." Dreyfuss asked, "on this side right here? There are 2 air conditioner machines and there will be bushes put around those. And there is also a generator that's been approved and bushes put around that too."

Member Neibert asked, "where is the utility box located?" Dreyfuss said, "the utility box - the NiMo meter is here." Neibert said, "no. The one you just said that they put the box in to run the power in." Dreyfuss points on map saying, "right here, and the power runs underground now. It used to be overhead power." Member Neibert asked, "so it's not behind the bushes?" Dreyfuss said, "it is." Member Winship said, "it's tucked in the corner, next to St. James Rectory. It is kind of tucked in that corner."

Member Dyson said, "I think this will look great." Member Neibert asked, "what is your latching mechanism?" Dreyfuss said, "it's not one of those pull up things. It's one that's on the inside and up pull it up and the arm releases." Member Neibert asked, "so it's not a locked gate." Dreyfuss said, "it can be. Some the ones have by the pool these big looped thing on top of them. That will not be. Just a normal regular gate latch."

Member Winship said, "**I move that we accept the gate as presented.**"

Seconded by Member Dyson. The vote was 7-0 in favor of the motion. Meeting closed at 7:53pm.

It is also noted that Evan Dreyfuss came before the Commission to get approval for a change in light fixtures for the exterior. The approved light fixture is a Kicher 9785 OZ Wall Lantern. A catalog cut is in this file.

email to Williams

cc Dreyfuss