

**Village of Skaneateles  
Historical Landmarks Preservation Commission  
December 16, 2019**

Present: Chad Rogers, Chairman  
Kathie Dyson, Member  
David Birchenough, Member  
Ted Kinder, Member  
Lisa Riordan, Member

Dennis Dundon, Clerk to the Boards

Buck Stephens, on behalf of the applicant

Gregg Eriksen, Village Trustee  
Kathryn Kinder, Autumn Tree Court

*Re: Further consideration of the application of Clair Stephens on behalf of Cornerstone Financial Group for a Certificate of Approval from the Commission to install a locator sign to be mounted in the window at the property addressed as 92 East Genesee Street in the Village of Skaneateles.*

At 7:00 pm, Chairman Rogers opened the regularly scheduled meeting of the Commission for December 16, 2019 with the matter of the Stephens application for signage.

Mr. Stephens said that he is a wealth planner who maintained offices in downtown Syracuse since 1981. He recently decided to move his office to Skaneateles, choosing Legg Hall on East Genesee Street. Since his clients are all over the country, he feels it necessary to just have a small sign to direct people to the office location.

Chairman Rogers noted that the sign is to be mounted inside the glass. Mr. Stephens had brought the actual sign and showed it to the Board. Chairman Rogers asked if it was fastened to the window mullion? Mr. Stephens said that he had designed a hanger bar that mirrors the window frame. The sign hangs from that bar with special hooks. The bar is not visible from the street.

Member Kinder said it was pretty simple. Member Riordan asked if there was an additional sign? Mr. Stephens said that he is also displaying a blown up copy of an advertisement. Member Dyson cautioned him that CEO Crompton might have a problem if the total amount of signage

exceeds that allowed for the space. Chairman Rogers noted that enforcement is not the Board's purview.

**Member Riordan, "I move that we approve the signage as presented." The motion was seconded by Member Dyson. Upon the unanimous vote of the members present in favor of the motion, the motion was carried 5 – 0.**

This matter was concluded at 7:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Dundon, Clerk to the Boards

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Gregg Eriksen, Village Trustee  
Lisa Dietz, 25 Jordan Street  
Kathryn Kinder, Autumn Tree Court

*Re: General discussion regarding a possible recommendation to the Board of Trustees to amend Village code to permit the use of vertically-hung projecting signs in the historic district of the Village of Skaneateles.*

At 7:09 pm, Chairman Rogers opened the signage matter for discussion, and welcomed Trustee Eriksen to the meeting. He said that the Board's general hope is to open a dialogue with the Board of Trustees regarding the alternative of a projecting sign. Trustee Eriksen recalled that the subject had come up previously, at a time that the Village was considering the regulation of sandwich boards.

Chairman Rogers explained that the current code allows projecting signs that come out no more than 12 inches from the face of the building. The Board thinks that it wants to encourage some variation; that projecting signs represent another option that done responsibly could add texture to down town. Trustee Eriksen had previously recognized a potential stumbling block with owners feeling obligated to change signage – it should be clearly done as an option.

Member Dyson explained that for drivers, such signage could provide more character and visibility. Chairman Rogers thought that it might also represent an opportunity to address flags. Trustee Eriksen agreed and said that it might be useful to look at other communities. Member Dyson said that the illustrations provide good examples of what such signage might look like. She added that she would also like to see “boundary signs” (such as you are now entering or leaving the historic district).

Chairman Rogers asked what the appropriate next step might be? Trusteed Eriksen said that he would take the discussion back to the Board of Trustees. He feels that a small working group – maybe 1 or 2 from HLPC and CEO Cromp – might develop a realistic proposal, which does not make it a requirement to convert to the new format. He also suggested that it might be helpful to run it past the Chamber.

Trustee Eriksen said that he does not remember anyone raising any major objections. The examples are from great towns and are very attractive signs. Perhaps an *ad hoc* committee could be formed. He asked if the Board is seeing any trends? Member Dyson said that the Board had just approved a good candidate for such a sign. She continued that these signs would be an improvement for the Village. Trustee Eriksen said that he would be happy to take the suggestion back and arrange an *ad hoc* committee to find what might work.

Member Kinder asked that if changes are to be proposed, would the Village Attorney draft them? Trustee Eriksen said probably yes. Member Riordan noted that a business presently having a flat sign might want to add a perpendicular sign. Member Kinder noted both would have to be within the permitted square footage. Trustee Eriksen asked if you count both sides? Chairman Rogers thought that if one does two signs, he counts two signs. He continued by thanking Trustee Eriksen for taking time to be with the Board. Trustee Eriksen said that he will let everyone know what transpires.

This matter was concluded at 7:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Dundon, Clerk to the Boards

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Kathie Dyson, Member  
David Birchenough, Member  
Ted Kinder, Member  
Lisa Riordan, Member

Dennis Dundon, Clerk to the Boards

Lisa Dietz, applicant

Kathryn Kinder, Autumn Tree Court

*Re: Consideration of the application of Lisa Dietz on behalf of Emma+James Boutique for a Certificate of Approval from the Commission to install business signage at the property addressed as 25 Jordan Street in the Village of Skaneateles.*

At 7:23 pm, Chairman Rogers opened the matter of the Dietz application for signage. He asked about the change in the logo?

Ms. Dietz said that the additional space will allow them to serve both Emma and James. The building lends itself to that capability, and they have done a plan. She explained that the flat sign is the same construction as the existing sign on Genesee Street. It will be mounted in the same signage space on the Jordan Street façade.

Chairman Rogers noted that the zoning code would limit the second projecting sign to be 12 inches or less from the faced. This sign would be mounted on the Fennell Street side. Ms. Dietz said that at 12 inches the letter size would be too little. Member Dyson suggested that if Ms. Dietz brings the proposal back that she should consider the use of a bracket that is more in keeping with the historic district that the straight modern bracket that has been proposed. Ms. Dietz said that she wanted it to be more contemporary. Member Kinder asked if it were wood or steel? Ms. Dietz confirmed that it is to be steel.

Chairman Rogers suggested that the Board concentrate on the flat sign proposed for Jordan Street, and asked if the black letters project from the panel? Ms. Dietz confirmed that they do, "just a tiny bit." Member Riordan asked about the exterior color of the building? Ms. Dietz said

that everything will remain the same. Member Dyson asked if the sign would not “pop” more if it had a darker background? Ms. Dietz said she had chosen white because it matches the logo.

Member Kinder noted that the doors are black. Ms. Dietz said that she believes that the awnings are black as well. She said that she will have white mannequins in the window.

Chairman Rogers said that it is his recommendation that the Board act on the flat sign, and that the applicant defer consideration of the projecting sign until such time as the Village adopts new regulations. **Member Birchenough, “I move that we approve the 11 by 88 inch signage as presented.” The motion was seconded by Member Dyson. Upon the unanimous vote of the members present in favor of the motion, the motion was carried 5 – 0.**

This matter was concluded at 7:34 pm.

The Board informally discussed the likely attendance for the January meeting and concluded that it should set the date as Monday, January 13, 2020 at 7:00 pm. The meeting was then adjourned by acclamation at 7:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Dundon, Clerk to the Boards