

Village of Skaneateles
Historical Landmarks Preservation Commission
May 11, 2011

In the matter of the application submitted by Skaneateles Artisans (Robert Ripley) for a Certificate of Approval from the Commission for business signage on the building known as The Old Stone Mill located at 3 Fennell Street in the Village of Skaneateles.

Present: Charles Williams, Chairman
Karlene Miller, Member
Pat Blackler, Member
Andrew Ramsgard, Member
Katharine Dyson, Member
David Neibert, Member

Jorge Batlle, Clerk to the Historical Commission

Robert Ripley, for Skaneateles Artisans

Absent: Members: Mona Smalley, Beverly White, Kihm Winship

Chairman Williams opened the public hearing at 7:50pm announcing the application for Skaneateles Artisans for 3 Fennell Street.

Member Miller asked, "is this the same sign that was on the other building?" Robert Ripley representing the Skaneateles Artisans said, "yes, it is. It was only meant to be a temporary sign. I know it's not a very good fit for the Old Stone Mill. It's temporary signage and we would like permission to keep it in place until July 1st, at which time we'll be moving to 'Under The Stone' - at which time we will have a new sign. I'll be coming before you again."

Member Blackler asked, "you are here just to talk about the temporary sign?" Ripley said, "yes, and I'd also like to get a read from you, if you have a moment as to what I'm thinking about for the new signage. I've met with Jorge already about this. We are kind of limited this to the type of sign we can do. Obviously we want to fit the architecture of the building. But, before I go ahead too far with this, I would like to get your opinion. I've got some copies of what this sign might look like. Then, we'll go from there."

Member Miller asked, "should we deal with this one first?" The Chairman said, "yes, this one first." Ripley said, "we would like to keep this one up. It's the only sign that we own." Member Miller said, "I don't see a problem with that." Member Neibert said, "no problem." Member Miller said, **"I make a motion that they keep the sign through September."** Seconded by Member Ramsgard. The vote was 6-0 in favor of the motion. (7:53pm)

Ripley presented a copy of the proposed new sign saying, "this is just a rough approximation of what the sign might look like. I've met with Jorge already and we are kind of limited to this rather strange location. We are going to be downstairs. If you remember the old restaurant, that's where we are going to be. Walls have been knocked out and walls have been created and it's going to make a very nice gallery for us. But visibility is going to be an issue. I've spoken to the landlord. I've spoken to Jorge and this is where we think the sign will be located. It will be a bracketed affair. It will be attached to the roof, with some sort of bracket. A free-standing sign. We chose this location because, while there aren't too many other places to put it, but the most important reason we have it where we have it is because it will be visible from – people coming around by Doug's Fish Fry, and also visible from Genesee Street at the bridge opening by the creek. We had considered putting something on the side of the building, and you can see this side right here, but we decided that the angle would be too severe for people to really recognize it and read it. The size of the sign is approximate. It could be slightly smaller than this. But I think this is probably about the size that we'd like to see it. It is considerably smaller than the sign we have now."

Member Dyson asked, "can it go on the stone building itself?" Ripley said, "no." Member Blackler asked, "what is the approximate width of that sign is." Member Ramsgard said, "the door is 6 feet wide so it's got to be at least seven." Member Neibert asked, "Jorge was saying that you have to redo the entrance? Is this a picture of the entrance that is there now?" Ripley said, "this is what's there now. I spoke to the landlord and the new entrance will look exactly as it does now. The only difference is going to be inside. I don't know if you remember, when you went into Under The Stone, there was quite a low ceiling. Tall people had to duck their heads. We are going to take that out so it will new be more open. But the structure, the little house is going to be the same." Member Miller said, "I think that's a good location for it, because you want it visible." Member Dyson said, "I might want to see the top corners softened a little, or I guess you can't do a bracketed hang sign. It would look more charming... hanging out on a bracket like – have you even been to Salzburg - that street that has all these wonderful signs hanging out, that's what I thinking of." The Chairman said, "that's a Village Code issue."

Ripley said, "I really like the idea of the hanging sign, as a artist, unfortunately it's such an odd structure, with a strange roof line, without hitting somebody in the head or without having a big high sign, it's going to be difficult." The Chairman asked, "as positioned on here, what happens in the Winter time?" Ripley said, "there will need to be space underneath it to allow for drainage. You may not see it here, we will allow elevation for snow, and we don't want the sign to rot either. We don't want snow backing up on it."

Member Miller said, "a little rounding on the top corners would soften it." Member Neibert said, "that would be my comment too. It's almost too square and too stark. It needs to have a little decorative flair to it, shape-wise or some little scroll work or something." (Multiple conversations)

Member Dyson asked, "do you see yourself as a contemporary or all-things for all people gallery? It is not a contemporary look to the sign." Ripley said, "what we may end up with is a mix of fonts, where we have a serif font, and a sans serif font to give that all inclusiveness. It's obviously got to speak to the gallery but it also has to fit the building. I've never met with you

folks before and I don't know how strict you are about that – matching the look of the building.” Member Blackler said, “it is certainly something that we consider.”

At this point there were multiple conversations. Ripley said, “this is a project unto itself for me. That’s my next task. I really wanted to get a feel for the location, approval of the location and the approximate size. Now I can start thinking about what we can do with it. What we can do to jazz it up.” Member Miller asked, “what does it say under *Artisans?*” Ripley said, “it says *Gallery Under The Stone.*” The conversations of suggestions continued and the Chairman closed off the discussions to go onto the next scheduled application. Time 8:00pm