

**Village of Skaneateles**  
*Historical Landmarks Preservation Commission*  
July 13, 2011

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In the matter of the application for a Certificate of Approval from the Commission, submitted by Bob Ripley for Skaneateles Artisans for business signage for the east side entrance of the Old Stone Mill building located at 3 Fennell Street in the Village of Skaneateles.

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

Jorge Battle, Clerk to the Historic Commission

Robert Ripley, Representing the applicants

Absent: Beverly White & Kihm Winship, Members

Chairman Williams opened the public hearing at 7:45pm announcing the application of Robert Ripley for Skaneateles Artisans, for business signage. He said, “we have the colored picture of that side of the building with the entrance which we call going to the lower level.”

Member Ramsgard said, “I think it’s a big improvement.” The Chairman said, “we went round and round a month ago.” Robert Ripley said, “we presented 5 ideas to the membership. They unanimously picked this one.” Member Neibert said, ‘the only thing that we were kind of concerned about was the thickness of the iron work because obviously in the sketch it looks a little thin line. It looks like it needs something a little more substantial.” Ripley said, “absolutely. A company called Accufab in Ithaca is going to be producing it. They are the same people that did the steel work on The Old Stone Mill. The wrought iron railings and everything else. The same company.”

Member Neibert asked, “how thick are those brackets?” Member Ramsgard said, “the chunkier that you can make them the better looking they will be.” Ripley said, “they have to be substantial, and the company also recommended... tabs that would go on the back of the sign for extra strength. Apparently you can’t drill into the side of the sign material for strength. It has to be reinforce in back. There will also be a support that ties into the roof. They have indicated that. I’m going to rely on the experts for construction. That’s just my own rendition. They are going to follow that pattern and will definitely be thicker than what you see.” Member Ramsgard said, “so

I we could recommend, then I would say  $\frac{3}{4}$  thick by  $1\frac{1}{4}$  would be nice. That's a substantial looking piece of wrought iron.  $\frac{3}{4}$  will definitely look very chunky." The Chairman said, "with the tabs on the back." Member Ramsgard said, "just for the scroll work... a lot of times the scroll work is done out of  $\frac{3}{8}$ <sup>ths</sup> which is kind of small. Half inch,  $\frac{5}{8}$ ths or  $\frac{3}{4}$ , then it starts to look really heavy duty."

Member Neibert said, "I was thinking at least  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch." Member Ramsgard said, "that will look really chunky." Member Blackler asked, "he hasn't started it yet?" Ripley said, "no." Member Neibert said, "it will have some thickness and depth to it." Member Ramsgard said, "it will be heavy but it will look good and more traditional." Ripley asked, "I can specify, minimum  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch?" Ramsgard said, "yes. He might do a loop, that's a chunky piece. It will look really –it will be worth it. The esthetics will be worth it. Minimum a half inch by inch and a quarter... whatever he has in stock. If he has  $\frac{5}{8}$ ths, that's fine. Half inch would be the minimum thickness." Ripley asked, "and you think about an inch and a quarter minimum?" Member Ramsgard said, "yes. I don't - the sign's probably inch and a half." Ripley asked to write the dimensions down.

Chairman Williams said, "because at some time, someone is going to on the roof and going to be using that as a handle." Member Ramsgard said, "they can't grab onto the sign, they can grab onto the metal." Member Miller said, "I really like the sign. It looks nice."

Ripley said, "we are going gold leaf." Member Miller asked, "when do you think you'll be moving down there?" Ripley said, "we thought we were going to be there by now. Now it looks like it's going to be the end of next week Jorge is involved in this... they are probably working as we speak." Battle said, "I did a preliminary inspection this afternoon. They think they will be ready for the final tomorrow afternoon."

Ripley said, "the sign will take approximately 3 weeks to create. There are 2 companies involved here. So it could take even 4 weeks. Sign is manufactured by Syracuse Wood Carvers. Then the people from Ithaca are involved." Member Neibert asked, "is this a wooden sign that's routed in?" Ripley said, "no. It looks like wood but it's MDF (modified density fiberboard)." Member Neibert asked, "the lettering is raised?" Ripley said, "no, it's carved in and then gold leaf is the last step."

Member Miller said, "it looks really nice." Member Neibert said, "**I like the sign. I would say that based on the requirements of the scroll work that we talked about, I would certainly make a motion to approve it, as presented.**" Motion seconded by Member Miller.

Chairman Williams said, "in discussion on that, you had your business up front. Do your customers know that you are going to be around to the side?" Ripley said, "we've been telling everyone that comes in." The Chairman continued, "I have some reservations on whether the sign in this particular position can be seen from fennel Street." Ripley said, "we thought about this for a long time. We want to have visibility also to the main street. A tree got trimmed in line of sight of our building. We want people to be able to see it from there. Hopefully they will come strolling down the walkway." Member Dyson said, "lights help and balloons." Ripley said, "yes, we are going to have decorative flags, no *OPEN* signs." Member Smalley said, "people will find

you.” Member Neibert said, “because of the angle of the building and the angle of Fennell Street, when you turn a corner and walk up there, you are looking right into that – your entrance is right there. You can’t miss it. It’s not like you are looking at the side of it. You are almost looking right straight at the front of it when you are walking up. The only time it would clearly not be visible would be right from the side. You are in front of the building, then you wouldn’t see it.”

Ripley said, “we expect most of our traffic to be coming from the Village up Fennell Street. Hopefully, those that do come back – maybe the flag will catch their eyes. We are all excited and scared. It’s going to be a unique gallery.” Member Miller said, “you will have a lot more room down there.” Ripley said, “yes. Two and a half times what we have now. We will be getting a full stable of consignment artists, which we had in the larger space before.

The Chairman called for the vote. The vote was 7-0 in favor of the motion. The motion was approved. The hearing was closed at 7:54pm.

*email: CWilliams*