

Village of Skaneateles
Historical Landmarks Preservation Commission
June 13, 2012

Present: Patricia Blackler, Chairman, HLPC
Katharine Dyson, Member
Ted Kinder, Member
Karlene Miller, Member
Dave Neibert, Member
Andrew Ramsgard, Member
Mona Smalley, Member
Beverly White, Member

Dennis Dundon, Clerk to the Historical Commission

Irene Callisto, Applicant

Chad Rogers, Skaneateles
Pam Watson, Skaneateles

Absent: Carol Young, Member

Chairman Blackler began the meeting saying, "This is what we're going to do here. The presentation will be by you [Applicant] after we open this hearing, and you provided us with the items that we requested and that we apparently have. And also, I did want to remind the members that we have talked about this for two months now, so it would be nice if we didn't all start from the very beginning, to make it more concise. Everybody in this room would like to have this over tonight."

Having secured the concurrence of the members present, Chairman Blackler opened the Public Hearing at 7:30 pm. The Chairman said, "So if you could give us a little presentation first, because now we have a couple of people here who weren't here before." Ms. Callisto responded, "Everything is there, if you have questions, just ask me." Chairman Blackler asked, "Has everybody gone over everything? Would you like her to..." Ms. Callisto, "I have the person who, if this gets approved, is going to install the sign put all the details there. I don't do this for a living, so everything is there and the colors that you wanted are all written down." Chairman Blackler asked, "You didn't bring the sign? You said that you thought you might do that, but you didn't." Ms. Callisto responded, "No. I can't carry it. I figured the pictures are all there." Chairman Blackler said, "This is the picture of the connection. Would you do me one favor. Would you just point out to me, this is the picture with Cate & Sally's and this is the awning underneath it. So how far down does the curlicue come to the awning?" Ms. Callisto, "It'll have to clear. The awning comes out here. So the awning comes out here, and the sign is up here, and on the frieze is where the flourish is. And it's described how he would mount it. So

it's not going to rest on the awning." Chairman Blackler, "It's not going to touch the awning?" Ms. Callisto, "It can't touch the awning." Chairman Blackler, "And when will he get this awning up, do you know?" Ms. Callisto, "When the sign goes up. He can't put the awning up until the sign is up. So that's how it stands."

Chairman Blackler asked Member Ramsgard to describe his understanding of the attachment plan. Member Ramsgard said, "Well I think I understand it. It's going to have to project out quite a bit past the awning, if this is the face of the building here." Ms. Callisto interrupted, saying, "It's not going to project out past the awning. The awning will be below it. It'll be above it. So it couldn't possibly project out over the awning. The awning comes out underneath here and then slants down. So worst-case scenario, this one little thing would be lopped off." Member White confirmed, "So you would cut that off?" Ms. Callisto, Yeah, yeah. It's like we're talking this much. But he seems to think that it will not be interfering." Member Neibert asked, "Does the awning go all the way across the whole front?" Ms. Callisto, "Yes. I mean there's a picture of the old..." Chairman Blackler, "The computer shows the awning better, but it's right here. See there's a little scallop in there, but it's below." Ms. Callisto, "It's below. It goes underneath the; the awning comes out here, and goes right across here. The awning is; I have nothing to do with it, it's not my awning, and it goes back to where it was." It goes all the way across. So he wants it to protect for coverage of the sidewalk and stuff falling from the roof, and so on. So he is pretty adamant that he wants to keep the awning."

Member Kinder asked, "So this is actually on the brick then; the sign is on the brick." Ms. Callisto, "It won't be mounted on the brick; there's a brace there. Nothing will be on the..." Member Kinder, "It's a lot higher than the others." Member Ramsgard, "It's a lot higher and it looks like it's going to be a steel L-bracket bolted into the top of the crown mold, and then it's got big aluminum studs, offsets, that come back and hold the bottom of the sign." Ms. Callisto, "I've never had it installed like that before, so, I mean that's all new to me." Member Ramsgard, "What you've got is a straight sign here, that's like this and there's a piece of crown mold that comes out and then it comes back in and the building's flat. There's going to be two aluminum..." [Multiple simultaneous conversations]

Ms. Callisto said, "Here's a better picture. Here's the other awning, ok, so the sign would be here, and this part, the flourish, would be down here. And it would be backed by, you know, something to keep it in place. Well, he explained all of that there. And then..." Member White asked, "It would be backed, what do you mean by that?" Ms. Callisto, "It would be braced, is what I'm saying, properly with the proper, in compliance with..." Chairman Blackler, "So this is not going to be affected at all; this white..." Ms. Callisto, "No, no. You won't see anything behind it. Where are my other pictures of my other spaces, so you can see how the sign sits? Because it's kind of hard to imagine it from that. That's pretty flat. So it's not a thick sign – that's in Burlington – so it's kind of hard to imagine it unless you saw the sign itself. It's the same sign. And there's another picture of the Armory Square. So it lies quite flat; it's not this big..." Member Neibert observed, "It's the positioning on the building." Member Ramsgard agreed, "It's got to go out past a piece of crown mold. The crown mold bends like that. The sign is going to be here, and then it's going to have some studs in back here. It will be floating out past the..." Ms. Callisto, "No. That's not how he explained it to me. He said it's not going to be floating. I mean I wouldn't want it like that, if that's the case."

Member Dyson said, "Let me ask you a question. Are the lettering pieces one solid piece? And is this a separate..." Ms. Callisto, "No. It's all one solid piece." Member Dyson said, "So it's just welded or whatever..." Ms. Callisto, "It's all one piece. It was cut, carved from the same piece." Member Kinder, "And what's the material?" Ms. Callisto, "He wrote it down for me. It is molded something or other, carved. It's a technical name, Komatex, whatever that is. It's sort of like a type of, like in the fiberglass family, but he said he uses it all the time, the sign person that I called to come out and look at it and to tell me what it would cost, I don't want to lose any of..." Member Kinder, "Is that the color we're looking at there?" Ms. Callisto, "Yep. So you know, you decide really at this point."

Chairman Blackler asked, "And you said that this might have to be cut off at the bottom, just a little piece. In case, so it doesn't touch..." Ms. Callisto, "I don't think it will but, in other words, it won't be sitting on top of the awning. I wouldn't want it that way either." Chairman Blackler said, "So it has to be mounted so that it's sitting above the awning." Member Neibert said, "Above the crown molding. The crown molding is right here, and it's up above it. In order for this to come down over it, it's got to be out from the building." Member Ramsgard drew a sketch for the Chairman saying, "You won't see the L-bracket, but you will see the studs. It's a flat plane; it has to be out at the edge of the crown mold. So there's going to be about 6 inches of space from the back of the sign to the plane of the building. Aluminum brackets and aluminum studs." Chairman Blackler said, "As long as it won't damage anything." Member Ramsgard said, "It won't damage that; it's going to penetrate the stone at the frieze board, where the cate & sally letters were." Some discussion ensued about how far the sign might project from the building, and how far above the lintel. Member Ramsgard observed that this is "an awkward position on the building." Member Dyson asked, "Is there any reason that the flourish part could be left off, or cut off? So this could come down to the cornice?" Ms. Callisto said, "Well, push comes to shove."

Ms. Callisto continued, addressing Member Smalley, "We had talked about that. You want it off just because you don't like it." Member Smalley said, "But that's a good reason. I think it is more ornate than any sign in downtown Skaneateles. When I walked around and looked at all the signs..." Ms. Callisto interrupted saying, "That's irrelevant. We went through that the last time. It would come off if I can't put it in the proper place. But it's not because esthetically it's not pleasing. Maybe to you it isn't." Member Smalley, "It's not pleasing to me." Ms. Callisto, "Well, ok, you don't have a lingerie store, and so it really is irrelevant. And I don't think there's any need to bring that up again. I understand what you're saying." The Chairman said, "It's not irrelevant. It's opinion. It's one person's opinion. Beverly, you had an opinion." Member White stated, "Since you have had this sign for 27 years..." Ms. Callisto, "30 years." Member White, "You consider it your brand..." Ms. Callisto, "That was my reason for that." Member White, "I don't object to the sign *per se*, but it's got to be placed properly on the building." Ms. Callisto, "I agree and I personally wouldn't want to see it sticking out like that. It's not appropriate. So, if it can't be placed in the area, frieze, where cate&sally's is [lintel], without the flourish, then I'll consider a different type of signage. That's why I came last week to see about the lettering in the window in the meantime. Because people keep coming in and saying – you know what they say, 'no sign, sign of no business'. So it's been a while."

Member Dyson said, "This is a very pretty lettering, it certainly spells lingerie. Based on some of the background on historic signs, some of them traditionally have been painted in gold on the inside of windows. Is that anything that this committee would consider?" Chairman Blackler said, "She has not asked for anything on the window at this point in time." Ms. Callisto said, "Because I didn't want to complicate it." Member Dyson, "We don't want both, but either, or." Ms. Callisto, "Exactly, so that's what I needed to find out. I assumed that it wouldn't be..." Member Miller said, "I don't have any objection to the sign as it is if it is put up properly. I think that's the way we should go." Ms. Callisto, "I agree. I don't want it sticking out, looking peculiar either. It takes away from the esthetics when it's doing that." Member Kinder, "Let me ask you this. Is it necessary to put up the awning. Without the awning, I don't have any problems. I understand Mona's concerns but it's a pretty unique sign, it's your logo. But I think it has to be below the cornice." Ms. Callisto, "It's Carmen Logan's building. I would love it without the awning, but I don't have that option. Carmen is adamant that he wants his awning up. And I respect that; it's his building. So I'll have to work around it. I know what it would look like. It would look very similar to the building in Burlington, because it's metal and it gave the metal building a little chicer look. I kind of turned it into something different than an ugly metal, inexpensively-done store front from the 50s." Member Kinder, "Why does he feel he needs the awning?" Ms. Callisto, "He just wants it. He thinks it protects his walk and stuff falling. I don't know. It's not my place to question him on it. I know he fought, he told me he fought hard for the awning and he's not giving it up. He has his reasons and it has to do with stuff falling on the walk and the doorways and so on. Snow, rain, ice."

Member Neibert, "I don't have any problem with the sign, I just feel it needs to be mounted below the cornice, and not out from the cornice or above the cornice. And if it has to be trimmed in order to fit between the cornice and an awning, then that's what needs to be done." Ms. Callisto, "I know it would fit here without; so I can call the sign person." Member Ramsgard, "I have comments similar to Ted. I like the look of the sign. It won't have the same look that it did in Burlington, because of how the proposed mounting would work. If the awning were not there it would work great, but it's in direct competition with the awning, and that forces you into a poor architectural solution for the sign. And it would look awkward." Ms. Callisto, "And it would look awkward anyway. When he told me, I didn't think that it would have to go that high up." Member Ramsgard, "I like the sign, I like the color choice, and it's your brand; I think it appropriate that you keep your brand." Member Neibert, "It's just the mounting position." Ms. Callisto said, "I'll talk to the person who's doing the sign, and then I'll have to come to a decision. Now what if I had a smaller sign there or somewhere else and then gold leaf, you know, something in the window?" Chairman Blackler said, "Then you'd have to come back to us." Some discussion ensued about using both or putting the flourishes on the window.

Chairman Blackler opened the public comment portion of the hearing by asking, "Is there anyone who would like to speak in favor of the application?" Hearing no one desiring to be recognized, she asked, "Is there anyone who would like to speak in opposition?" Again hearing no one desiring to be recognized, Chairman Blackler said, "I'll make a motion to close the Public Hearing." Member Miller seconded the motion.

Upon the unanimous vote of all members present in favor of the motion, the Public Hearing was closed. The Chairman asked if there were any further discussion. The Applicant asked if she

could ask a question, “Would it be possible, just so I could have some signage up, let’s say if I called the sign person and said OK I’ll take the flourish off, and I’ll install it there [within the lintel area], because people keep telling me about temporary permits. What does that mean?” the Chair asked the clerk to respond. Mr. Dundon said, “As Adam explained it to me you can have a grand opening sign in the window for 60 days.” Member Neibert asked, “Are you talking about taking the flourish off and just putting it where cate&sally’s was temporarily?” Ms. Callisto, “Yeah, that’s what I’m saying.” Member Neibert, “I don’t have a problem with that.” Member Dyson said, “I don’t either.” Ms. Callisto, “Could I do that and then at least I can have some signage, because it’s a costly thing to have a new sign made – something like that is \$1,300. I just don’t have that right now. So I’d like to be able to at least be able to put that up there and then have time to – Carmen can put his awning back up, or whatever – I’m not sure exactly how it is going to happen, but just in order to get some signage.”

Chairman Blackler said, “I’ll entertain a motion.” **Member Dyson said, “I’d like to make a motion that the Applicant be permitted to install the Isadora lettering as it was proposed, so long as it is within the lintel area where the former cate&sally sign was, removing the proposed flourish, with the possibility of moving the flourish into the window.”**

Ms. Callisto interrupted, saying to Member Smalley, “You shouldn’t be so chatty, I mean really, we’re not doing it because you don’t like it, we’re doing it because on the building, it won’t fit.” Member Smalley offered, “I think it is absolutely beautiful, except that I think it is inappropriate for Genesee Street here.” Ms. Callisto, “This has been very stressful. And no it isn’t inappropriate for Genesee Street...” Chairman Blackler admonished, “Let’s not argue.” Ms. Callisto, “You can understand it’s personal and I find it offensive.”

Chairman Blackler asked if there were a second. Several members asked for the motion to be restated. Member Dyson restated her motion. Ms. Callisto said, “Yes, that probably won’t happen, but I just will leave it as is and that will give me enough time to rethink of a place for another sign or maybe gold leafing on the window, like I’ve done before.” Member Dyson said, “That would be pretty in gold leaf; the flourish would be pretty. Ms. Callisto “In Ithaca I had gold leafing in two of my stores. It’s quite costly now with the price of gold.” Chairman Blackler said, “But if you do move some of the sign to the window, then you have to come back.” Ms. Callisto said, “I know that. I’m just saying down the road. But as long as I have something up. This could be somewhat temporary to see if I can live with it, and then in the meantime I could have another sign designed with different placement altogether.” **Member Neibert seconded the motion.**

Member Dyson asked, “What’s the color?” Member Kinder said, “It’s that metallic, kind of a light gray.” Ms. Callisto said, “It was gold, but it’s kind of faded.” Member Kinder, “This was gold?” Ms. Callisto, “Mmmhmm. Yes it was. But it was faded by then too. So he wrote down the color that it was originally.” Member Neibert, “Is that backing going to be repainted black like it is now?” Ms. Callisto, “No. It’s too costly. It’s just the way it is. It looks sort of like pewter now. So it doesn’t look like something that’s been worn out. If you didn’t see it originally, you wouldn’t know.” Member Neibert said, “There were some spots there where cate&sally took off their sign off; I don’t know if there’s...” Ms. Callisto, “Well that’s been painted and they filled in the holes. They have painted the front of the building so it was all

peeling and chipped away so it's much better now. So that's been done and when the awning goes up..." Chairman Blackler asked, "Any more questions?"

Upon the unanimous vote of all members present in favor of the motion, Chairman Blackler declared, "The motion is passed."

This matter was concluded at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Dundon, Clerk to HLPC