

VILLAGE OF GENESEO
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING FOR

Livingston County Historical Museum Society

Representative: Shirley Baum

30 Center Street

Tax Map ID. #80.16-2-4

September 02, 2008, 4:30 p.m.

Application for permission to erect a free standing sign, as a second sign; seven (7') feet high by four (4') feet wide with interchangeable track lettering when only one (1) permanent sign, not to exceed twenty-four (24) square feet in size is permitted on community premises per Section 130-20 E (1) of the Zoning Code of the Village of Geneseo.

Present:

Chair Carolyn Meisel

Gail Dorr

Marlene Hamilton

Thomas Wilson

Code Officer

Ron Maxwell

Secretary

Debby Lund

Absent:

Paul Schmied

Applicant:

Rep.: Shirley & Warren Baum

Public Present:

Shirley Baum, Livingston County Historical Society Rep.

Warren Baum, Livingston County Historical Society Rep.

Val Rabe

Kurt Christiansen, Central Presbyterian Church Board Rep.

Kurt Cylke

Becky Gilpin

John Gilpin

Anna Kowalchuk, Livingston County Museum Coordinator, Part time

Chair C. Meisel opened the meeting and the public hearing at 4:30 p.m. The Board members were introduced. The purpose of the public hearing was application for permission to erect a free standing sign, as a second sign; seven (7') feet high by four (4') feet wide with interchangeable track lettering when only one (1) permanent sign, not to exceed twenty-four (24') square feet in size is permitted on community premises per Section 130-20 E (1) of the Zoning Code of the Village of Geneseo. Secretary D. Lund noted the proper legal notice had been duly published and the applicant had sent a copy of the legal notice to all property owners within one-hundred (100') feet of all property lines as per Village code requirement. Twelve of the fourteen certified return receipts were returned, one was refused and one was undeliverable (resident on vacation).

Museum Society Representative S. Baum was invited to approach the Board with an explanation of the proposed sign. She noted the sign bottom is usually thirty (30") inches from ground level but as per advice given by the Board at the August 5th meeting, the sign's bottom edge had been lowered to twenty-four (24") from ground level. The superimposed image of David W. Parish standing next to the proposed sign in the submitted drawing is misleading as it is not accurate in perspective and makes the sign appear much larger than it is. The sign is six (6') feet eight (8") inches tall from the ground to the tops of the posts. G. Dorr inquired as to the width of the sign. S. Baum stated it is forty-eight (48") inches wide. The Society members measured the Presbyterian Church sign at six (6') feet nine (9") inches and the library sign at six (6') feet four (4") inches. K. Cylke asked to see the color rendering of the proposed sign and viewed it.

K. Christiansen, representing the Central Presbyterian Church Board, asked the dimensions of the sign. It was noted the current rendering is forty-eight (48") inches wide and seven (7') feet tall. C. Meisel noted the sign starts at twenty (24") inches off the ground and G. Dorr stated there are twenty (20") inches of white changeable track area and three (3') feet of actual sign above that.

K. Cylke noted that as a resident of the area, he will see the sign from his porch and if comparable to the church and library signs, he has no problem with it. However, he is concerned with the construction material to be used; his understanding is that it will be a foam board sign and is ok with that. He asked what material would be used for the posts. He would prefer them to be wood and V. Rabe noted they would be wooden posts. K. Cylke commented he would like a different font for the letters on the tract portion of the sign if possible. K. Christiansen asked if the sign was comparable to the church and library. M. Hamilton said the sign itself is four (4') feet by four (4') feet but is six (6') feet in height from ground level. K. Christiansen inquired if the sign would be lit and how far would it be placed from the street. V. Rabe stated it would be unlit and approximately six (6') feet from the street. Code Enforcement Officer R. Maxwell stated the sign must be far enough from the street such that it does not pose a hazard but close enough for those driving by to read it.

V. Rabe noted it was the intention of the Historical Society to eventually replace the sign on 20A as many have complained it is "ugly". People driving by on Center Street are not able to read the sign on the Museum building. A. Kowalchuk, the new part-time Museum coordinator, believes the sign would be a great way to let people know they are there. She does have some concerns over the placement of the sign as children play in the yard and she would not like it to be a hazard for them. She would also like to see a different font used on the moveable type portion of the sign.

K. Cylke expressed concern over the tract letters disappearing and was reassured that portion of the sign will be covered and locked. He commented how wonderful it will be for the museum to finally have a sign and reiterated that he is in favor of the project.

B. Gilpin, 59 Center Street, noted she and her husband, John, had recently moved into the community. She asked what the code for a sign size is. Chair C. Meisel, after welcoming the Gilpins, took a few moments to explain the current sign regulations and the purpose of a Zoning Board of Appeals. She made it clear that the purpose of a public hearing is to give the public at large a chance to express their views and concerns before the Board reaches a decision and that the comments made are given due consideration when the board reaches its decision. B. Gilpin noted there are several groups of students

that pass by on a regular basis and while generally well behaved, they do tend to party on the weekends. She is concerned with the possible mischievous or accidental property destruction these students might do to the sign. She would like to see the sign placed far enough off the street and sidewalk to be beyond range of thrown objects. C. Meisel stated the sign maker is aware of the possible problems. T. Wilson asked how the tract letter portion would be protected; would Plexiglas be used. The answer was in the affirmative. M. Hamilton noted it had already been mentioned that the tract letter portion would be locked. B. Gilpin remarked she would enjoy being made aware of the programs the Museum is offering and the sign is a wonderful resource for the Society to use for this purpose.

T. Wilson noted he would prefer the sign shrunk somewhat; he noted the Temple Hill sign (B&B) is three (3') feet by four (4') feet and stands six (6') feet tall from ground level. He would suggest taking the phone number off the sign as it is too small to read when driving by and he would prefer the sign to be lower in height. M. Hamilton remarked she liked the second drawing shown at the August meeting; it was wider and lower which seemed to be more in proportion than the current rendering. S. Baum stated it would be \$1000.00 more for that version and the Museum Society is on a limited budget. R. Maxwell imagined the Museum struggled to find enough money for the sign without trying to come up with an additional \$1000.00.

C. Meisel asked if some variation was offered for the tract lettering size. T. Wilson thought the Fire Department asked for three (3") inches on homes but R. Maxwell stated four (4') inches is required. K. Christiansen thought, but was not sure the Presbyterian Church sign has three (3") inch letters for the main part and smaller two (2") letters for the details. G. Dorr approves of the main portion of the sign but would like to see the tract lettering portion reworked. C. Meisel said the sign needs to be readable but agreed with T. Wilson that perhaps something could be done with the phone number. K. Christiansen noted people have more opportunity to read the church sign as they must stop for the corner and are not reading it in passing.

G. Dorr asked what is currently on the sign on the museum building. V. Rabe said it states the name of the museum and the hours and days the museum is open. G. Dorr asked if the museum would be expanding its hours. The group would like to but it probably will not happen in the near future.

B. Gilpin asked if temporary signs could be placed out before an event. C. Meisel explained that yes, those types of signs may be used but the Museum Society is seeking a permanent sign.

M. Hamilton would like the sign to be squarer: four (4') by four (4'). R. Maxwell noted he prefers taller to wider signs. C. Meisel wants to be sure drive-bys can view it. T. Wilson suggested the tract portion of the sign would be more attractive if made a color other than white. It seems out of proportion and out of place with the top half. S. Baum said she does not believe the contrast with the actual sign will be as great as that appearing on the paper. G. Dorr noted the churches all have white signs with black lettering; she would like the tract letters to be smaller and less intrusive. M. Hamilton commented the sign would look better if the tract portion were green letters with a tan background or something similar. It would blend better with the top portion of the sign and would be her first choice. C. Meisel agreed.

T. Wilson asked if the hearing could be tabled as a consensus of opinion did not seem to be reached. C. Meisel suggested that the Society might want to come back with a different look for the tract portion more in alignment with the comments made by the Board. The Board would also like the sign to be somewhat smaller in size and a nicer font used for lettering if possible. S. Baum said she would contact the designer, Sign Language, and see what they have to say. They are located between Perry and Perry Center. R. Maxwell stated he was sure they would try to work with the group; they did the Millennium Drive sign and were nice to work with.

C. Meisel stated the Zoning Board likes to be thorough when granting a variance as it goes with the property in perpetuity.

G. Dorr moved the public hearing for the Livingston County Historical Society sign be tabled until October 07, 2008 at 4:30 p.m. when it shall be reviewed for suggested changes in background color and letter size on the movable tract portion of the sign; overall size reduced to four (4') feet by four (4') feet and support posts being made of wood. M. Hamilton seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: C. Meisel – aye, M. Hamilton- aye; T. Wilson – aye; and G. Dorr – aye. The motion passed.

G. Dorr noted the overall sign design is a hundred percent better than the original. V. Rabe asked if notices needed to be resent. C. Meisel replied it is only necessary to send them for the initial hearing. The October meeting is a continuation of this hearing.

K. Christiansen applauded the Historical Society for doing the sign and is in full support of their effort.

Minutes of August 05, 2008 were reviewed and approved as amended. It was noted P. Schmied voted “nay” on the interpretation of the zoning law in regard to Code Officer R. Maxwell’s request regarding the use of the Strong property as a tennis court under Use Class 7 and C. Strong was responsible for the statement that as a use class it would not qualify. T. Wilson moved the minutes be approved as amended and G. Dorr seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: C. Meisel – aye; T. Wilson – aye, M. Hamilton – aye; and G. Dorr – aye. The motion carried.

G. Dorr moved the meeting close and T. Wilson seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed. The meeting closed at 5:32 p.m.

Debra Lund
Secretary