

Historic and/or Architectural Advisory Board
City of Cortland
April 9, 2013

A regular meeting of the Historic District Commission was held on Tuesday, April 9, 2013 at 8:00 a.m. on the 3rd floor of the fire station.

Present: Chair Linda Kline, Commissioners, Shawn Smith, Dan Dineen, Leslie Wineburg

Absent: Comm. Mary Ann Kane, Pam Abbott; still no one to fill vacant seat.

Staff Present: Deputy Chief William Knickerbocker and Zoning Office Bruce Weber.

Item #1 - 33 Main Street - (Carlo Falso) - Signage

Chair Kline explained that in 2009 Mr. Falso came before the Historic Board requesting a sign over the entrance which goes up to the second floor, where his business is located. The sign was approved. Shortly afterwards, Mr. Falso put a 2nd and 3rd sign in the 2nd floor windows. One sign on the Main Street side and a 2nd on the Central Avenue window. Both Signs were placed without approval of the Historic Commission, covering more than the allowed 25% of the windows. In 2012 Mr. Falso put a directional sign on the wall to the right of their entry door. This separated by the downstairs business and the tattoo business. This sign was not presented to the Historic Commission for approval.

In October 2012, we received a proposal for another sign directing foot traffic upstairs, which was not approved. Mr. Falso has returned to discuss and present his proposal for the three signs he is in violation for. We will discuss each of the three signs individually.

Bruce Weber noted that should the Historic Commission decide to approve the signs, the window sign and the building sign would both require a variance.

Sign #1 is the 2nd floor Main Street sign in the upper left window pane, TATTOO, PEIRCING.

Motion to approve the 2nd floor window sign, TATTOO, PEIRCING as presented,

Motion: Comm. Dineen
Seconded: Comm. Wineburg

Ayes - 4
Nays - 0

Sign #2 is a wall sign located on the ground floor facing Main Street on the wall that separates their business and Mando Books. The sign, measuring 1' 7" X 1' 3", was laminated card stock paper mounted on plywood. Chair Kline explained how she could put her fingers in between the Plexiglas and the laminated sign, which will deteriorate with rain and time.

Motion was to remove the wall sign on the front of the building and incorporate it onto the existing sandwich board sign. After the sign is removed he was to then clean up the wall by filling in the bolt holes and paint that area where the sign was located with the existing wall color to match.

Motion: Comm. Smith
Seconded: Comm. Dineen

Ayes - 4
Nays - 0

Sign #3 is the Central Avenue sign. The sign was beyond the allowed 25% of window space. It was suggested to reconfigure the sign by removing the centered flower and leave the wording "Tattoo" and "Piercing". Removing the flower and bringing the wording closer together would decrease its size and bring it into compliance. There was discussion about the OPEN neon sign. This sign was not considered because open signs exist throughout the businesses. The size was larger than normal and comment was made that because these signs are popping up everywhere, they may have to be considered in a decision at some point.

Motion to remove the flower from the sign, and then to approve the re-configuration of the sign with the words "TATTOO" and "PIERCING" contingent on the granting of any variances required by the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Motion: Comm. Wineburg
Seconded: Comm. Smith

Ayes - 4
Nays - 0

Chair Kline told Mr. Falso that if in the future he makes any changes, whether it's a sign or any exterior change, he is to come before the Historic Commission for approval.

Item #2 - 60 Main Street - Brix - Window signage

Rob Petrella was present to speak, and Bruce Weber explained that the window sign application went before the Zoning Board of Appeals last night and they approved the sign provided no additional signage was placed in any other windows of his business.

The material is similar to what is placed on car windows, allowing the see out but not in. The sign is not permanent, and could be removed by peeling it off.

Motion to approve the sign as presented contingent upon no further signs being placed in any of the windows on either Main Street or West Court Street.

Motion: Comm. Dineen
Seconded: Comm. Wineburg

Ayes - 4
Nays - 0

Item #3 - 64 Tompkins Street - Calabro - New Balustrade

In 2008 a proposal was submitted for three additional parking spots on the existing parking lot which was fenced in. The fence that had been removed temporarily so the additional parking could be done was never replaced by the prior owner, Mr. Wainwright. The property has been sold to Chris Calabro. Chair Kline said she and Mr. Calabro had talked about the fence issue and that Mr. Calabro would be returning with a proposal on the carport and it would be worked out then. The only thing being considered today is the balustrade.

Jeff Taw is the architect and explained that the roof and railing is deteriorated and Mr. Calabro wants to replace those, and since we are replacing the railing, we need to bring it up to code. A painted galvanized steel pipe guard rail will be placed slightly behind the wooden railing. The proposed colors are very close to the current colors of the building. More discussion ensued with Mr. Taw making his presentation very clear to the Board and fielding several questions.

Motion to approve the balustrade changes and colors as presented: Color #1 - Benjamin Moore Country Red Ext RM; Color #2 - Benjamin Moore Kansas Grain 2160-60; Color #3 - Benjamin Moore Serengeti Sand 2164-40.

Motion: Comm. Smith
Seconded: Comm. Dineen

Ayes - 4
Nays - 0

New Business

Comm. Smith explained how she had approached a class of students to assist in putting together a pamphlet of the Historic District and requirements of buildings in the District. She will keep the Board updated on the project.

Regarding the minutes of the March 12, 2013 meeting, the following corrections were noted:

On the first page, it should read "Regarding the minutes of the February 11, 2013 meeting, the following corrections were noted".

Adjournment

Motion: Comm. Dineen
Seconded: Chair Kline

Motion passed.

Linda Kline, Chairperson