

**HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
VILLAGE OF BALLSTON SPA, NY
OCTOBER 12, 2021**

Present: Stephen Springer, Don Traver, Leo Quinn, Keith Lewis, John Cromie, Fr. Derek Roy, Rector Christ Church, Carly Clark, AJ Sign Company,

The Commission meeting was held in front of Christ Church at 8:20 AM. to discuss the application for a permit allowing a digital sign to be constructed in place of the church's sign facing the corner of West High and Church Streets. The application was denied by the building inspector due to digital signs not being allowed under the current zoning code. Carly Clark explained aspects of the sign's design and limitations placed on it by the Department of Transportation. Commission members responded to the proposed design.

The initial question before the Commission was whether the application was properly before it. Section 205-36 A, states in relevant part, "Within 72 hours after filing, it shall be the duty of the Building Inspector to refer to the Commission plans for any building within an Historic District for which a permit is sought." It was argued the denial of the application, because the use of a digital sign is not allowed in the village code, made it unnecessary for the Commission to make a ruling. It was also noted that creating a two-step process could send an applicant to the Zoning Board twice, rather than once, and create a cost burden for the applicant.

After discussion, it was the consensus that the law contemplated valid applications be send to the Commission by the Building Inspector. An application which is invalid or incomplete on its face should not be considered an application to be considered by the Commission. Furthermore, if a variance is granted, the application would gain validity and become a subject of Commission review. Upon review, any conditions of the variance could be considered by the Commission.

Don Traver moved that the Commission deem the denied application be considered an invalid application, and not subject to the Commission's review until it may be granted a variance by the Zoning Board, at which time the Commission can act on the application. It was seconded and passed unanimously.

We will continue to convert Saratoga Springs' Historic District Guidelines to the village's use.