

VILLAGE OF BALLSTON SPA  
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION  
NOVEMBER 12, 2021

Present: Leo Quinn, Stephen Springer, John Cromie

Purposes of the meeting were

- 1) to reply to the request of the Zoning Board Chair concerning the Commission's opinion of the application of Christ Church to have an electronic sign, which was denied by the Building Inspector due to such signs not being permitted by the zoning law
- 2) to provide advice to Brian Helwig of 122 West High concerning a possible off-street parking spot and car port adjacent to West High Street.

Electronic notices to committee members setting the meeting were also sent to Rev. Roy and Brian Helwig. Neither attended nor indicated inability to attend.

Commission members confirmed the prior stance that the commission has no jurisdiction over and the building department need not refer applications which seek what is not permitted by the code.

It was noted, while the Historic District law specifically allows it to consult with the Planning Board, presumably during site plan review, there is no similar provision relating to the Zoning Board of Appeals. This is most likely because the role of the Zoning Board is to act in a quasi-judicial manner and is charged to review determinations of the Commission. The Commission's charge is to guide how permitted uses are executed in the Historic District and does not extend into the Zoning Board's role of determining if a sufficient hardship exists to permit a non-conforming use.

However, if the Zoning Board wishes a general opinion of the design of the sign as submitted with Christ Church's application, the members present agreed to provide the following: As presented, the sign has little aesthetic appeal, looks like it came out of the 1970s, and does not conform with the appearance of the church building or other nearby structures of the Historic District.

Brian Helwig had called John Cromie about providing an off-street parking space to the west of his home at the corner of West High and Charlton and asked for the Commission's guidance.

It was noted that NYS DOT requires somewhere around 165 feet between a curb cut and a corner, and that Brian should contact DOT before going any further with his idea. He may be forced to place a curb cut on Charlton Street and dig out part of the bank behind his house. An email was sent to Brian with the above thoughts.

There being no further business the meeting was concluded.

John J. Cromie, Chair