

BALDWINSVILLE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
16 WEST GENESEE STREET, BALDWINSVILLE, NEW YORK
APPROVED 11/9/2015

The regular meeting and public hearing of the Baldwinsville Zoning Board of Appeals was called to order on October 19, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. by Acting Chairman, Kevin Beverine.

Present: Kevin Beverine, Acting Chairman; George LePorte; John Rutkowski; Jim Zuccolotto

Also Present: Bob Baldwin, Village Attorney; Steve Darcangelo, Village Engineer; Gregg Humphrey, CEO; Susan LaQuay, Secretary

Guests: Pastor Claude Valdes (on behalf of Applicant for 12 East Oneida); Mr. and Mrs. Harlow and Bonnie Kisselstein (regarding 12 East Oneida); Ms. Debbie McKee (regarding 12 East Oneida); Mr. and Mrs. Ed and Sue McManus (regarding 12 East Oneida); Ms. Lisa Trumble (regarding 12 East Oneida)

Welcome to our newest ZBA Board Member, James Zuccolotto.

Upon *motion* by G. LePorte and second by J. Rutkowski to install K. Beverine as Acting Chairman. **Carried**

Acting Chairman Beverine called for approval of the minutes from July 13, 2015. Upon *motion* by G. LePorte and second by K. Beverine to approve the minutes as submitted. **Carried.**

Acting Chairman Beverine called for approval of the resolution regarding 120 Oswego Street (area variance for Stewart's Shops sign) dated July 13, 2015. Upon motion by G. LePorte and second by J. Rutkowski to approve the resolution as submitted. **Carried.**

NEW BUSINESS

Public Hearing/action regarding 12 East Oneida Street (7-13 Elizabeth Street) Word of Life/Assembly of God Church - sign

Acting Chairman Beverine opened the public hearing for Word of Life/ Assembly of God Church. He read into record the Public Notice, which was published in the *Messenger* on October 14, 2015, and read into record the applicable code section. Acting Chairman Beverine noted that that a letter of notification was sent to neighboring property owners regarding the variance request and the public hearing and read in to record the 20 addresses to which this letter was sent.

Pastor Claude Valdes, the Executive Pastor of the church, is present to address the Board. He noted that the application was signed and submitted by the Senior Pastor, Randy Czyz, who is presently out of town.

Pastor Valdes stated the church addition was built in 2004 and they installed a lit sign in the location of the current sign. Neighbors at the time complained about the glow from lights on the sign and the lighting was disconnected. He stated it is their goal to be a good neighbor and,

therefore, they have selected a sign that is internally lit so there will be no exterior lights shining on it. The sign will be on a timer and will shut off when the parking lot lights shut off.

Submitted with the application is a drawing of the sign with dimensions. The proposed sign is 48 square feet total (24 square feet per side). The sign will read "word of life - assembly of God" with the church's new logo. It will be installed perpendicular to the road so there will be no glow aimed at neighboring properties. Pastor Valdes noted that this church has been in this community for 35 years and in that time it has grown in size. Currently there are approximately 800 to 1000 weekly attendees at the church. The goal of this sign is to promote the church and replace the outdated sign/logo without inconveniencing neighbors.

G. Humphrey provided a photo of a similar sign for North Central Church in North Syracuse, which shows the sign lit at night.

The sign will cost approximately \$4000. and the sign contractor is Kassis Superior Signs. It will be located either in the same location as the current sign or perhaps closer to one of the two light posts to be closer to power. It will be lit from sundown until approximately 10:30 pm, which is when the parking lot lights turn off. The middle strip of the sign will not be lit. Only the words and the logo will be illuminated. Pastor Valdes noted that the letters are muted bronze color, not bright white, so the lighting will be softer.

G. Humphrey stated the current sign is 6 feet x 3 feet in dimension (18 square feet), which is compliant with the Village Code. The existing sign is one-sided.

Pastor Valdes stated the purpose of this new sign is to utilize their new logo on the sign for branding purposes and also to clarify the church's location. He stated people will often drive by because they miss the sign as it is perpendicular to the road. S. Darcangelo asked if those purposes can be achieved with a sign that is compliant to the Code. Pastor Valdes stated the sign needs to be large for visibility purposes. They were told by the contractor that the sign should be large enough for the logo to be easily seen. K. Beverine asked if the sign contractor was aware that their proposed sign was larger than the code allows. He stated Kassis did tell them they would likely need a variance so the sign could be large enough to allow for an optimal size for reading of the logo because the proposed sign is a 2-sided sign and to comply with code it could only be 9 square feet per side.

J. Zuccolotto asked if the sign company had any data regarding the size of the sign as it relates to sight distance in a 30 mph zone. How large should it be? How far from the road should it be? Pastor Valdes stated he is not able to speak to that. He noted that the sign located in North Syracuse shown in the photo provided by G. Humphrey is the same size as the proposed sign and that road is a 45 mph road.

Acting Chairman Beverine asked if there was any public present for or against the proposed variance.

Mr. Harlow Kisselstein of 13 East Oneida is present. He stated that he is not necessarily against the sign, but he did wish to express his concerns about the potential light pollution. His home is located directly across from the church and the bedrooms face the parking lot. He would prefer the timer be set to turn the lights off earlier in the evening, perhaps 10 pm rather than 10:30 pm. He also asked if it is possible to include landscaping to block the view of the parking lot.

Mrs. Lisa Tumble of 11 East Oneida Street is also directly across the street from the church. She stated she would be against having a sign that is parallel to the road rather than perpendicular. She is concerned that the church property does not enhance the aesthetics of the neighborhood with the large amount of pavement. She noted that she and other neighbors had been told by the previous pastor that the church would plant a hedge along the East Oneida frontage of the property to block the view of the parking lot. Mrs. Trumble also stated she is not in favor of an illuminated sign, but if it is lit she thinks the timer should turn the sign off earlier in the evening. She suggested 9 pm. She also stated she does not feel the larger sign is necessary to help people find the church as the church itself is very large with a very big illuminated cross. She would prefer a smaller tasteful more subtle sign.

G. Humphrey stated that a sign perpendicular to the road will not cast light across the street. He noted that customarily illuminated signs turn off at 9 pm. Pastor Valdes stated the timer for the parking lot lights was set for 10:30 pm at the request of the Village Police Department to provide lighting for safety purposes. G. Humphrey stated that the sign can be set to a different time than the parking lot lights. Pastor Valdes stated the evening service on Wednesdays ends at 8 pm. There will not be any moving graphics or text.

Ms. Debbie McKee of 1 and 9 East Oneida Street is present. She is concerned that there may be scrolling/animated features like on the new Presbyterian Church sign. Acting Chairman Beverine stated they will be sure to include language in any resolutions that would address this.

Ms. Sue McManus is present. She noted that, although the speed limit is 30 mph, cars are rarely traveling that speed because the church is located between the 4-way stop at the entrance to the schools and the traffic light at the intersection of Oswego and Oneida Streets. She would prefer to see the variance request to be reduced to 18 square feet per side rather than 24 square feet per side. B. Baldwin asked if Pastor Valdes felt they could accomplish the goals of the sign if it were 3 feet x 6 feet instead (18 feet per side)? Pastor Valdes was not sure and noted that Kassis may have to redesign the sign if it is required to be smaller. He stated Kassis recommended the proposed sign based on the speed limit on the street and the size of the property. G. Humphrey stated it would be beneficial to see the criteria the sign company used to determine this size.

G. LePorte asked if there are ENTER and EXIT signs in place along East Oneida Street to designate that the church is there and to provide a location to drivers. There had previously been ENTER and EXIT signs, but they are no longer in place as the Baldwinsville Central School District had asked that they be removed.

Acting Chairman Beverine suggested leaving the hearing open pending the submission of additional information. He would like to see information from Kassis Superior Signs regarding how they determined the appropriate size of the proposed sign, information from the Village Police Department regarding their concerns about lighting in the parking lot, and photos of the existing sign and the proposed location for the new sign. J. Zuccolotto would also like Kassis to discuss the visibility of the sign with the more subdued lighting. Pastor Valdes stated the lighting is actually not as bright as Kassis had recommended. He asked if Kassis agreed that a smaller sign would be appropriate if they will need to reapply for a smaller sign. G. Humphrey stated they would not need to reapply, but would need to amend their current application. S. Darcangelo would like to see Kassis provide the lumens and would prefer that the sign does not

cast any additional light over the property line. Pastor Valdes stated Kassis had stated to them verbally that the sign is not visible from Virginia Street and visibility of the sign does not begin until the hill when driving from Virginia Street towards Oswego Street is crested.

This hearing will be held open pending further information from the Applicant. The matter is tabled.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 3, 2015 at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan A. La Quay
Zoning Board of Appeals Secretary