

January 23, 2012

TUCKAHOE SIGN AND AWNING BOARD
TUCKAHOE VILLAGE HALL – 2:30 pm

Present	Chairwoman	Ann Marie Ciaramella
	Member	Nicole Pushkal
Also present:	Bill Williams	Building Inspector
	Michael Seminara	Code Enforcement Officer
Absent:	Member	Barbara Nieminen

Item #1	Approval of Minutes – December 20, 2011	
Item #2	29 Columbus Avenue	Adjourned
Item #3	40 Marbledale Road	Return
Item #4	72 Main Street	Return
Item #5	25 Main Street	New Signs
Item #6	145 Main Street	New Signs

Item #1 Approval of Minutes – December 20, 2011

Member Pushkal motioned to approve the minutes of the December 20, 2011 meeting. This motion was seconded by Chairwoman Ciaramella and unanimously carried by the Board with a vote of 2-0.

Chairwoman Ciaramella announced that we have an item that is not on the agenda but has asked to be heard regarding Giovanni's Auto Body. The representative from Metro Awnings asked if they can be heard regarding a change of the wording on the awning that was approved for Giovanni's Auto Body at 138-140 Columbus Avenue. Mr. Williams stated that New York State does not allow Giovanni to use "Auto Body" because the same name is used at their other location; therefore, they are required to change the "Auto Body" to "Collision Center". They would also like to add "Office" on the awning over the door entrance. Chairwoman Ciaramella asked if there are any other changes and he replied, no. Everything will remain the same, i.e. color, size, letter size.

Member Pushkal made a motion to approve the awnings as presented with the changes. Chairwoman Ciaramella mentioned that Member Nieminen was not present and a unanimously vote was needed

in order to approve the awning. Chairwoman Ciaramella seconded the motion and was unanimously carried by the board with a 2-0 vote.

Item #2 72 Main Street

Return

Ms. Scannell, owner of Café 72, asked if the board received Mr. Quigley's letter. Chairwoman Ciaramella asked to see a new rendering of what was approved at the last meeting. Chairwoman Ciaramella said we received information on how it was going to be attached on the façade, but we were missing the new rendering of the awning. The awning was approved with the condition that you provide us with the changes in a new rendering of what was approved. Chairwoman Ciaramella read the approved motion from the last month's minutes "awning in red color, with "Café 72" in 9 inch black letters in a wheat color arch background and "ESPRESSO WRAPS DESSERTS" in 5 inch letters."

Ms. Scannell explained why she is back, she expressed she does not want to go with the solid red awning. She said she spoke with numerous people in the village, the mayor, trustees, and store owners to get their opinion on how this really looks. She is not begging, she is asking that the board please reconsider her proposed awning. It means a lot to her. She has two businesses in this village and hopefully opening a third business. She said there has to be a little lee way, the code says three colors, I have three colors, I have made my letters smaller like the board asked. Ms. Scannell mentioned that Al Kawer's sign is humongous but done in good taste. Wells Fargo has bright yellow and red. She feels her awning will look absolutely stunning and this is what she wants. She has worked very hard to get this business going, it's doing well, however, she hasn't seen any of the board members there and would love to see them.

Chairwoman Ciaramella stated that according to protocol, we have approved the awning as described in the minutes and if you are making any changes you would have to submit a new application for any changes to the approved awning. Ms. Scannell said that is not what Greg Luisi said to her. He said that if she comes to the meeting, she doesn't need a variance, and with the board's permission, she can get it approved today. Chairwoman Ciaramella said she would need to clarify that information. Mr. Williams was asked if it's required to do a new application or amend the previous application if it was already approved. Chairwoman Ciaramella told Mr. Williams that the awning was approved with the condition and now she is saying she spoke to the Mr. Luisi, mayor, trustees, business and everyone agrees that she should have her original awning approved. Chairwoman Ciaramella told her the protocol is to submit a new application, because she is asking for a different awning. Ms. Scannell said it's not another awning; it's still her original awning that she wants to get approved. She also asked if they received the letter from Mr. Luisi and that the board is in agreement to approve the awning. Dave Pope is also in agreement with this.

Member Pushkal commented that it's not anything personal, we still feel the same way we did about the awning and she understands that her heart is set on it. Member Pushkal said she has never had any interference in all the years she's been on this board, which is five years, and 99% of the time we are just trying to keep the focus that we have for the village. Our opinions haven't changed. The fact that you went to different people and they think it's ok, that's fine, and we understand your heart is set on it. The point is we still feel the same way. Mr. Scannell said that at the last meeting and in the minutes you said the reason why you don't like this is because you personally don't like stripes. Member Pushkal and Chairwoman Ciaramella said no, it is nothing personal, if you look around at all the signs that we have done, there is nothing like this one. I am not saying yours is something horrible. I understand it's your colors and you think it looks nice, but if we start with one stripe here and then the

next one starts in Crestwood; that is not the kind of a look we are looking for. We are appointed to this board for our opinions and if everyone goes over our heads, then what is the point of having a Sign and Awning Review Board. Ms. Scannell said it's not a matter of anyone going over your heads. Member Pushkal said yes it is. Ms. Scannell said it was very upsetting to me and the fact that you want a certain flair, I think I am adding to it. Ms. Scannell said that if she wanted a battle she would have taken lots of photos, because at least 50% do not abide by the rules. Member Pushkal said the older signs may not, but the newer signs all do. Chairwoman Ciaramella said that they keep within the code and she doesn't remember when they did not follow the code. If you go to different places where they do not have a board, it looks like patch work. Ms. Scannell said that everyone has a different business and it should be unique. When you look at Main Street it all looks the same. Do you know that half of the people in this village do not know what stores are on Main Street? I am in the process of sending out a letter to the merchants to hold a merchant meeting so that we can put an ad in the Journal News, listing every business in this town, saying "please shop locally in Tuckahoe". Bronxville does it free for their town. We are going to pay this for ourselves. I have started a business collection and we are going to have meetings on Wednesdays. We need to put Tuckahoe back on the map, its falling off. Chairwoman Ciaramella said she is on the Planning Board and has seen many changes that have taken place in this Village in terms of what it was and is now. It's a wonderful idea that you want to promote this town. But I have to tell you, we abide by the code and also look and see how it fits in within the building and block.

Chairwoman Ciaramella said she thinks we might need legal advice about this. Member Pushkal said if we approve this and the pizza place comes to us and says we want to do a stripe awning what do we do, what we say to him. We are looking at the big picture and not focusing on you. Ms. Scannell said we are abiding by the three color code; it's not a neon sign. You say no neon signs, do you know how many are in the windows, sayings open, closed, etc. Chairwoman Ciaramella said those signs are not approved. Ms. Scannell said businesses are thriving in this economy and if it's done in good taste it will look beautiful. She is begging to get the approval. Ms. Scannell said that if she puts it up and they don't like it, she will take it down. She will sign a paper that she will take it down, if the board doesn't like it. Member Pushkal said the board will not let you do that. We cannot have applicants say, we will do it my way and then if you don't like it we will take it down. Chairwoman Ciaramella said again she really needs to get a legal opinion because it's my understanding that once it's approved, it's what it is. Ms. Scannell said it was approved, but it was not what she wanted.

Mr. Seminara said we need to move forward. Member Pushkal said she didn't feel she should pay for another application, Mr. Williams also agreed. Mr. Seminara said he feels comfortable, meaning the Building Department, that she came back to amend her application; especially, since nothing was done. Chairwoman Ciaramella said based upon what your telling me that it's in your heart, and I respect that, and that people from the board, community, people you poll, are in agreement with you, I can't bend, and by the way, we would have to have an unanimous vote since one member is missing, I would have to vote no; because I will not bend under public pressure. Ms. Scannell said she is not putting public pressure; she wants the people of Tuckahoe to love their village. Tuckahoe is falling off the map, Member Pushkal said she disagrees. Tuckahoe is not falling off the map. It's coming back. It's what is appropriate based upon our code. Chairwoman Ciaramella said you came in here and the first thing you said was "did we receive Mr. Quigley's letter." Ms. Scannell said it was because I wanted to know so we can have a nice conversation.

Mr. Seminara said, again we need to move forward, we have a two member board, you have two options here, one is are you asking that amend your application and adjourn to next month or are you willing to accept the vote of the two member board. Ms. Scannell said she has no choice because Chairwoman already said she will vote no. Member Pushkal said she needs to think about it and also that she feels pressured because we have never had anyone go over the board. This is the first time. If our opinion is nothing then what is the sense of having a board. We have been strict with everyone. We made the small tailor on Columbus take down its sign because it was not in the proper feel of the town. We want you to be here forever but we don't want to say oh my god we approved that.

Mr. Seminara said it's simple, without making it more complicated. Are you willing to move forward or adjourn? Ms. Scannell said she can't move forward because we already have a no. Mr. Williams stated that if she came back next month, she would still need a unanimous vote, because of the stripes. Mr. Williams said you are only allowed two colors. Ms. Scannell said she read the code thoroughly and it states no more than three and nothing is mentioned about the stripes. Member Pushkal asked if she felt that strongly about the stripes. Member Pushkal also said as a designer, I would say it would be beautiful without the stripes, without you having to wait another month, get your awning up in red with the wheat and black letters, it will look beautiful; this would make everyone happy. I know your heart is set on it, but it would look beautiful, it would look outstanding. Think about it, it will still have your colors. The stripes bring us down the road we don't want to go down. That's how it's going to be. We have to think positive here. Let's make lemonade out of lemons; you still have that beautiful red awning.

Applicant said she will adjourn to next month. Member Pushkal asked if it's not approved, are you willing to meet us half way. Ms. Scannell said she can't help she is a stubborn Sicilian.

Item #3 40 Marbledale Road Return

Mr. Cappabianca of San Signs, representing CubeSmart, returned with new rendering of the sign and building. Mr. Cappabianca informed the board that CubeSmart will remove all the orange color from the building and replace it with red paint. There will be no black on the building. The blue and white on the building will remain the same. San Signs has made recommendation to CubeSmart regarding painting companies in the area. Mr. Cappabianca asked if they can have a grace period to paint the orange to red. Mr. Williams commented you cannot paint in this type of weather and suggested that the board give them 90 to 120 days to complete the job.

Chairwoman Ciaramella made a motion to approve the signs as presented, with a condition that all the orange on the building will be painted red, even the orange that shows through the windows, the blue and white on the building will not be painted. They will have 90 to 120 days to complete the painting. The signs will be in red with white lettering. The first sign measures 40" by 19', the second sign measures 36" by 14' and the third sign measures 17" by 75". Member Pushkal second the motion and was unanimously carried by the board with a 2-0 vote.

Item #4 145 Main Street New Signs

Mr. Cappabianca of San Signs, representing PTI, proposed two new signs, The first sign facing Main Street will be 27 inches by 24 ½ inches in brushed aluminum background and "pti" in blue with 20 ½ inch letters. The second sign on the side of the building will be 18 inches by 16 ¼ inches in brushed aluminum background and "pti" in blue with 13 ¾ letters and "Packaging Technologies and Inspection

LLC" blue with ¾ inch letters. Discussion regarding the sign of the size of the sign took place. Mr. Cappabianca said that whatever the board decides on the size of the sign, he will accept it. Mr. Cappabianca agreed that the size of the sign would be 18 inches by 24 inches with 13 ¾ inch lettering.

Member Pushkal made a motion to approve two signs for "pti". Both signs will be 18 inches by 24 inches with 13 ¾ inch lettering. Material used will be Aluminum/Vinyl. The background color will be brushed nickel with blue and sky blue letters, and the attachment plan as presented, Chairwoman Ciaramella seconded the motion and was unanimously carried by the board with a 2-0 vote.

Item #5 25 Main Street

New Sign

Mr. Fredrick of Unique Signs representing Industry 80, proposed two signs "Industry 80" and "Concept Salon". Both signs measure 14" X 12' and has a black background with 8 inch aluminum letters. The signs are similar to the "Growlers" sign next door. Discussion regarding the letters being very shiny and reflecting the sunlight across the street took place. Member Pushkal commented that chrome was not acceptable. It was suggested that they use a brush nickel material or another type of material that does not reflect the sunlight across to the Rivervue Apartments.

Member Pushkal made a motion to approve the proposed signs with a condition that a sample of the silver lettering color be submitted for approval, Chairwoman Ciaramella seconded the motion and was unanimously carried by the board with a 2-0 vote. Chairwoman Ciaramella amended that the letters be 8 inches high and the sign is 12 feet by 14 inches, consistent with the other signs on the building, Member Pushkal seconded the motion and was unanimously carried by the board with 2-0 vote.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 28, 2012 at 2:30pm

There being no further comments from the public or business before the Board, upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 3:50 pm.