

**STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF DUTCHESS
TOWN OF LA GRANGE**

**SPECIAL TOWN BOARD MEETING
July 15, 2009**

Present: Supervisor Jon Wagner
Councilman Joseph Luna
Councilman Steve O'Hare
Councilman Gary Beck

Recording Secretary: Christine O'Reilly- Rao

Others Present: Wanda Livigni, Administrator of Public Works

A special meeting of the Town Board was held on Wednesday, July 15, 2009, at the LaGrange Town Hall, 120 Stringham Road. Supervisor Wagner called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m. and the Town Clerk led the flag salute.

There were 6 members of the public present as well as John Davis from the *Poughkeepsie Journal*.

Supervisor Wagner stated that he appreciated the attendance of those present for the meeting.

He then read a letter from Mr. Edward Jessup, in which he resigned from the Planning Board. (SEE ADDENDUM)

He asked for a motion to accept the resignation.

Councilman Beck so moved, seconded by Councilman O'Hare and carried unanimously.

Mr. Wagner then commented that Mr. Jessup had done a great job serving on the Planning Board and due to this experience, in part, he was being considered to replace Mr. Borchert for the remaining part of that unexpired term. He stressed the importance of having a quorum on the Board, which necessitates this appointment.

He asked for a motion to appointment Edward Jessup to the Board.

Councilman Beck so move, seconded by Councilman Luna.

The following vote was recorded:

Supervisor Wagner AYE

Councilman Luna AYE

Councilman Beck AYE

Councilman O'Hare AYE

Mr. Jessup was duly appointed and the Town Clerk administered the oath of office.

Mr. Jessup thanked the Board for his appointment and took his seat.

Supervisor Wagner welcomed Councilman Jessup to the Board.
He then asked about the status of the upcoming public hearing on a sign ordinance.

Mr. Luna and Mr. Beck could not agree on limitations regarding sign size. Mr. Luna stated that the issue of internally lit signs that cannot measure more than 20 square feet should be addressed. Both Supervisor Wagner and Councilman Beck were not in agreement with the size restriction of 20 square feet, with Mr. Beck stating that he wanted to remove the limitation of 20 square feet on an internally lit sign.

A discussion of the maximum height of signs followed.
Councilman Jessup stated that a 96 square feet sign is a rather large sign.
Councilman Beck replied that only a limited number of these signs would be set up since it requires a minimum of 13 occupants.

Mr. Luna stated that the aesthetics of the Town were important and that the Greenway Guide on Lighting as well as the Open Space Plan were in agreement with the efforts to maintain the rural atmosphere of LaGrange. He stated that the direction that the Town was going in would result in signage larger than the signs permitted in the Town of Poughkeepsie.

Mr. Beck disagreed with this comment and replied that the Town of Poughkeepsie had not passed that law yet. He added that additional signs are placed in front of businesses due to the fact that the original signage is too small and cannot be easily read.

Further discussion ensued.

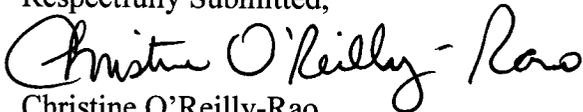
Mr. Wagner referred to the Dutchess County Comment letter regarding externally illuminated signs with downward light source versus upward light source since upward light source causes more spillage and light pollution. (SEE ADDENDUM)
Further discussion followed regarding aesthetics and light pollution. Mr. Wagner hoped there could be some compromise.

The sign ordinance will be on the agenda for July 22nd.

Mr. Wagner adjourned the meeting to an executive session at 12:40 p.m. to discuss contract negotiations.

At 1:15 p.m. the Board adjourned the special meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,



Christine O'Reilly-Rao
Town Clerk

ADDENDUM

- Resignation letter from Mr. Jessup
- Dutchess County Planning Comment Letter

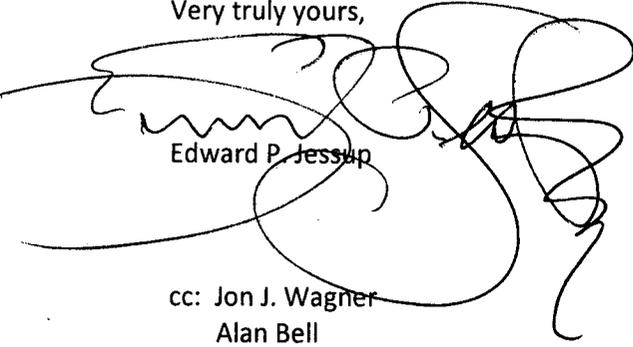
July 15, 2009

Ms. Christine O'Reilly- Rao
Town Clerk
Town of LaGrange
120 Stringham Road
LaGrangeville, NY 12540

Dear Ms. O'Reilly-Rao,

Please allow this letter to serve as my formal letter of resignation as the Town of LaGrange Planning Board effective July 15, 2009. I've served as a member for the last 3 ½ years and it has been very rewarding and fulfilling. I would like to thank the Town of LaGrange for this opportunity.

Very truly yours,



Edward P. Jessup

cc: Jon J. Wagner
Alan Bell

RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK

7/15/09

11:50
am.

OK

Dutchess County Department of Planning and Development

To LAGRANGE Date 5/26 # pgs 1
 Co./Dept. TOWN BOARD From J. CLARKE
 Fax # 452-2289 Phone # 486-3600

Zoning Referral

Please Fill Out This Entire Portion of the Form

Municipality: Town of LaGrange

Referring Agency: Town Board

Tax Parcel Number(s): _____

Project Name: LLi Signs

Applicant: Town Board

Address of Property: _____

Type of Action:

- Local Law / Text Amendment
- Rezoning
- Site Plan
- Special Permit
- Use Variance
- Area Variance
- Other: _____

Jurisdictional Determinant:

- State Road _____
- County Road _____
- State Property
- County Property
- Municipal Boundary
- Agricultural District

Date Response Requested (if less than 30 days): 6/10

If subject of a previous referral, please note County referral number(s): 09-172

FOR COUNTY OFFICE USE ONLY

Response from Dutchess County Department of Planning and Development

No Comments:

- Matter of Local Concern
- No Jurisdiction
- No Authority
- Project Withdrawn

Comments Attached:

- Local Concern with Comments 
- Conditional
- Denial
- Incomplete — municipality must resubmit to County
- Incomplete with Comments — municipality must resubmit to County

Date of Submittal: 5/14

Date Submittal Received: 5/15

Date Report Requested: 6/10

Date Report Required: 6/12

Notes:  SEE PREVIOUS COMMENTS IN REFERRAL # 09-172.

- Major Project
- Archive
- Discard after 2 yrs
- Discard after 7 yrs

Referral #: 09-243

Date of Transmittal
faxed: 5/26/09 mailed: _____

Reviewer: J. CLARKE

May 13, 2009

To: Town Board, Town of LaGrange
Re: Referral: 09-172, Local Law for Sign Amendments

The Dutchess County Department of Planning & Development has reviewed the subject referral within the framework of General Municipal Law (Article 12B, Sections 239-l and 239-m). After considering the proposed action in the context of countywide and intermunicipal factors, the Department finds that the Board's decision involves a matter of some concern and offers the following comments.

Action

The Town is considering amendments to the section of Chapter 240 related to signs.

Comments

We suggest that the definition of Externally Illuminated Signs not be changed to remove the requirement for a downward light source. Downlighting focuses light more efficiently on the subject, avoids glare, and preserves the night sky view of the stars from unnecessary light pollution (see Greenway Guide on Lighting). No matter how carefully uplighting is targeted at the sign, light spillage occurs through overlap, movement in the fixtures over time, and/or reflection upward off the surface.

The Greenway Guide on Signs also recommends monument signs in the four- to seven-foot-high range, rather than taller freestanding pole signs that do not work well with street trees, tend to block views and dominate the property frontage. Signs, like parking lots, are accessory features on the site and should not overwhelm the building and landscaping. Almost all the maximum freestanding sign heights are proposed to be raised from six feet to ten feet, even in cases when monument signs are required. We suggest that the sign heights be limited to a maximum of six or seven feet to encourage ground-based signs that are closer to driver eye-level, are visible under street tree foliage, and can be integrated with surrounding landscaping and architecture.

Projecting signs are proposed to be significantly larger, but the maximum distance from the building will stay at 24 inches, appearing to mandate tall, thin signs. We suggest that projecting signs be allowed at seven-foot clearances and up to four feet from the building.

The maximum size of a wall sign in the commercial and industrial districts is proposed to go from 20 to 100 square feet, an overly large expansion. Based on a review of newer sign laws in surrounding non-Route 9 South towns, we suggest a maximum size of 50 square feet for wall signs.

The proposed law appears to allow two freestanding signs for all corner lots, even on very small lots at minor side roads. We suggest that the Board consider limiting two freestanding signs to larger-scale corner lots at major commercial intersections.

Dutchess County
Department of
Planning and
Development

William R. Steinhilber
County Executive

Roger P. Akeley
Commissioner

Kentyl Salomon
Assistant Commissioner

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Poughkeepsie
New York
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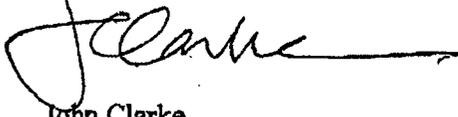
Finally, the Board should consider ways to discourage the proliferation of reader board signs having movable or electronic print for advertising purposes, such as specific commercial sales or menu items, with exceptions for certain uses like civic structures, churches, movie theaters, and gas station prices.

Recommendation

The Department recommends that the Board rely upon its own study of the facts in the case with due consideration of the above comments.

Roger P. Akeley, Commissioner
Dutchess County Department of Planning & Development

By



John Clarke
Development and Design Coordinator