

11-23-2020 11:04 AM

Dear Zoning Board of Appeals,

I am a resident of the Village of Freeville, own a property that is adjacent to Tax Parcel ID # 34.-2-1.4, and am a member of the Freeville ZBA. Mr. Coburn has requested a variance for a business sign that has already been erected on this parcel in violation of Town law.

I object to the sign being larger than 10 square feet and being located 3 feet from the highway line. There is no need for such a large sign in a residential area, and the property certainly has sufficient space to accommodate a properly-sized sign located at least 15 feet from the highway line.

In addition, I would note that Mr. Coburn has elected to illuminate the existing sign with two high-intensity lights that are positioned at ground level and shine upwards. They not only light the sign but, because of the proximity of the sign to the road, throw bright beams into the eyes of highway drivers traveling in either direction. I know this firsthand as I commute at dark along this stretch of Route 366 regularly. I believe that these lights are in direct violation of Town law, which addresses this issue thusly:

Section 903 D.

1. Illumination of any Sign shall employ only light emitting a constant intensity. No Signs shall be illuminated by or contain flashing, intermittent, rotating, or moving light. In no event shall an illuminated Sign be placed or light directed so that the illumination is directed upward resulting in light pollution, or be directed upon a Public Highway, sidewalk or onto the adjacent premises or that results in glare or reflection that constitutes a traffic hazard or a nuisance.

2. Signs shall be illuminated by a shielded light source, or sources, to restrict the area illuminated to the Sign face, and downward.

The illumination of the sign needs to be addressed, as this is an issue of health and safety. The lights should be shielded and pointed downwards, and they certainly should not be aimed to shine in the eyes of highway drivers.

Regards,
Mike

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