



VILLAGE OF COLONIE

VILLAGE HALL

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SIGN REVIEW BOARD MINUTES THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2025 6:30 P.M.

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Village of Colonie Sign Review Board was held at Village Hall, 2 Thunder Road, Albany, NY 12205, on Thursday, October 23, 2025.

ROLL CALL:	Chairman Bill Levy	Present
	Ms. Calabrese	Present
	Ms. White	Absent
	Ms. Paro	Present
	Dr. Dennis	Present.
	Alternate Kuentzel	Absent
	Attorney Caponera	Present
	Coordinator Secor	Present

Chairman Levy opened the meeting at 6:33 P.M. with the Pledge of Allegiance. The Board reviewed the regular minutes from August 28th, 2025. Chairman Levy made a motion to approve the minutes as amended, and the motion was seconded by Ms. Calabrese.

VOTE: Unanimous to approve.

1609 Central Avenue
Krauses Homemade Candy
Digital Monument Sign

Ms. Darla Dolezal was present on behalf of Ray Sign Company, with the variance request for the digital monument sign at 1609 Central Avenue. Advising, the applicant is looking to replace the sign with proposed carved gold leaf with small digital sign below for small messages. Ms. Dolezal noted the requested digital sign is the smallest size they could find. Due to the standard sizes built by the manufacturer, with the current seven-foot sign

post they are limited as to what could fit. Twenty-one inches minimum is digital sign size. Ms. Dolezal noted the sign above is the same size of their current sign. Adding twenty-one inches to the sign brings it to a total of 88.5 inches tall. Ms. Dolezal noted the reason is because the height from ground to the bottom of the current sign is seventeen inches, and the request for new sign is twenty-four inches from bottom to top of sign. Reason being to keep the rain and snow out.

Attorney Caponera pointed out that per the drawing submitted the existing sign is 1.5 foot raised mound. Attorney Caponera advised that the Village of Colonie measures from the ground level not a raised planter. Ms. Dolezal clarified to the board member that the current post will be used for new requested sign. Attorney Caponera advised post are considered part of the sign for measuring purposes. Attorney Caponera noted the drawing for the requested sign shows 88.5inches tall divided by twelve equals 7.35 inches high. The picture of the current sign shows an additional 1.5inchs from the ground to the top of the planter. Attorney Caponera noted that the sign is 8.8 feet high. Note: if you put a sign up on a planter it would be taller than the allowable six feet.

Chairman Levy asked if there would be a planted underneath the new requested sign. Ms. Dolezal advised yes. Chairman Levy then pointed out that the sign would be 1.5 taller than the submitted drawing. Attorney Caponera noted the sign would be almost nine feet tall.

Ms. Dolzezal noted they are going to use the existing side poles, currently they have sleeve covers that are red and white, new covers would be brown and gold. Attorney Caponera advised applicants is allowed One free standing sign which can't be any taller than six feet tall or larger than 32sqft total. It appears the current sign is over the allowable square footage and height code. Ms. Dolzeal the proposed drawing was used based off of the current sign located at 1609 central ave. Side pole in proposed drawing can be dropped down some. Attorney made clarification on proposed drawing it shows a space between ground level and sign is twenty-four inches tall, keep in mind that the sign would then be placed on top of the planter which is 1.5 feet tall making sign even taller.

Chairman Levy noted the size of the sign does not bother him but the height of the sign does. Ian Krause noted he was there because they are looking to get a new sign as it is considerable old and the company is in the process of

rebranding their business and designing a new logo. At times sales are limited as they depend on how much products they have on hand. This is why he thought the small digital sign on the bottom would be helpful for consumers.

Attorney Caponera noted if you move the sign two feet down then it would practically be sitting on the ground. MS. Dolzeal stated her and the applicant played around with design of the new logo and that is what they produced that was legible. Mentioning at this point the only thing that would be effective would be to drop down sign and bring it up to the top of sign as they cannot change the size of the manufacturer digital sign.

Ms. Calabrese questioned the new branding of the company. Ian advised the board members that his family bought the candy company from his uncle. Ian mentioned above his parents' door they have a circle logo with a "K" in the middle, and he liked the calligraphy of it and wants to be more consistent with other stores. MS. Calabrese took note that Krause's wants to be consistent with the rebranding and new logo. Ms. Calabrese questioned what if they decreased the "Krause's" from sign and kept the "K" as that is what seems to be taking up most of the space. Decreasing the wording of Krause's might give you more room to work with.

Ms. Paro made suggesting making the letters straight rather than arched, keeping the big "K" which would still pop. Current sign is visible and well known even if you are not from around here.

Ian and Ms. Dolzeal went back and forth with a couple different options. Ian made the possible recommendation of removing the current shrubs to gain more space at the bottom of the proposed sign. Ian stated his idea was to raise the sign a little bit, so the digital sign was at the same level as the clearance for the current sign. He was aware it pushes the height but wanted to re-use the current post and just replace it with updated sign.

Ms. Calabrese asked Ian how much is a little bit? Ms. Paro suggested dropping down the side poles to eighteen inches, in return it would bring down total sign of 6 inches, noting there would be enough clearance for the snow in winter months.

Attorney Caponera stated as he just drove by parcel, the current sign is sitting higher than road level. Mentioning the applicant is at the advantage of

it being on a higher slope and well as being placed on top of a planter bed that is 1.5 inches tall, which is easily visible.

Ian noted he was concerned with the new logo getting too squished if they made the proposed sign the same size as current. Ray sign company was limited as to what they could do with new signs because of the digital sign below.

Dr. Dennis noted it would be sad to lose the greenery and stated she would like to see some type of green plantes in replacement of current shrubs, if planters were to be removed. Ian made a proposal to the board to take away one foot, dropping the entire sign down one foot. Then that would make the new sign a total of height of seventy-two inches rather than seventy-six inches tall. Ian asked is a building permit would be needed to remove planters as proposed. He was advised no, it is not required.

Chairman Levy noted they in front of the review board because of the height of sign, square footage, and variance for the digital sign. He emphasized that consistency is needed with digital signs. Attorney Caponera recommended that the Board conditionally approve the variance with the same conditions given for other digital signs, notably that of 518 Realty. He stated that any illumination should be of constant intensity, and no sign shall be illuminated by or contain flashing/intermittent/moving light(s). He added that in no event shall the sign be placed that beams or lighting would be directed onto the street, sidewalk or adjacent property, which may cause glare or reflection that could constitute a nuisance or traffic hazard. Further, the message and/or picture may not change more than once per minute, and it should be turned on daily from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. Finally, Attorney Caponera stated that if the sign causes traffic issues and/or distractions, the applicant must return in front of the Sign Review Board to discuss a resolution. Chairman Levy stated that this is consistent with past variances.

Ms. Calabrese made a motion to approve the 32sq. ft. with a max of 72 inches tall. The digital monument sign, at 1609 Central Avenue for Krause's Home Made Candy, with the conditions previously recommended by Attorney Caponera. Planters be removed and finials can stay. This motion was seconded by Ms. Paro.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

Ms. Calabrese made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and this motion was seconded by Dr. Dennis.

Meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Secor
Coordinator
Village of Colonie