MEMORANDUM OF STAFF COMMENTS

TO: Zoning Board of Appeals

FROM: Adam Levitus, ZEO DATE: June 17, 2021

RE: #2021-13 – Variance for a Freestanding Sign at a Commercial Condo Building

APPLICANT: Robert Becker (President – Towne Place Condominium Association)

ADDRESS: 211 New Britain Rd

Map 3-3 Block 28 Lot 12

ZONE: CCD-1

Proposal and Background

Robert Becker (President – Towne Place Condominium Association) is requesting a variance for a freestanding sign located 10 feet from the street line when 50 feet is required for a principal structure located greater than 75 feet from the street line in the CCD-1 zone per Berlin Zoning Regulation IX.A.6.e.iv.

Staff Comments

According to assessor's records, the existing building was constructed approximately 1989. The building is a commercial office building structured under a condominium association agreement (per Land Record data, the Towne Place Condominium Association was originally declared in 1989).

The property does not have an existing freestanding sign. The only identifying signage for the building is located on the façade. The applicant wishes to place a freestanding sign 10ft from the front property line (street line). Although the proposed size (39sf) and design (per Farmington Avenue Design Standards) of the sign would meet the requirements for the CCD-1 zone on New Britain Avenue, the proposed location does not meet the zoning regulations, and therefore requires a variance. From BZR IX.A.6.e.iv:

- "Freestanding signs shall be located no farther than ten feet from the principal structure as measured from the closest point of the sign, nor 20 feet as measured from the farthest point of the sign.
- If, however, a principal structure is located greater than 75 feet from the street line, this location will be permitted a freestanding sign no part of which would be closer than 50 feet from the street line, thus eliminating the ten-foot/20-foot rule."
 - 211 New Britain is eligible to utilize the second "50ft" provision

Note that current front setback requirements for new principal and accessory buildings (not signage) within the CCD-1 zone is 5 feet (per BZR VI.J). Many buildings in the CCD-1 zone are located near the front property line, so many existing freestanding signs might be located nearer to the street because they can meet the '10/20ft rule' cited above.

The property is an existing nonconforming lot, with a total lot size of approximately 1.37 acres (per a 2009 survey) when a minimum of 2 acres would be required for new lots in the CCD-1 zone. A 2009 site plan amendment application to the PZC indicated that there are wetlands and flood plain constraints/considerations in the rear of the building.

Staff have provided a markup of an existing 2009 survey for ZBA consideration. This markup shows the location of the required sign setback (50') from the front property line based on the CCD-1 zone signage regulations for a building located farther than 75 feet from the front property line.

Staff recommends discussion of:

- The hardships proposed by the applicant to justify the variance request
- The configuration of this property as compared to other lots
- The configuration/location of the proposed sign as compared to alternatives that would comply with the regulations

Zoning Requirements: §IX.A.6.e.iv

Minimum required distance from street line to freestanding sign: 50 ft

Proposed distance to front yard: 10 ft

The Town of Berlin Plan of Conservation and Development, Section II, Strategic Outline for Implementation, Strategy 1: Coordinate the Regulatory Structure to Support the Plan, 3) states: Any variance granted by the Zoning Board of Appeals should be consistent with the standards imposed by Connecticut General Statutes in which a hardship exists owing to conditions affecting a specific parcel of land, and the variance which is granted should be consistent with the goals and policies of this plan and the intent of the zoning regulations.



Town of Berlin

ZBA # 2021 0013____

Planning and Zoning Department

240 Kensington Road Berlin, Connecticut 06037 www.town.berlin.ct.us

Town of Berlin Received

MAY 28 2021

ZONING BOARD OF	APPEALS A	APPLICA	TION	A 7
☐ Special Permit ☐ Variance ☐ Motor Vehicle Location ☐ Alcohol U	Ises Location		Planning peal of Z E Q er / Determ	& Zoning Departmer plin, Connecticut nination
Property Owner(s): Towner Place	Condomi	num		
Project Address*: 211 New Betain	3 Road	Kensin	aton C	T 06037
Map: <u>3-3</u> Block: <u>28</u> Lot: <u>12</u>	Zone(s):		Lot Area:	
				av aorom
Please select all relevant items below: □ Supplemental Information Is Required ZBA Special Permit / Sale of Alcoholi □ Inland Wetlands and Water Course Co □ Planning and Zoning Commission revi □ Property is within 500 feet of a Munici □ Previous Zoning Board of Appeals act Date(s) & Purpose(s): Applicant	For: ic Beverages Locommission review iew needed ipal Boundary of ions on this prop	cation /Motor w needed f perty:	· Vehicle Us	
Name: Town & Place Condominium	E' M	0	- (Tspeed Stepel
Street Address: 211 New Britain Road	Firm Name: 10			
	City: MSIMG	(0)	ST:	Zip: <u>06037</u>
Email: RJB28950 Comcast. Net	Phone:	1		
Signature: Pace Towner Pace Condominium Property Owner(s) Inform	Date: 52	,		edgegae ou o f
Name:	Principal:			
Street Address:	City:	2 16	ST:	Zip:
Email:	Phone:			
*Letter of Authorization Required				

ZBA action is requested pursuant to Berlin Zoning Regulations Section(s): 1X.A.C.e.

^{*}Any town official and/or employee who the town deems necessary may enter the property to verify information submitted with this application.

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Received		
Requested requirement: <u>C.d.</u> Reason/Description of Hards	ge of the sign to the	location requirements CCD requirements front live will be 10 leet.
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	DMV application is required to	be submitted with this application
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☐ General Repairer	1	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
☐ Limited Repairer		
☐ Gasoline Station		<u> </u>
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ATTACHMENT 1

Towne Place Condominium is the first building that is seen as you enter Berlin. We have maintained this building to continue to look pristine to our Town of Berlin, for well over 32 years.

At this point in time, we are requesting to construct a sign, to be placed on the peninsula in front of the building. Due to the paved parking lot and the storm drain that runs from the center of the parking lot to the building, we are limited to that area of the peninsula that we can have a sign. Having only one area in the front of the building to construct a sign is truly a hardship.

Over the years, not having a sign in front of our building, has caused a safety issue, as patrons are either turning their heads to capture the building while driving or slamming on their brakes to make the turn into the entrance. In addition, all the unit owners are tired of giving the location of our building, as the building in between McDonalds and Dunkin Donuts. We should have a presence, visible to the street, on New Britain Road, as other businesses have established.

This request to have a sign displayed on the peninsula in front of our property, is not personal or financial in nature, nor is itself imposed. We are going to have a sign that will be pleasing to see; it will not impede the visibility of traffic on New Britain Road and will be attractive for visitors that are entering our town for years to come.

Your approval to allow Towne Place to construct a sign on the front peninsula of our property will be gratefully appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Becker

President of Towne Place Condominium

6/8/2021 Print Map

Town of Berlin

Geographic Information System (GIS)

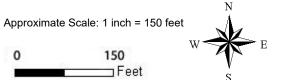


Date Printed: 6/8/2021



MAP DISCLAIMER - NOTICE OF LIABILITY

This map is for assessment purposes only. It is not for legal description or conveyances. All information is subject to verification by any user. The Town of Berlin and its mapping contractors assume no legal responsibility for the information contained herein.



Letter of Authorization

Principal: Robert Becker, President
Subject Address: 211 New Beitain Road, Kensington, CT
Applicant: JOWNE Place Condominium
I, Robert Becker hereby give consent to My Pare Symposium, to (Applicant)
apply to all relevant Town of Berlin land use Boards and Commissions for
at the property located at 211 Min Caddress & for Map Lot Block) (Address & for Map Lot Block)
Berlin Connecticut.
In addition I consent to allow any town official and/or employee that the town deems necessary
the ability to enter said property to verify any information submitted with corresponding
application.
Sincerely,

Towne Place Condominium Association

211 New Britain Road

Kensington, CT 06037

Town of Berlin Received MAY 28 2021

Planning & Zoning Department Berlin, Connecticut

May 25, 2021

We, the undersigned, allow Robert Becker, the President of Towne Place Condominium Association, to act and sign on our behalf regarding any and all issues and documents related to our application to the Town of Berlin to erect a sign to be located at the entrance to our property as we have discussed at our Association meetings. I will be meeting with the Zoning Board of Appeals regarding this project and hereby have your permission to move forward with this sign project. Thank you.

Robert Becker

President, Towne Place Condominium Association

Statement - Othman Elalami

Elizabeth Solans

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Elizabeth Solans

Elizabeth Solans

John Diakun

Janina Chorzepa

- Brendon Convy

I conal teland - Ronald Helfand

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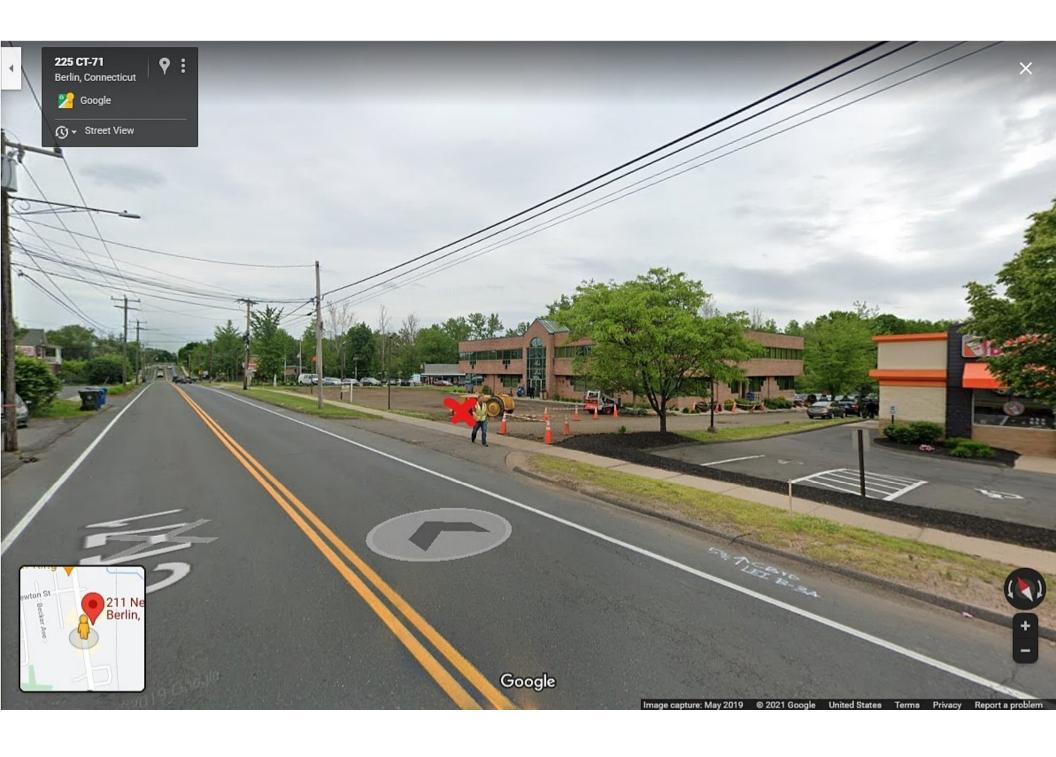
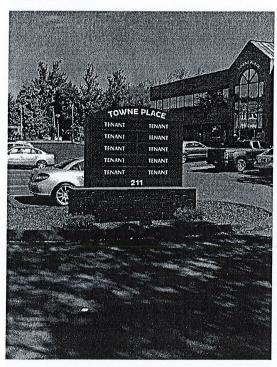
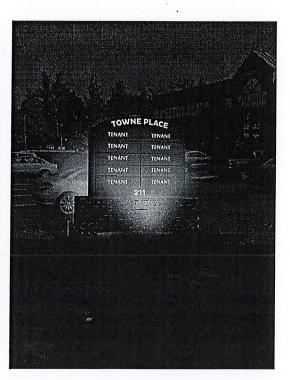






PHOTO CONCEPTUAL ONLY





TOWNE PLACE

Project Address: Berlin, CT

SPI WO #: 19250

Issue Date: September 30, 2019 Salesperson: Travis Mistretta

Designer: J.M. DRAWINGS ARE NOT TO SCALE UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

Revisions: RV1 by JM 10/09/2020 RV2 by JM 03/05/2020 RV3 by JM 03/25/2020

Customer Approval: APPROVED

APPROVED AS NOTED

REVISE & RESUBMIT

SIGN

DATE

SIGN PRO signpro-usa.com

60 Westfield Drive Plantsville, CT 06479 860,229,1812









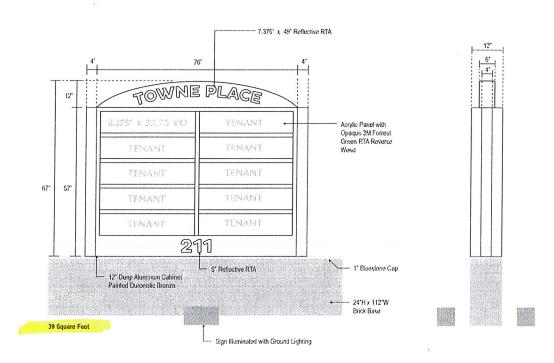




SIGN TYPE Monument

> PAGE 4 of 5

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Hotes

evisions: V1 by JM 10/09/2020 V2 by JM 03/05/2020

Customer Approval: APPROVED APPROVED AS NOTED REVISE & RESUBMIT

PRINT SIGN DATE

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60 Westfield Drive Plantsville, CT 06479 860.229.1812 Monument

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