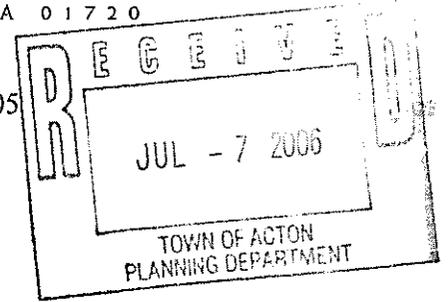




TOWN OF ACTON
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
472 Main Street Acton, MA 01720

FY1

July 2, 2005



Regina Rotolante
West Acton Market
586 Massachusetts Ave.
Acton, MA 01720

Dear Regina,

As you know, at its meeting on June 5 the Historic District Commission voted to approve the mural proposed in Application #0615 for the store window panels at 586 Mass. Ave. for a Certificate of Appropriateness as compatible with the building and the West Acton Historic District, pending the expiration of the required waiting period while abutters, Town Hall staff, etc. are notified of the HDC's review of the application and given the opportunity to comment on the proposal or to call for a public hearing.

We have been notified by Acton Building Commissioner Garry Rhodes that the mural, which would come under the sign provisions of Section 7 of the Acton Zoning Bylaw, will require a sign license in addition to the Certificate of Appropriateness. Since it appears that the mural as proposed does not conform to the requirements of the Zoning Bylaw, we will not be able to issue the Certificate of Appropriateness at this time.

As explained in the Acton Historic District Bylaw and in Section IV-1 of the HDC's Instructions and Information for Filing an Application for Certificate, "Work on a project requiring Commission approval shall not be started until the required Certificate, as well as any other applicable permit or license, has been issued."

Since neither the certificate nor a sign license has been issued, please note that no work should be started on the project. We suggest that you make an appointment with Garry Rhodes to discuss what might be done to bring the mural into conformance with the zoning bylaw.

We regret that this is likely to cause a delay in your plans. It was the commission's opinion that the mural would be compatible with the character and spirit of the West Acton district, but unfortunately there are other town regulations that must be met before the project can go ahead.

After you have spoken with the Building Commissioner, the HDC would be glad to discuss alternative designs or any other changes he might suggest to the mural. When you are ready, please contact me or Chairman Brian Bendig at HDC@acton-ma.gov.

Sincerely,

Anne Forbes

Cc: Skip Kennedy, West Acton Market
Garry Rhodes, Building Commissioner
Town Manager/BoS: Planning Board