CITY PLANNING DEPARTMENT



Memorandum – AMENDED

To: City Plan Commission

From: Brianna L. Valcourt, M.Arch; Senior Planner Date: April 3, 2024

Date:April 3, 2024RE:1 New London Avenue – Assessors Plat 10/3, Lot 713

Application for Dimensional Variance

Owner / Applicant:Arvee, LLCOwner / Applicant:Mainely TubsLocation:1 New London AvenueZoning:C4 – Highway BusinessFLUM Designation:Highway Commercial / Services

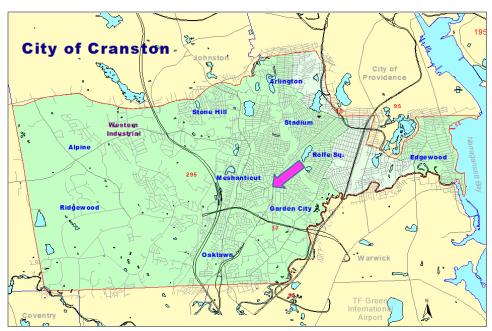
Subject Property:

The subject property is located at 1 New London Avenue, identified as Plat 10/3, Lot 713, and has a land area of $2.00\pm$ acres, ($87,120\pm$ sq. ft.,) with frontage on New London Avenue.

Requests:

To exceed the maximum total area of a wall sign from thirty (30) square feet to eighty-six square feet (86.84 square feet). [17.72.010(5)]

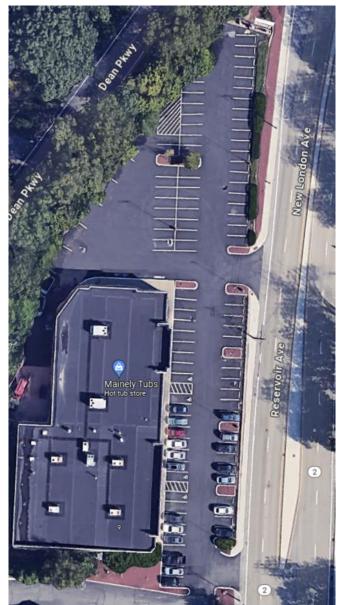
To exceed the total area of a monument <u>free-standing</u>* sign from fifty (50) square feet to sixty-five square feet (65.24 feet). [17.72.010(5)] *scrivener's error.



LOCATION MAP

1 New London AvenueApplication for Dimensional Variance: Staff Memorandum – Page 1 of 4

AERIAL PHOTO

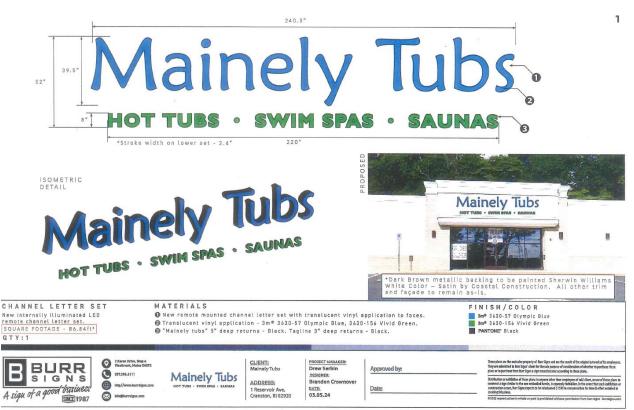


STREET VIEW



 $\label{eq:2.1} 1 \ New \ London \ Avenue \\ \ Application \ for \ Dimensional \ Variance: \ Staff \ Memorandum \ - \ Page \ 2 \ of \ 4 \\$

SIGN RENDERINGS





Findings of Fact:

- The Applicant has requested specific relief in their Application, namely:
 - 17.70.010 Signs (C-4 District)
 - o 17.92.010 Variances (Dimensional)
- Staff has reviewed this Application in consideration of the compatibility with the general character of the surrounding neighborhood and the request does not impose undue nuisances and is not out of character beyond any other uses on this site or within the surrounding area.
 - The property and the immediate surrounding area along New London and Reservoir Avenues are commercial (retail) in nature and the request does not propose or encourage incompatible uses that would be disruptive to the surrounding area.
 - The Proposal is related to redevelopment / reinvestment of an existing commercial retail plaza.
 - Staff finds that the Application is generally compatible with the general character of the surrounding neighborhood.
- The Future Land Use Map (FLUM) designates the subject property as "Highway Commercial / Services."
 - Per the Comprehensive Plan, the C-4 zoning district is an appropriate zoning classification for commercial retail development.
 - Highway commercial / services is oriented towards providing services to citywide and regional markets where signage plays a greater role in location and direction.
 - The Proposal is related to redevelopment / reinvestment of an existing commercial retail plaza.
 - Staff finds that the Application is directly consistent with the Future Land Use Map designation.
- The Comprehensive Plan outlines goals, policies, and action items pertaining to commercial (re)development which Staff find support the approval of this Application, specifically:
 - Economic Development Goal 4: Revitalize underused areas of the City for uses that are in keeping with the needs and values of the community.
 - Economic Development Goal 11: Target sites for industrial and commercial projects.
 - Economic Development Policy 11.1: (i.e. former Trolley Barn site, <u>Route 2</u> <u>corridor</u>), may support additional retailers seeking entry to the market.

Recommendation:

In accordance with RIGL § 45-24-41(b) and Section 17.92.010(A) of the Zoning Ordinance, Staff finds this Application generally consistent with the goals and purposes of the Comprehensive Plan and is compatible with the general character of the surrounding neighborhood. Staff therefore recommends that the City Plan Commission adopt the Findings of Fact documented above and forward a **POSITIVE RECOMMENDATION** on the Application to the Zoning Board of Review.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brianna L. Valcourt, M.Arch Senior Planner

Cc: City Planning Director File