

Date: June 18th, 2020

To: Samuel Kramer, Planning Board Chairman & JoAnne Pahwul, ACIP Planning Director

From: Nick Cohen

Re: Cohen Artist Studio Application, 10 Lafayette Place, SCTM#300-94-02-10

In response to the request for additional information, as it pertains to the application for an artist studio permit for Nick Cohen at 10 Lafayette Place in East Hampton, please see below.

Re Point 1: *A survey of the parcel depicting the dimensioned footprint of the studio.*

- Please see survey attached with updated footprint.

Re Point 2: *Dimensioned floor plans of the studio that depict the interior space and any proposed plumbing. § 255-11-88 (2) of the Town Code provides that an artist studio may have a sink but shall have no bath, shower, toilet or other plumbing. The floor plan should contain a notation that “no bath, shower, toilet or plumbing other than that for a sink is permitted”. The floor plans can be in sketch form.*

- Please see floorplans attached detailing no plumbing, aside from slop sink, and depicting interior space of proposed studio.

Re Point 3: *255-11-88 (1) of the Town Code limits the size of the artist studio to 600 sq. ft. unless the applicant demonstrates to the Planning Board the need for a larger size structure.*

- My current studio, at 2,400 square feet, enables me the space for particular tools and materials, including larger wood and metal, to produce large scale sculptural works (as depicted in my submitted portfolio of work).
- The unique opportunity to combine work and home – with the property adjacent to us in contract, if granted the studio permit I will be able to purchase - is incentive enough to downsize my workspace in exchange for the opportunity to have my studio as part of an overall vision for my life, work and home.

- Under the condition that I am granted the artist studio, I can scale down significantly, and my hope is that the town will approve the extra space requested: which reflects 1,040 square feet -not exceeding the floorplan of the existing adjacent structure, my home (see point 5 below).
- The extra space will allow me to construct and execute my visions at scale.

Re Point 4: It is noted that the production of furniture does not appear to be defined as fine arts under §255-1-20 (Definitions) of the Town Code.

- By the town's own definition of FINE ARTS ("The study and creation of visual works of art requiring highly developed techniques and skills. Such art forms include, but are not limited to, painting, **sculpture**, printmaking, ceramics and photography"), **sculpture** is included. Furthermore, I would attest that wood and metal work as an artform, functional or not, is one of the greatest fine art expressions there is, and a highly developed technique that requires both skill and artistic vision.
- Donald Judd's career is an example of artistic expression transformed in both form and function. Judd started as a painter and transitioned into furniture fabrication to express his fine art form through functional design. His work has been lauded by critics and sits on exhibit at galleries such as Gagosian and David Zwirner next to other fine artists. His retrospective exhibition is currently on view at MoMa.
- Another example of a fine artist expression via woodwork, Wharton Esherick brought modern woodworking into the realm of fine art starting in the late 1920s. Esherick began his career as a painter, but when he turned his attention to utilitarian objects such as chairs, bowls, tables, he became widely renowned. He later went on to fulfill commissions for everything from flagpoles to interior treatments, wall panels and shelves, even sofas – all deemed as art. He believed, as do I, that the approach to sculptural design is a balance of physical and abstract expressionism, similar to that explored in painting and other fine arts. His words ring true: "If I can't make something beautiful out of what I find in my own backyard, I have better not make anything."
- Dia Art Foundation, which is committed to advancing, realizing, and preserving the vision of artists, exhibits predominantly sculpture and light installations. Dia fulfills its mission by commissioning single artist projects and exhibitions that include on-site installations. Their grounds are host to a focused group of sculptors, fabricators, and artist expressions of the 1960s and 1970s, many of whom fall into the category of wood and metal work expressionism.

- Upon a generic Google search, it is found “historically, the five main **fine arts** were painting, **sculpture**, architecture, music, and poetry.” The art world is evolving and along with it are the techniques, mediums and ways of artistic expression. Our community has always fostered the arts, and Springs in particular is a place of monumental inspiration and historically renowned artisans. I feel my addition to the threads of this community are exhibited through my works, through my dedication to the arts, and to fostering a continued pledge to the artistic community of our town. I hope you will share my passion for preserving these artistic corners of our landscape.

Re Point 5: Size of studio cannot exceed the footprint of the residence. In this situation, since the studio will be tied to the residence on the adjoining parcel and the Town’s records indicate that the footprint of this building is 1,040 sq. ft. the size of the proposed studio should not exceed that.

- Please see resubmitted floorplan and survey depicting art studio at 1,040 square foot scale.

I am available, via cell (631) 433-4926 or email nickbcohen@gmail.com should you have any further questions, concerns or inquiries.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Nick B Cohen