

HOOKSETT PLANNING BOARD
UNOFFICIAL MEETING MINUTES
SNHU TOUR
March 31, 2016

Present: Dick Marshall (Planning Board Chair), Frank Kotowski (Planning Board Member), Don Winterton (Planning Board Council Rep.), Paul Scarpetti (Planning Board Member), Dean Shankle (Town Administrator), Diane Boyce (DPW Director), Carolyn Cronin (Assistant Town Planner), Monther Mardini (SNHU), Patricia Whitney (SNHU), Joe Sergi (SNHU), Jeff Kevan (TFMoran) and Gordon Leedy (VHB)

Excused Planning Board Members: Muamer Durakovic, Tom Prasol, Tom Walsh, Denise Grafton, Mike DiBitetto and Chris Stelmach

Meeting called to order at 10:00 a.m.

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Discussion

Current SNHU projects in progress are the Shapiro Library renovation, Gustafson Welcome Center, proposed athletic complex and proposed new dorm.

After the new dorm on East Side Drive is completed, the old residential buildings on the river will be demolished. The new dorm will have the same number of beds as the buildings to be removed. SNHU is not trying to increase the on-campus student population. While SNHU has been experiencing some growth, not a lot of campus growth is planned. They are just changing the dynamic of how people use the campus. Currently, there are about 5,000 students on campus. About half are commuters. SNHU will continue to purchase land adjacent to the campus for future opportunities, but have no plans for the additional land.

In regard to traffic and parking for athletic events, SNHU facilities staff checked in with the athletic staff for some numbers. Currently, weekend athletic events generate around 1,500 to 2,000 spectators with no issues related to parking. These numbers will not change by building the new athletic complex. The new complex will improve parking.

SNHU is seeking approval for tree clearing prior to site plan approval for the new dorm and athletic complex. The trees need to be cleared by May 15th to not impact long-eared bats, which are now a concern. They need to clear while the bats are gone, but prior to the migratory bird nesting period. The only reason they need the waiver is because the site plan application is already filed. If not for the site plan application, they would be able to clear the land without the Planning Board's permission. However, now that there is an application on file and the clearing relates to the dorm plan, they need the waiver to clear. Even if the plan hadn't been filed, SNHU wanted to be transparent about their plans to clear trees with the Board and the community.

The Planning Board requested more information on the logging and log transportation, specifically how many trucks will be required to transport the logs and what roads they will use

to take them away. SNHU will ask the contractors the logging questions and have that information for the April 18th public hearing. The Planning Board also wants to know the long-terms plans for Victory Lane.

The Planning Board requested a Master Plan from SNHU. SNHU said they can look into doing a Master Plan after these current projects are done, if it is warranted. The Planning Board said they have been promised SNHU's Master Plan several times over the years and never received anything. The Board wants a build-out study. The Board can't plan for the community and the traffic without that information. SNHU said they are maintaining the number of dorms. They may replace more dorms in the future to get rid out outdated buildings and provide better quality housing. SNHU had a Master Plan about ten years ago that identified new dorms as a goal. They are just addressing that now. SNHU could do a 5-Year Plan but it's very hard to predict growth in the industry. They didn't predict the success of their online program and they can't forecast revenue and growth because they don't have an endowment like other schools.

SNHU has offices in the Manchester Millyard but have recently found it to be a very expensive arrangement. A possibility in discussion could be to potentially move those offices to the CB Sullivan building. Ideally, though, they would like to keep those offices off-campus in Manchester. They don't know what will happen with the mill offices, but there could be changes in that at some point. SNHU wanted to put that on the table.

SNHU has agreed to come to the Planning Board in the future with their plans for:

1. New Dorm
2. Athletic Complex
3. Welcome Center
4. Parking and traffic plans
5. How the Millyard operation would look if relocated to the CB Sullivan property.

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Campus Tour and Lunch

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn A. Cronin
Assistant Planner