

TOWN OF JAFFREY
Jaffrey, New Hampshire
PLANNING BOARD
Meeting Minutes
April 10, 2012

Present: Chairman Merrell, Members, Deschenes, Despres, Doane, Grodin, Kresge, McCarthy and Moore

Absent: Selectmen's Representative MacIsaac

Staff: Recording Secretary Lemire, JoAnne Carr, Director of Planning and Economic Development

MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL

On a motion by Doane, seconded by Kresge the minutes of the March 14, 2012 meeting were approved as submitted. (5-0)

PRELIMINARY HEARING

Erin Lovett / Edward Ruck - Pet Crematory 52 Fitzgerald Dr.

Ms. Lovett and her husband are interested in starting up a pet crematory business in a leased area at 52 Fitzgerald Drive in the Drumlin Industrial Park. The business would accommodate all animals up to two hundred pounds and the ashes would either be disbursed back to the owner or disposed of on private land. Ms. Lovett feels the business is one that will not really be noticed.

Chairman Merrell asked how the animals would be cremated. Ms. Lovett explained that they will be purchasing a refurbished Crawford brand unit. Chairman Merrell asked if it will be certified by the manufacturer that it will perform to the standards. Ms. Lovett stated that it is certified and explained that the unit will have two chambers burning at 1,600 degrees. The actual cremation takes place in the first chamber and any remains fall down to the second chamber and burnt a second time. In the end what is left is ash and small bone particle. Once the animal is cremated at such a high temperature there is nothing left. Pentobarbital is the active ingredient in any euthanasia solution but that, along with any disease, is burned off long before 1,600 degrees. As for harmful chemicals or biodegradable issues there are none. Chairman Merrell asked if the cremation process added anything to the mix. Ms. Lovett stated that there is no embalming or anything like that.

Chairman Merrell asked what happens to the exhaust. Ms. Lovett stated that because it burns a second time there is nothing coming out; it is smokeless and odorless.

Member Kresge asked if there is State permitting involved. Ms. Lovett replied that there is an air permit required and granted through the State DES. The business they are purchasing the equipment through will help with that process and the permit will be obtained prior to them opening. Member Kresge asked if the machinery runs on fuel oil. Ms. Lovett replied that it will be propane; tanks currently exist and are piped into the area they will be leasing.

Member Moore asked if the air permit was the only permit required by DES. Ms. Lovett replied for NH, yes. Additionally there may be town codes to comply with.

Chairman Merrell asked if there is monitoring equipment involved with the exhaust as far as DES is concerned. Is there any verification that there is no particulate matter going up the exhaust? Ms. Lovett explained that it comes with the machine and the way the machine is made up. There is a minimum stack height of four feet above the building. The maximum is whatever is requested or required by the town.

Due to the high heat used in the process Member Grodin suggested that Ms. Lovett speak with the Fire

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Chief prior to coming before the board formally.

Member Doane asked if they would be on-site running the operation. Ms. Lovett stated that when the machinery is running they will be there. It would not be in operation unattended.

Member Moore asked if the State dictated anything special about this type of business. Ms. Lovett replied that New Hampshire does not have strict rules however the machine has limitations. It can burn up to two hundred pounds at one time with a seventy-five pound an hour rate. Anything beyond that would not be working in compliance with the machine.

Member Moore asked if this is being approached as a business scenario or a funeral home mentality. Ms. Lovett stated that they would like to grow into a funeral home mentality where if a pet owner wanted to view their pet prior to cremation or to stay for the process there would be accommodations allowing them to do that. The goal is to make it as personal as possible. Member Moore asked what other businesses were in the building. Ms. Lovett is aware of a granite company and previously Apollo Steel was there. As for their unit, if you are facing the building they will be on the left front with their own entrance and loading dock.

Member Kresge asked how they will store the animals in queue. Ms. Lovett stated that they will have a 24 cubic foot freezer. The only other equipment needed will be a processor which will grind into dust any remaining bone particles.

Member Doane asked if they would work directly with the public. Ms. Lovett explained that they can market to the public allowing someone to come directly to them however most businesses of this nature will make accounts with local vet's where the pet is brought to the crematorium and the crematorium returns it. They are intending to advertise to the public and veterinarians within a sixty mile radius of Jaffrey.

Since 52 Fitzgerald Drive is on the public sewer system Ms. JoAnne Carr, Director of Planning and Economic Development asked if there are any issues with bodily fluids. Ms. Lovett stated that all animals are frozen and bagged so nothing will be leaking out. As for odor, the secondary chamber is the ventilation and by burning a second time it removes the odor. Any unfrozen animals brought directly to the facility will be frozen on site unless immediately cremated in which case any fluids would be burned up in the process.

Ms. Carr asked if there were any provisions in place for keeping animals frozen in the event of a power outage. Ms. Lovett stated that they do have a generator and it will be permanently on site. Member Doane commented that the board may like to see it hard wired with an automatic start. Mr. Ruck added that they will first check with the property owner to determine if the building is already equipped with a generator.

Thinking that it may take a while to go through DES, Member Kresge asked the board if they would be willing to hear the application prior to the air permit being issued. Ms. Lovett stated that the company (Mathews Cremation) they are purchasing from will guide them with the DES application; Mathews will complete the paperwork regarding the machine and the applicant will complete the portion regarding the space. The information will be compiled into one and submitted. There has been no indication that it could take some time.

Member Grodin feels that DES approval should be granted prior to the board hearing the application.

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Chairman Merrell asked if they had a time line. Ms. Lovett replied that they are hoping for June. Chairman Merrell asked about the hours of operation. Ms. Lovett replied that they both have full time work so in the beginning it would be week-ends. As the business grows she could foresee a day mid-week as well. However, in an effort to keep the business efficient she does not believe it would be a seven day a week operation.

Member Doane asked if pets will be placed together. Ms. Lovett replied that will only happen when ashes are not being returned to the owners.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Merrell called the public hearing to order at 7:00 p.m.

APPLICATION ACCEPTANCE

None

PUBLIC HEARING – NEW

None

DECISIONS

OTHER BUSINESS

- Election of Officers
On a motion by Doane, seconded by Kresge the board re-elected Ed Merrell to the position of Chairman.
On a motion by Doane, seconded by Deschenes the board re-elected Mark Kresge to the position of Vice Chairman.
On a motion by McCarthy, seconded by Kresge the board elected Tom Doane to the position of Secretary.
- Annual Review – Master Plan
Member Merrell prepared a draft which was distributed to the board.
- Working session – Class VI Roads
Draft copies of the Jaffrey Zoning Ordinance and the Rules and Regulations to control Subdivision were distributed. The board was asked to give the documents another look and come up with some bullets to be considered at the May 8, 2012 meeting. Chairman Merrell also asked Member Grodin to draft some language that satisfies the maintenance issue.
- Member Kresge pointed out that the board will soon be receiving an application for a cell tower; the balloon test is scheduled for Wednesday, April 11, 2012. The ground rules are different for cell towers; they are dictated by Federal law. There is a hard thirty day limit from the time the application is turned in for the board to request additional information. It was suggested that the board members make a point of viewing the application once it is received.
- Noise and Odor ordinance

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The noise meter has been delivered and is being used by Chairman Merrell to collect measurements at various businesses around town. The board will discuss the findings at the May 8, 2012 meeting and decide how to proceed.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Submitted:

Erlene Lemire
Recording Secretary

Attest:

Edward Merrell
Chairman, Jaffrey Planning Board