

Meeting Minutes North Hampton Planning Board Tuesday, December 3, 2013 at 6:30pm Town Hall, 231 Atlantic Avenue

These minutes were prepared as a reasonable summary of the essential content of this meeting, not as a transcription.

Members present: Shep Kroner, Chair; Laurel Pohl, Vice Chair, Joseph Arena, Tim Harned, Dan Derby and Phil Wilson, Select Board Representative.

Members absent: Michael Hornsby

Alternates present: Nancy Monaghan

Others present: Jennifer Rowden, RPC Circuit Rider, and Wendy Chase, Recording Secretary

Mr. Kroner convened the meeting at 6:35 p.m. and noted Mr. Hornsby's absence.

Mr. Kroner seated Ms. Monaghan for Mr. Hornsby.

I. Old Business

Case #13:02 – Harbor Street Limited Partnership, 7B Emery Lane, Stratham, NH 03885. The
Applicant, Joseph Falzone, Harbor Street Limited Partnership, submits a pre-application Design
Review pursuant to <u>Subdivision Regulation VI.A.2. – Design Review.</u> Property owner: Harbor
Street Limited Partnership, 7B Emery Lane, Stratham, NH 03885; Property location: 160-186
Post Road, North Hampton; M/L 018-038-000; Zoning District R-1: High Density and R-2:
Medium Density. This Case is continued from the November 5, 2013 meeting.

The case has been continued over the past few months pending the acquisition of a Conservation Easement on the property.

Mr. Wilson moved and Dr. Arena seconded the motion to continue Case #13:02 to the January 7, 2014 meeting.

The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion (7-0).

II. New Business

 Case #13:14 – Cadillac Auto of Boston, c/o Estate of Peter Fuller, 43 Lincoln Street, Belmont, MA 02478. The Applicant proposes to subdivide a 10.14 parcel of land into two lots, "A" and "B", consisting of 5.02 acres for proposed lot "A" and 5.12 acres for proposed lot "B". Property owner: Same as Applicant; property location: 14 Maple Road, North Hampton, NH; M/L 006-065-000; Zoning District R-2 – Residential Medium Density.

In attendance for this application:

Jack Szemplinski, Benchmark Engineering, Inc.

Mr. Szemplinski began his presentation by submitting a Drainage Study to a few members of the Board. He said that the Town's Engineer, Steven Keach of Keach and Nordstrom did not review the Drainage Study, but they spoke to him and he has no issues with the project. Mr. Keach did receive a copy of the proposed subdivision plan.

Ms. Rowden referred to her report to the Board and said that she recommended the Applicant submit a Drainage Study.

Dr. Arena commented that this type of proposal came to the Planning Board a few years ago, and asked Mr. Wilson of his recollection of what transpired.

Mr. Wilson said that there was a plan years ago but the deal fell through because the potential buyers of the proposed lot weren't going to be able to build the type of house they wanted because the land was too wet. He commented that that was hearsay information he received from Mr. Fuller at the time.

Mr. Kroner asked whether or not the Conservation Commission reviewed the proposed plan. Mr. Szemplinski said that he believed the application was reviewed by the Conservation Commission. It was determined that the application was not reviewed by the Conservation Commission.

Mr. Kroner commented on the proposed plan and said that the thin strip of upland area used to meet the required one (1) acre of contiguous upland stretches the intent of the Ordinance. He said that there is a lot of ledge on the eastern portion of the lot also.

Mr. Szemplinski said that there are actually three (3) acres of contiguous upland on one lot and two (2) acres of contiguous upland on the other lot. He said the test pits on the site came back very good and is certainly suitable for leaching fields, and mentioned that any type of development on the property would require NH DES and the Building Inspector's approvals.

Discussion ensued on the small size of the building envelope. Mr. Szemplinski said that a $50' \times 30'$ ranch style home would fit within the building envelope and meet all of the area and wetland setback requirements.

Mr. Wilson commented that there is sufficient room to build that type of house, and the test pits show that there are areas to locate septic systems, but the plan doesn't depict the ledge on the property. He also voiced concern over the two proposed driveways being so close together at the top of the ridge on Maple Road.

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92 Mr. Wilson moved and Mr. Harned seconded the motion to take jurisdiction of the application 93 for Case #13:14 - 14 Maple Road 2-lot subdivision. 94 The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion (7-0). 95 96 Mr. Kroner opened the Public Hearing at 6:55 p.m. to give anyone wishing to provide comment 97 on the application the opportunity to do so. 98 99 David Buffington, owner of 59 Woodland Road – questioned whether the proposed footprint of 100 the houses shown on the plan were "etched in stone" in regards to the size and location of them 101 on the lots. 102 103 Mr. Szemplinski said that the houses built on the lots will meet the area and wetland setback 104 requirements. 105 106 Mr. Wilson commented that the Board is acting on the subdivision of the land; not what is 107 proposed to be built on the lots. He opined that the area is assessed at the "higher end", and purchasers of the lots will probably want to build larger houses on them; therefore he doubts 108 109 that the depiction of the houses footprint's on the plan are "etched in stone". 110 111 Mr. Kroner closed the Public Hearing at 6:58 p.m. 112 Mr. Kroner said that he would like feedback from the Conservation Commission. He said that 113 114 even though the one (1) acre of contiguous upland shown on the plan meets the "letter of the 115 law"; it does not meet the intent of it. He commented that the area is in the wetland 116 conservation district and is not sure what makes up the wetlands, but during periods of high rain events, there have been flooding problems in that area. 117 118 119 Dr. Arena said that the Conservation Commission was consulted when the property was before 120 the Board years ago, and suggested the Commission bring the Planning Board up to speed. He 121 also mentioned that the stone wall would need to be breached for the driveways. 122 123 Mr. Szemplinski said that the drainage on Maple Road is poor; the water runs to the Woodland intersection and flows into the Little River. 124 125 126 Mr. Harned said that he is concerned with the small amount of buildable space within the 127 setbacks, and that a 1,500 sq. ft. house proposed to be built is unreasonable for that area. He is 128 concerned that there will not be adequate space for the type of house people are going to want 129 to build there. He said the proposal may meet the letter of the Town Ordinances but doesn't 130 think it meets the spirit and intent of the Town Ordinances. 131 132 Mr. Derby said that there seems to be enough concern from the members to have the proposal 133 brought to the Conservation Commission for a review. 134 135 Mr. Wilson commented that he isn't sure what the Conservation Commission could say that 136 would affect the Planning Board's decision. The Drainage Study shows a minor increase in a 100-

year storm event and any runoff water from impervious surfaces on both lots will run onto the

ten (10) acres, which is mostly wetlands; a natural surge tank for water. He said he is happy to

send things to the Conservation Commission for their opinion when proposals are going to affect conservation values of land, by either affecting the subdivision, or abutting the subdivision, but doesn't think this proposal does that. He also said that there is a general provision in the subdivision regulations that states that standards set are minimum standards, not maximum standards, and the Planning Board has the authority to reject an application because it doesn't meet the spirit and intent of the ordinance, but it has to be a good and solid reason why the Board would reject an application, as the Planning Board has learned in the past.

Mr. Wilson said that the Board could consider adding conditions, such as, requiring a letter from the Public Works Director stating that the proposed driveway configuration is safe and reasonable, and ask that the Conservation Commission review the application, or provide a letter stating that there is no detrimental effect to the values to the land of this proposal.

Dr. Arena said that there wouldn't be a problem if the lots were combined and build just one house.

Mr. Szemplinski said that the applicant meets the subdivision regulations for a two lot subdivision, and doesn't believe the owner would consider combining the lots and building one house rather than two.

The general consensus of the Board was to have the Applicant meet with the Conservation Commission to review the Application. Mr. Kroner suggested they solicit feedback from the Conservation Commission, specifically on the utilization of short narrow strips of land used to satisfy the one (1) acre of contiguous upland.

Mr. Derby moved and Dr. Arena seconded the motion to refer the Applicant to the Conservation Commission to review the proposed application, and to continue Case #13:14 to the January 7, 2014 Planning Board meeting.

The vote passed in favor of the motion (6 in favor, 1 opposed and 0 abstention). Mr. Wilson opposed.

Mr. Szemplinski was informed that the next Conservation Commission was on December 10, 2013.

2. Case #13:15 – James Jones, 207 Lafayette Road, North Hampton, NH 03862. The Applicant requests a Preliminary Consultation for the purpose of seeking a waiver to a formal site plan application and approval for property located at 40-42 Lafayette Terrace. The Applicant cites Sections XV.B.1 and 2, and V.A.2., and 3 of the Site Plan Review Regulations. Property owner: Same as the Applicant; property location: 40-42 Lafayette Terrace, North Hampton; M/L 021-014-001, 021-034-000 and 021-035-000; Zoning District: I/B/R – Industrial Business Residential.

<u>In attendance for this application</u>: Scott Fogg, Shaheen and Gordon, Applicant's Counsel

James Jones, Owner/Applicant

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The Applicant was before the Board for a Preliminary Consultation which does not require abutter notification or publication in the newspaper (RSA 676:4 I(d). In a Preliminary Consultation, the application may present a rough sketch or other information useful in defining the general scope and concept of the proposal, and the Board may make suggestions to assist the applicant in preparing the formal application.

Attorney Fogg spoke on behalf of his client, James Jones. Mr. Fogg explained that Mr. Jones purchased the property in 2005 and has used the property consistently in the manner that it is currently used for since that time, which is primarily for the storage of large commercial items. It is consistent with the historical use of the property dating back decades. He explained that there are less items being stored on the property today than there has been in the past. Mr. Jones stores equipment further back on the property and they do not determine that to be an expansion of the use on the property. Mr. Fogg, as part of the application, provided testimony from the former Code Enforcement Officer, Red Mabey and the current Code Enforcement Officer, Kevin Kelley stating that they have no issue with the storage of the commercial items on the property.

Mr. Fogg said that Mr. Jones is allowed, by Statute, to cut up to 20 cords of wood per year, and Mr. Kelley testified in his deposition, that he estimates no more than 20 cords of wood was cut on that location.

Mr. Fogg referred to Site Plan Review Regulation V.A.2, "The Planning Board shall consider the size and proportion of any building addition when determining whether site plan review is required". He said that it is consistent with the historical use and is less in volume. He referred to Site Plan Regulation V.A.3, "the Planning Board may, at its discretion, waive this requirement if there is no anticipated impact on traffic, off-street parking, drainage, municipal services, or the surrounding neighborhood." He said that both Mr. Mabey and Mr. Kelley stated in their testimony that there was no impact on any of those items; they also testified that they could think of no reason why a site plan on this property would not be approved. Mr. Fogg opined that a waiver to a site plan review is appropriate in this case.

Ms. Rowden said that her concern was not the amount of wood cut on the property; it is the storage of equipment further back on the lot, and this is why she feels it appears to be an expansion of the use of the property and recommends the Board require a Site Plan.

Ms. Monaghan asked where in Mr. Kelley's deposition it stated that the logging on the property was legal. Mr. Fogg said that the Board did not have that page of the deposition and he handed out copies of the page to the members of the Board.

Mr. Fogg explained that a suit was brought on his client, Mr. Jones, and that is the reason for the depositions made by Mr. Mabey and Mr. Kelley. He said that every claim in the suit has been settled, except for, whether or not a site plan should be required. The trial is set for April 2014, and that is why they are before the Board requesting a waiver to the site plan review.

Mr. Wilson said that the contested issues between Mr. Jones and the Town of North Hampton had to do with Mr. Jones taking trees off his abutting property, which is town owned-land, and the settlement was that he would plant trees on the land owned by the Town. Mr. Wilson said

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that the catalyst for the waiver request is that the Select Board wants a site plan for the property just like the Town has required every other property that comes to the Board that has a site plan issue and doesn't have a site plan on record. He said that the Planning Board requires site plans to see whether in fact there are potential problems, such as a recent case the Board had on Lafayette Road where it was discovered that a lot line ran through an existing building. The Board requires site plans that show there are certificate of monumentation so there won't be any confusion of where the property boundary lines are and there won't be any confusion on whether there is an expansion of use on the property; the problem the Board is trying to resolve is to have a site plan on record.

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Mr. Wilson moved and Dr. Arena seconded the motion that the Planning Board advises the Applicant that a Site Plan Review is required.

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Dr. Arena asked if Mr. Fogg was aware that Mr. Wilson is a member of the Select Board, and he replied that he was aware of that fact.

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Mr. Fogg asked Mr. Wilson if it were true, that historically, Mr. Wilson has recused himself on cases involving Mr. Jones before the Planning Board.

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Mr. Wilson said he did not remember and said that that was irrelevant. He said that he has no financial interest in Mr. Jones and no interest in this case other than the best interest of the people of North Hampton and if Mr. Fogg is requesting that he recuse himself, his answer is, "No".

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Ms. Pohl said that she would like to add to the motion on the table, "that if further evidence is submitted in regards to the deposition, that the Board receive a complete copy of the deposition".

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Mr. Fogg said that he had no problem providing a copy to the Board before they made their final decision.

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Mr. Wilson reminded the Chair there was a motion on the table and conversation from the applicant was inappropriate during board deliberation.

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Mr. Kroner agreed that there was a motion on the table, and it has been seconded.

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Mr. Derby asked if it was unusual to have a site plan request come from the Select Board. He said he was unsure, at the beginning, how this came about.

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Mr. Wilson said that, in his opinion, the way the application was delivered it was deflecting the underlying issue. He said that there is ongoing litigation on this property and believes it is in the best interest of the Town to require a Site Plan.

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Mr. Kroner was unsure of Ms. Pohl's proposed addition to the motion as it relates to the issue before the Board. Ms. Pohl said that is why she used the word "if".

December 3, 2013 Page 7 of 11 278 Mr. Harned said that he saw nothing within the paperwork submitted to the Board on the 279 Preliminary Consultation that referred to the ongoing litigation regarding this property or the 280 exact issue pertaining to the litigation. 281 282 Mr. Wilson said that he would have liked to see the applicant state that the site plan is the bone 283 of contention in the ongoing litigation and they are requesting the Planning Board rule that a 284 Site Plan is not necessary, but instead they chose to argue based on certain criteria of the Site Plan Review Regulations. 285 286 287 Mr. Harned said that there is a lot of relevant information regarding this property and the law 288 suit with the Town that the rest of the Board does not have copies of.

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Ms. Pohl said that she thinks there is more information on the missing pages of the deposition because she has been on the Board for nine years, and this property has been before the Board a couple of times regarding complaints.

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Mr. Fogg asked to speak.

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Mr. Kroner ruled to allow him to speak.

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Mr. Fogg said that they were not trying to "sandbag" the Board. He said he was invited to come before the Board by Attorney Matt Serge who is representing the Town in this matter. It was a joint idea to come before the Planning Board solely to talk about a Site Plan Application because every other aspect regarding the litigation has been settled. It was done as a joint effort to reasonably try to come to a conclusion on this, outside of litigation.

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Mr. Kroner said that in his years of experience on the Board he realizes the effort that needs to be put into a Site Plan Application but thinks that a Site Plan accomplishes a lot of good, not only for the Town, but also for the property owner. The property has more value if it has an approved site plan and approved use on the property. He said that he believes that there needs to be a Site Plan and it will probably relieve tension that appears to exist.

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Dr. Arena said he didn't understand why they did not want to do a Site Plan, he wondered if it was intended to obfuscate an issue and try to hide something.

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Mr. Fogg said their issue with it is that the previous owners were never required to submit a Site Plan; it seems unduly to put the onus on Mr. Jones when the business is being run the same way it has for decades.

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Dr. Arena said that the Planning Board has been burned in the past, and if there is nothing to hide then the way to resolve the issue is to submit an Application for a Site Plan Review.

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Ms. Pohl said that it has nothing to do with Mr. Jones personally; it's the timing. The Board recently went through an issue where a site plan was required and it was determined that a lot line went right through a building, so that got resolved; it is reasons like this that the Planning Board always requires a site plan.

Ms. Monaghan said that the Circuit Rider recommends a Site Plan be required because of an expansion of use, and there is a motion on the floor to advise the Applicant that a Site Plan is required.

Mr. Fogg asked if he could speak to Dr. Arena's remarks. Mr. Kroner asked for the Board's opinion, and it was a consensus not to allow it, because the question was called on the motion on the table.

It was a sense of the Board that a Site Plan is required for the following reasons:

Advice from the RPC Circuit Rider that it is advisable.

• The opinion of the Select Board that it is advisable.

 Opinions from Board members that it is wise to have site plans on record on every property in the I-B/R District.

• The Planning Board has consistently required site plans for properties where site plans are not on file.

The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion (7-0).

Mr. Kroner called for a recess of the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Mr. Kroner reconvened the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

3. Case #13:16 – Ben Auger, 255 Portsmouth Avenue, Greenland, NH 03833. The Applicant, on behalf of the owners, Seventy-Two Atlantic Avenue, LLC, requests a Preliminary Consultation for a proposal to construct a 100' x 250' indoor riding arena in the R-2 Zoning District with 3.10 acres. Property location: 72 Atlantic Avenue; Property owners: Seventy-Two Atlantic Avenue, LLC, C/O William H.M. Beckett, 111 Maplewood Avenue, Suite D. Portsmouth, NH 03801; M/L 006-003-000; Zoning district: R-2.

In attendance for this application:

 Ben Auger, General Contractor to the owners of the property Dana Lynch, Civil Works Engineering, Applicant's Engineer

The Applicant was before the Board for a Preliminary Consultation which does not require Abutter notification or publication in the newspaper (RSA 676:4 I(d). In a Preliminary Consultation, the application may present a rough sketch or other information useful in defining the general scope and concept of the proposal, and the Board may make suggestions to assist the applicant in preparing the formal application.

Mr. Auger said that the owners of the subject property sent out letters to the abutters explaining their proposal and submitted a copy of the letter to the members of the Board.

Mr. Auger explained that it is the intent for the owners of Runnymede Farm and 72 Atlantic Avenue to combine resources and make Runnymede a horse farm that can survive long term. The owners are proposing to construct a $100' \times 250'$ indoor riding arena; the interior will consist of a $100' \times 200'$ arena, plus a $50' \times 100'$ area for tack, storage and viewing, and the height will not exceed the Towns' height requirement.

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what it will look like.

U	ecember 3, 2013 Page 9 of 11
372 373	Dr. Arena disclosed that he is an abutter to the property, but would not be recusing himself on this case.
373 374	tills case.
375 375	Dr. Arena said that the yellow house would be torn down and he advised Mr. Auger to contact
376	the Heritage Commission due to the proposed demolition delay ordinance currently being
377	developed in hopes of putting it on the town ballot in March.
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379	Mr. Auger was informed by Ms. Chase that the Chair of the Heritage Commission, Donna Etela
380	was contacted and she will be in touch with Mr. Auger regarding the razing of the house. He
381	explained that there was a lot of significant effort on the owners' part to find a way to use the
382	house.
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384	Dr. Arena said that he did have concerns at first regarding the proposed building, but learned
385	that it would be camouflaged with landscaping.
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387	Ms. Rowden said that the indoor riding arena is an acceptable use under the Agricultural
388	Ordinance, but with the size of the proposed arena she recommended that the Board require a
389	Site Plan Review, specifically for consideration of the potential stormwater impacts given the
390	proximity to the Little River.
391 392	Mr. Kroner said that he believes a Site Plan is required and referred to Site Plan Review
393	Regulation, V.A.1., <i>The construction of any non-residential use</i> . He said the Board is in the
394	process of adopting a Demolition Delay Ordinance for historic properties in Town; the intent of
395	it is to allow time to capture history by at least taking photographs, but there is no requirement
396	that the Heritage Commission can actually stop a landowner from demolishing what they want
397	to demolish.
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399	Mr. Derby suggested supplying the applicant with a copy of the Demolition Delay Ordinance if
100	the case were to move forward.
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102	Mr. Kroner referred to the Agricultural Ordinance and noted the 4-acre requirement for the
103	amount of animals allowed without a conditional use permit, and said that although this is an
104	existing use, the proposal is an expansion of an existing use.
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106	Ms. Pohl voiced concerns over the parking situation. She commented that the property is
107	currently beautifully landscaped but it's starting to look like a venue for things like exhibitions
108 100	and horse shows, she is concerned of the number of people the viewing area will draw in.
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110 111	Mr. Auger said they have twelve (12) horses and stalls and do not intend to increase that
111 112	number. There are two (2) managers that live at the site and there will be some people coming
112 113	for riding lessons.
+13 114	Dr. Arena said that people park along the north side of Atlantic Ave to watch the Frisian horses;
415	they are magnificent.
116 116	Mr. Derby said it would be a good idea for Mr. Auger to come up with architectural renderings

of the proposed arena so that the people surrounding the property will have a chance to see

Mr. Kroner said that although it wasn't a valid Public Hearing he allowed the people in the audience an opportunity to comment.

Mr. Lynch explained that the architectural renderings overlap with the drainage design. They will be designing all the drainage systems to the NH DES guidelines. The design of the building is an important element in how they will design the drainage.

Jeff Carlin – Mr. Carlin said that he is the son-in-law of Jenny Weldon, an abutter to the west of the subject property, and has been for over fifty (50) years. Mr. Carlin urged the Board to require the applicant to submit a site plan review application. He said that the proposed arena will be within 100-feet of Ms. Weldon's house. He voiced concerns over the size of the building and wondered if it was an appropriate use for this location. He asked Mr. Auger if he could provide any insight on whether or not there will be horse shows or exhibitions.

Mr. Auger said they are not adding anymore horses; they will be providing riding lessons and training sessions for the horses. He has never heard the owners mention horse shows or exhibitions. He said the arena needs to be so big because the horses weigh up to 1,500 lbs and need the room to run; there will be no seating in the arena.

Jim Weldon – Mr. Weldon said his mother is the abutter at 74 Atlantic Ave. He submitted pictures of an aerial photo of the property to some members of the Board. He took the aerial form Google maps and superimposed a scaled down image of Mr. Lynch's drawing onto it to give a visual idea to the Board members of how the proposed arena would look. He said that he spoke to Alan Perkins and one of the concerns is that Runnymede wants to be self sustaining economically and wonders how that can be accomplished when building a multimillion dollar building. The size of the building is out of character in the area; every house in the neighborhood could fit inside the arena. The impact on his mother's property will be significant; it will cut off the east wind and view. The view from her kitchen window will be a long steel wall.

Mr. Auger said that they are aware of the impact with this sized building. They have put in a tremendous amount of effort to keep the building low into the landscape.

Florence Dykstra, 78 Atlantic Ave., - said that she loves the horses but is concerned with the large size of the building.

Susan Baldini, 15 Runnymede Drive – asked if they considered any other locations for the building on the property, such as the Perkins' property. She said that she would be looking at a solid steel wall in its proposed location. Mr. Auger said that it would be quite a distance from the barn if it were located anywhere else. Dr. Arena said that they would like to have the arena close to the barn.

Mr. Harned moved and Ms. Monaghan seconded the motion that it is the sense of the Board that a Site Plan Review is required for this proposal.

Mr. Wilson said that the occasion to present the need for a Site Plan is when the builder applies to for a building permit.

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Mr. Kroner said that he was unclear if a motion needed to be made; he said the real purpose of the Preliminary Consultation is to air out concerns.

Mr. Harned agreed and withdrew his motion.

Mr. Kroner said what the applicant has heard is that the abutters are concerned with the size of the building, concerns on planned events, and if such events occur, the impact they will have. He said any Site Plan Review takes into consideration the impacts on the abutters.

Mr. Derby suggested that the applicant be prepared to discuss whether or not they plan to hold events. He said that if they propose to hold events, would that trigger a change of use? Ms. Rowden said that it wouldn't because it would still fall under the Agriculture Ordinance.

Mr. Wilson said it depends on what the Certificate of Occupancy states. He said what was implicit in a lot of the conversations, is that, this is proposed in a residential district and people have investments in their homes. It will be a challenge to come up with an architectural design of the building that won't be an "eyesore" to the abutters.

Dr. Arena said that the Board is going to require a lot more information; this meeting is just a "fly by" and there are a lot of questions about the building that will need to be addressed.

Mr. Auger was informed that the next step is to apply for a Site Plan Review.

III. Other Business

1. Review of the 2014 Planning Board Meeting Schedule. There were no issues with the meeting dates for 2014. The Board took no action.

Mr. Kroner suggested the Board review the information from Mr. Ganotis on the proposed amendments to 409.9 and 410. Ms. Chase said she would provide copies as part of the Board's Work Session packets.

Mr. Kroner informed the Board that he would like the Board to take up Accessory Structures over this next year. Ms. Rowden has some ideas regarding the topic for the Board to discuss.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m. without objection.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy V. Chase Recording Secretary

Approved January 21, 2014