

Stratham Planning Board Meeting Minutes May 06, 2020

Virtual Meeting/Conference Call

5 Time: 7:00 PM

Members Present: Mike Houghton, Selectmen's Representative

7 Tom House, Member
8 Robert Roseen, Member
9 David Canada, Member

10 Robert Baskerville, Alternate Member 11 Pamela Hollasch, Alternate Member

Colin Laverty, Member

14 Members Absent: None.

16 Staff Present: Tavis Austin, Town Planner

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Mr. House welcomed everyone to the Town of Stratham Planning Board meeting for May 6th 2020. He said before they get started he is required to notify everyone that do to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the Covid-19 Pandemic in accordance with the Governor's Emergency order number 12 pursuant to executive order 2020-04 the public body is authorized to meet electronically. Please note that there is no physical location to reserve and listen contemporaneously this meeting is authorized pursuant to the emergency order however, in accordance with the emergency order, he is confirming that all members of the Planning Board have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through this platform and the public has access to listen and participate if necessary for this meeting. The public can dial in with the number 1-800 764-1559. Meeting materials are available through the town website and can be found by clicking on the agenda links under each category. The agenda includes information for accessing the meeting including Tavis Austin's number to call if there is a problem, 772-7391 extension 147 and he will be able to help someone get on. Mr. House asked everyone to silence their phones.

Mr. House said during roll call, each member should announce if anyone else is in the room with them during the meeting which is required under the right-to-know law 91 - A.

Mr. Austin took roll call; Canada, Houghton, House, Laverty, Roseen, Hollasch.

- Mr. Austin said to Jeremy since he just dialed in that Chairman House has gone through the 37
- provisions under the emergency order to meet telephonically like this and requested that 38
- everyone remain on mute until asked to speak or during comment periods as the Board may 39
- 40 allow.

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- 41 Mr. House said as they go through each one of the meeting items he is going to ask each
- applicant if they are alone and ask who is there for the applicant. 42

2. **Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes**

- **a.** April 22, 2020 44
- Mr. House reviewed the meeting minutes for April 22nd, 2020. 45
- Mr. House made a motion to approve the minutes and Mr. Canada seconded the motion. 46
- Mr. Austin took roll call, Canada, Aye; Houghton, Aye; House, Aye; Laverty, Aye; 47
- Roseen, Aye. 48

3. **Public Hearing(s):**

- a. Preliminary Consultation: Site Plan Review Permit. "Aberdeen West Community 50
- Solar Project" for implantation of 62 KW AC/ 90 KW DC ground mounted 51
- community solar photovoltaic system located on approximately ½ acre portion of the 52
- 29 acre parcel. The project will generate solar electricity for the residents at Aberdeen 53
- 54 West located at Aberdeen Drive, Stratham, NH 03885, Map 19 Lot 36 submitted by
- Ada Dolloff, President of Aberdeen West Cooperative Inc., 8 Aberdeen Drive, 55
- Stratham, NH 03885. 56
- Mr. House said the agenda has a link to the materials. 57
- Mr. Austin said that the first page of the application as linked provides all the information 58
- they have at this time. It is an application that has not been presented, but the association is 59
- able to proceed with an application for solar in this location. With the lack of 60
- dimensionality on the plan, it is difficult to tell if there are setback issues but he knows that 61
- the applicant has been working with other Staff at the Town to make sure that all of that 62
- remains is in compliance. A suggestion that they have for the Board in looking at this 63
- would be considerations of landscape screening if any, they don't know how tall the panels 64
- are necessarily but there is a seven-foot-tall perimeter fence. After the Board goes through 65
- comments they have, any questions they have, he would suggest you speak to. He believes 66 he heard that Jamie Oliver was on the line and he would like to see if she has any particular
- 68 questions as they proceed towards completing the site plan review permit and conditional
- use permit applications. 69
- Mr. House said that this is a preliminary consultation and he said that whatever either party 70
- says tonight is not binding. He said for this application of preliminary consultation from the 71
- Vermont Law School of Energy Clinics is Jamie Oliver. He asked her if she was alone. 72

- She said she was but believes that they are joined by two clinic students from the Energy Clinic, Christopher Haney and Adelaide Hardwick and also Kit Vincent from KW
- 75 management who is the solar installer that is working with the community on this project.
- Mr. House asked Christopher Haney, Adelaide Hardwick and Kit Vincent if they were alone.
- 78 They responded that they were alone.

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- 79 Mr. House asked if that was everyone speaking on behalf of the applicant.
- Ms. Oliver said she is not sure if anyone from Aberdeen West is on the phone or not and they did invite members from the Board to attend if they were able to.
 - Ms. Oliver said that the project as the Preliminary Consultation states would be approximately 90 KW DC and take up about half an acre of land on the Aberdeen West parcel. It will be a group net metering project which means it's going to be in the State of New Hampshire's net metering program and at this stage they are very hopeful that it will be at least partially if not fully funded by the Public Utilities Commission low-income solar Grant. She said the idea behind these projects is to provide community solar to lowerincome communities to help even the playing field for access to renewable energy. It will be located on the Lovell Road portion of the Aberdeen West property. She said she believes the solar array will be about 11 feet high at the tallest point and surrounded by a 7 foot fence. The three main items that they were hoping to get some input on from the Planning Board for tonight, as they start filling out the site plan review documents and conditional use permit, is guidance on screening. This will be visible from Lovell Road and the current conditions on site is that there are some low-lying grasses and shrubs that those are not sufficient in the current state to screen it. She wanted a little guidance on what type of screening the Town typically requires and would very much like to work with the Town to make sure that the project is in harmony with the Town's vision.
 - Ms. Oliver said the second item that they are looking for a little bit of guidance on is the performance bond in the zoning ordinance section 5.14. There is a performance bond requirement and they wanted the town to guide them to help them understand what is required there.
 - Ms. Oliver continued to the third item that they are seeking clarification on is in relation to the Wetland delineation. They reviewed the national Wetlands and the Town of Stratham Wetland Conservation District map which show that these are not in the Wetland area. She said they also are looking at the Zoning Ordinance section 11, wondering if they need to have an on-site field delineation done.
- Mr. House said that he will go down the list of names from the Board members to see if they have any questions or recommendations and so forth but before he does that, he asked if Mr. Austin could speak to the 5.14 performance bond.

Mr. Austin said the performance bond is something that's required by the Planning Board to put in place to protect the public component of the investment. If someone is proposing a project that had a storm drainage plan, a landscaping plan or certain design elements of a site plan then a performance bond is to be put in place to ensure that those elements are installed as approved by the Planning Board. An abstract example compared to solar would be a subdivision plan. A performance bond would cover all aspects of the roadway construction until those aspects were completed. Then the bonds can be reduced as elements are completed and then typically landscaping is 10% of the original bond. Then it's held for a year after installation of the planting. It may be that the Planning Board does not feel any need for a performance bond on this project based on how an ultimately evolves. For the screening input, the Board doesn't provide suggestions once the application is submitted. They review it and see if the screening seems effective or not. It may be some additional plantings or vegetated screening along the Lovell Road side of the project in which case that Landscaping would have to be subject to a performance bond that would last for one year post installation to make sure that everything survives and remains functioning with the screening. Section 11 does require a qualified professional to do a field delineation. The extent of that work is having someone say whether it is or is not Wetland or Wetland buffer as the case may be. He would strongly encouraged to the Board as well as the application that he would not put much reliance on the online availability of the maps for wetlands. It takes someone to go out and see where the wetland line is. Then they can see whether they are close to or far from where that point is. Mr. Austin asked Mr. House if there is anything else he'd like him to cover on that.

Mr. House answered that was it.

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- Mr. House asked Mr. Canada if he had any questions.
- Mr. Canada said that he would do an evergreen fern and he thought that would make a good screen.
 - Mr. Houghton said he would like to see it further away from the road and maybe closer to the homes at Aberdeen. He said to have a suitable buffer a long Lovell Road to hide it from view. He said that he likes the fact that is 11 ft high.
 - Mr. Austin said going back to the Wetland information given the distance between the panels and the homes leaves a lot of question marks how the gap is going to be bridged and whether the panels are in the Wetland area. He is assuming that there is an electrical conduit that is going to connect the arrays to the homes that would need to be underground. It may be going through the wetlands. The wetland delineation has to be in scope and not only address the panel locations but also the location between the panels and the homes within the development.
 - Mr. Roseen said he had some questions about the screening. He said that the point of the screening is not that they won't be able to see it but rather that it's less visible. The only way to truly screen something is with the big fence and half the time that looks worse in his

opinion. A nice combination of landscaping that blends should be the goal. Rather than 149 complete blockage. His personal opinion is that they're looking for something that blends 150 naturally. He would like to say that he supports it and thinks it's a great idea. 151 Mr. Laverty said he has no additional comments outside of what the other Board members 152 153 had to say. Ms. Hollasch said she had no additional comments. 154 Mr. House said when they submit their documentation they may want to provide a section 155 for the array, it looks like they have three rows. He is not sure what the grading is there if 156 157 it's high up he would like to know. He would like to see a section for the array. As for the screening, it's not just for the people across at Lovell Road, it is also for the people to the 158 West. He said in the document, they may want to show more detail of there construction 159 activities. He thought somewhere he saw they're going to be having a laydown area for the 160 construction entrance and then bring it back to its natural state. He said they may want to 161 express that in their drawings. 162 Mr. House asked the Board if they have any more comments regarding the Aberdeen West 163 solar project. 164 165 The Board answered that they did not. 166 Mr. House ask the applicant if she had any more questions. The applicant said that she has everything she needs but wanted to check with Mr. Vincent 167 to make sure he had everything he needs. 168 Mr. Vincent said he does and that those comments are really helpful and that he will put 169 together a more comprehensive drawing. What he sees is that they're going to need to have 170 distance to setbacks, more clear dimensions on the whole array such as the height of the 171 array, adjust the screening, and details on the plan about construction. He asked if there is 172 anything else they need to show on the drawing. 173 174 Ms. Oliver said she could work with Mr. Vincent on these zoning requirement, but she thinks those are the ones that were talked about tonight. 175 Mr. Roseen asked if they had considered moving the array to the rear of the property so that 176 177 it is bit more out of the way. The screening would be less of an issue on the rear of the parcel. 178 Ms. Oliver said the section where the array is proposed was chosen by the community and 179 that they talked about the rear of the property but think that it was more wet there. 180

- Mr. Roseen said that it does look more wet there but that doesn't necessarily mean that they can't have solar panels there. He said they may find it more cost-effective if they are
- building a place where the screening is less substantial.
- Ms. Oliver asked Mr. Vincent if he had any recollection of that area.
- Mr. Vincent said that he does not have access to Aerial imagery to understand where that is.
- Ms. Oliver thanked the Board for their time and for holding the meeting virtually.
- Mr. House asked the Board if they would like to allow public comments.
- The Board said that they should allow public comments.

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- Mr. House asked if anyone in the public had any comments.
- Mr. House introduced The Marin way preliminary consultation.
- b. Preliminary Consultation: Site Plan Review Permit. "Marin Way Parking" Expansion to amend the previously approved site plan to add an additional 150 parking spaces so there are a total of 214 spaces located at 2 & 8 Marin Way, Stratham, NH 03885, Map 1 Lots 9 & 10 submitted by Rob Graham SIP-Lot 3 LLC & SIP-Lot 2 LLC, PO Box 432, Stratham, NH 03885.
 - Mr. Austin said the Marian Way project is an addition of 150 parking spots and it is on two parcels in the Industrial Park. Rob Graham is representing the applicant and the owner of both of the parcels. The plan shows the additional parking spots and a cross access easement to allow the two parcels to share the parking areas under the agreements of that easement. There are Waivers in the request. Primarily, the majority of the Site Plan Applications received do not apply to a project like this. They are not increasing water or septic demands and they are on Exeter's water and sewer line. Mr. Austin said that they are joined by Mr. Pernaw on the call. He noted that this project might have caught some of the Planning Board members attention because it came shortly after the LEGO project for Lindt. Mr. Austin asked the Board to consider a traffic analysis on Marin Way related to this project and maybe ask Mr. Pernaw or Mr. Graham if the existing traffic study that was done for project LEGO recently could be amended or appended to include this work. The Planning Board has received the comments back from DOT. Mr. Austin said the package the Board received tonight is at least the second iteration he has seen of the project. It seems to address the majority of issues related to setbacks, open space setbacks, and other things in the park. He said it is as clean and straightforward as it gets. One of the other waivers that has been proposed deals with Addendum C. The waiver is for the stormwater analysis and particularly the third party review under the premise that the stormwater be directed to existing BMPs on site which have adequate capacity for the existing runoff. Mr. Austin said the public hearing notice has gone out for this project and it should be in the

- paper Friday. They are scheduled to have their public hearing on the 20th of May. Mr.
- Austin said he will have Mr. Graham speak to why they need new parking spaces.
- 219 Mr. House asked who was participating for the applicant.
- Rob Graham introduced himself and said he was alone in the room but has staff on the
- phone.

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- Mr. House said that he needs to introduce the staff.
- Mr. Graham introduced his staff; Joe Coronati and Steve Pernaw.

Mr. Graham talked about the project. He thanked the Board for meeting tonight. He explained they had a change of tenants. They formerly had HD shipping which was a shipping and receiving warehouse for pharmaceutical drugs for all of New England. They are switching out to another shipping and receiving use. The biggest difference between the two uses is that the tenant that is going to be moving into the space owns and controls a bunch of their vehicles which are used for shipping and receiving. They have an increase of employee numbers in the building because they have less robotic machines. They have added 150 parking spaces and connected and shared some access points with their adjacent parcel that they own. He said he's going to go over some site and drainage information. He said he thought they originally asked for a waiver of the calculations but they have already done those. They are treating the new impact development areas with low impact development treatment areas. The existing ponds on the site will be increased in size and volume. They will add a low impact treatment mechanism for the ponds and their entire treatment value. About 85% of the site including the building will now be treated with the new standards. They tried to take the guesswork out of it to avoid lengthy work in terms of review. They have a very tight schedule to get the tenant in. He said it was a very simple site with no changes to the building dimensions nor any changes to their offices. The old tenant was a single shift and the new tenant is a three shift company. A lot of their trips are going in the opposite direction of traffic. They have seen the response from DOT. They are prepared to provide plantings on the entire frontage of both of the parcels and also Route 111 and for Marin Way for the widening of Route 111 and for new drainage areas to treat stormwater from Route 111 and Marin Way.

Joe Coronati, an engineer from Jones and Beach introduced himself and said that his wife is in the room with him.

Steve Pernaw with Pernaw & Company, introduced himself. To assist with traffic numbers for the proposed change in tenants, he said he is waiting for information from Mr. Graham about the new tenant. He said that they did the traffic study for Lindt which was involved, he's not representing Lindt tonight, but he thinks they all recognize Marin Way has a lot of traffic entering in the morning and exiting in the evening. He did a study with a different shipping company that ran with three shifts they found that their flows were the opposite, in the morning most were exiting and at the end of the day the majority were

inbound trips. He thinks that would work well for Marin Way. He said Mr. Graham said tonight that they were able to have a right-of-way for Marin Way and Route 111 which is good news. That will help with any kind of projects that they have involved. Once Mr. Graham gives him the information he needs he plans to write some type of traffic memo for the town and for DOT. He is prepared to answer any questions.

Mr. Austin said that Lindt had two specific conditions of approval. The condition precedent was that they contact the DOT and provide comments on the traffic study related to project LEGO. Condition subsequent was that Lindt was to coordinate with the Select Board and director of Public Works on establishing the proportional cost to the improvement as may be required by DOT. The Planning Board did not know if DOT was or was not going to be required by the time Lindt received site plan approval. He is willing to share the memo with the entire Planning Board, but the quick takeaway is that there is no declaratory statement that Lindt or the town must take any particular action. There were recommendations with regard to Western Lanes on New Hampshire 111 and a schematic of what the right-of-way would look like on Route 111. Mr. Austin said that he received an email from Jim Hewitt today asking if the project on the agenda was related to Lindt. Mr. Austin responded that it was a completely separate project. He is anticipating that DOT is waiting to see where this goes and is waiting for the town to reach out. Mr. Austin said he has a conference call with the Town Administrator and Nate Mears the director of Public Works Friday afternoon. They are trying to plan next steps for the town. It remains unclear to Staff whether anything has to happen or if recommendation would be made in having another communication with DOT perhaps even West Jesus distance or project review. The short answer with Lindt is that they accepted the traffic study saying that it was not a significant increase. Perhaps the fact that it wasn't a significant increase was that because they had recommendations instead of mandates. Mr. Austin said he thinks the Planning Board would need the same level of certainty based on Mr. Pernaw's work as to whether this was or was not a significant increase of traffic at Marin Way. Mr. Austin said he knows that Mr. Pernaw does not have all the numbers yet so Mr. Graham needs to get the numbers to him so that they can figure this out. He does agree with Mr. Pernaw that having access or the availability from Marin Way and Route 111 could probably help a lot of the situation at least with terms of meeting to prepare portionality.

Mr. House said he is looking at the content on sheet 9 at the parking. He wants to know what the setback was for the wetland so that they know that they are not approaching too close to the wetland.

Mr. Grant said that they can add that to the plan.

Mr. House said that all questions and comments are non-binding. He said for lot 9 it looks like it is going over the existing pavement. He said they might want to show on the drawings where the setback is for the wetlands.

Mr. Graham said that could be added.

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Mr. House said it looks like they have truck access for both buildings and all around it or at 294 least two. Mr. House asked if they will remain as two separate lots. 295 Mr. Graham answered that was correct. 296 Mr. House commented about lot number 10 having two driveways, truck access to the rear 297 of the building and employee parking out front to cross over the lot. He asked if they need 298 any kind of lot easements there. 299 Mr. Graham said yes, they will have an easement. 300 Mr. House asked the Board if they had any questions. 301 Mr. Houghton said his comment is with respect to grading and drainage. He thinks that it is 302 straightforward and he knows what to expect. He said they will do what they need to do to 303 to make drainage not be a problem on those lots. He said that he is concerned about traffic 304 and what is going on here as well as what is going on the 20th of May and would want to 305 be sure that the Board is focused on that. He said Mr. Pernaw will do some analysis and it's 306 307 great to hear Mr. Graham say there is the potential of creating easement to make the flow more efficient. He said he thinks all those things are necessary. He said he would like to 308 hear from Chief King in terms of his insights on what happens with and the placement of 309 his officers at that location during high traffic hours and the potential of 150 more parking 310 spaces. He said the Board needs to consider whether or not this would be considered in any 311 way to the original impact. 312 Mr. House said they need to go through those procedures because they are in the 313 314 regulations. Mr. House asked who John Smith was. 315 Mr. Graham said he does not know who John Smith is. 316 Mr. Roseen said he assumed they have reviewed the site plan regulations that refer to 317 redevelopment and appendix C. He said basically and new development aspect of the site 318 that needs treatment provided for it. He asked if they could explain what the new pond 319 treatments are. 320 Mr. Coronati from Jones and Beach answered Mr. Roseens question. He said they looked at 321 the site and there are existing detention ponds on both 2 Marin Way and 8 Marin Way of 322 substantial size. In an attempt to modify those ponds or reuse the space that they're taking 323 up, the plan that they came up with that they will be presenting with actual design plans is 324 that they would turn the bottom of the pond into bioretention ponds and add about 18 325 inches of filter media into the bottom of the pond. He said it will not be the entire pond. It 326 will be the area required to treat the drainage area that drains into the pond. He said they 327 will be reducing the volume of the pond. They plan to raise the berm to the pond so that 328 they do not lose any volume and will probably gain volume. They will have treatment for 329

the filter material at the bottom of the pond. He said the ponds take a lot more of the site 330 than their parking spaces that they're adding. The HD Smith building has an extensive roof 331 drain system so that they would be able to pick up the entire roof, the front parking lot that 332 is existing, the whole new parking lot along the west side that they're adding and parts of 333 the rear of the building. He said the same with the bitronic site, he knows it's not actually 334 Bitronics anymore but that's what they have it as on the plan. They are adding parking 335 spaces along the building closest HD Smith or between the two buildings and a couple of 336 driveways. They are going to do the same treatment to their pond so it'll improve all the 337 treatment for both lots. The bitronics side they are doing minimal work on their parcel, but 338 will be able to treat all those existing parking spaces that all drain into that pond today. 339 Mr. Roseen said he understands that they have some pavement being added but they're 340 going to use the existing drainage system and just retrofit that. Mr. Roseen said he looks 341 forward to seeing the calculations on that. 342 Mr. Laverty said he would be interested to go through the regional impacts of project. He 343 344 does have significant concern about additional traffic impacts on Marin Way and Route 111 in the Route 101 East and West off-ramp specifically in the mornings relating to traffic 345 in that area. He said he knows it's not solely on this application regarding those traffic 346 issues but it is something that needs to be addressed. He said he is glad to hear that DOT is 347 communicating with the town and would be interested to hear the outcome of of those 348 conversations. 349 350 Mr. Austin said the landscaping plan is not stamped by a New Hampshire license to 351 landscape architect. He said they either need to pick up a stamp or request a waiver. 352 Mr. Coronati said they had a landscape designer named Liz McNaughton from L & M 353 Landscape Design out of Brentwood do the landscaping. She's not an architect but there is a substantial addition of landscaping. There's actually quite a bit of landscaping for an 354 Industrial site. More than he's seen in most Industrial Parks existing out there. He said they 355 would prefer to request a waiver or they would have to have a different person review it to 356 stamp it because she is not a landscape architect. 357 Mr. Austin asked the Board whether they have any initial non-binding feelings one way or 358 the other about a waiver versus a stamp given they provide the Landscaping information. 359 Mr. Roseen said he is comfortable with them writing a waiver. 360 Mr. House said that he doesn't have a problem with it either but they need to make sure 361 that they address the maintenance and with the bioretention. 362 Mr. Canada said he thinks a waiver is appropriate in this situation. 363 364 Mr. Houghton said he is familiar with the properties and not concerned about the

landscaping.

Mr. Laverty said he is not concerned about the landscaping or having a certified landscape architect.

Ms. Hollasch said she has no concerns.

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Mr. Graham said he wanted to talk about the traffic standpoint and he said the projects out on Marin Way and on Route 111are long-range projects that needs communication from a lot of different people. It is going to be important for them to be able to get going and it doesn't seem reasonable to wait for DOT for this project and for Lindt Chocolate. It is important to be able to get moving with these projects without waiting on a long drawn-out process from DOT.

Mr. Austin said that his suggestion to the Board is to think about as they move towards the May 20th meeting is to contemplate a similar condition as was imposed on Lindt with regard to on-going dialogue with the Select Board and Director of Public Works about proportional cost-sharing of improvements. He said that he agrees with Mr. Graham that anything that happens to a peripheral driveway permit in and of itself could take 12 to 18 months. He said he knows Joe Coronati and Jones and Beach have had projects that have sat even longer than that without receiving a driveway permit authorization. For the Planning Board, when they did the scoping meeting about the traffic study for Lindt, DOT admitted when they did the driveway for Marin Way, it was originally established without a driveway permit. It was built and installed and operational for 15 almost 20 years before perhaps was a 100-200 domain project that caught some attention got a driveway permit and nothing changed. Mike Houghton emphasized reaching out to police chief Tony King about getting his comments. Lieutenant Pierce is out 5 days a week at least once a day maybe twice a day directing traffic on New Hampshire 111. It is an expense entirely by the industrial park Association or associations that already have a bit of a proportional cost breakdown. His recommendations to the town as the Town Planner is to reach out to that Association and figure out how that proportional cost-sharing breakdown Paradigm perhaps could ultimately be evaluated in consultation of an ultimate design that gets constructed to remedy the Marin Way and New Hampshire 111 intersection. The town itself needs to be the applicant for that work. That's the directions from DOT. When it occurs is not yet been made clear from the fact that Lieutenant Pierce is out there now suggested it is a problem that should be addressed sooner rather than later. From from a planning perspective he doesn't mean yesterday versus tomorrow but within the next three to five years as opposed to the next 30 years. Particularly because Lindt is in the process of doing a large expansion and adding 150 stalls here. He thinks a potential condition subsequent that would be contemplating would be similar to that which went to Lindt. They are going to be in communication with the Planning Board whether ultamilty that gets negotiated with the Select Board is cash versus land combination thereof when one right-of-way is in play and how that gets the proceed-out and facilitated. He doesn't think all of that has to be agreed upon before this project gets approved. It sounds the applicant is well aware of needs for potential changes and has already been accommodating with providing abilities to make those changes occur. A lot of it will depend on the work that Mr. Pernaw is able to do and

- however long it may take to get through DOT with a modified answer to the last review they did on Marin Way.
- 409 Mr. House asked if anyone had anymore comments.
- Mr. Graham thanked the Board and said he will see them at the May 20th meeting.
- c. Site Plan Review Substantial Compliance. 71 Portsmouth (BMW) request for determination of substantial compliance located at 71 Portsmouth Ave, Stratham, NH 03885, Map 13 Lot 1 submitted by Justin L. Pasay.
- 414 Mr. House introduced the project.

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- Mr. Austin said that he mentioned in his memo to the Board, he had a phone conversation with the applicant. The Planning Board approved what the applicant's engineer submitted as revision 5. The revision number 5 turned into revision number 7, the gap in Town review was something that nobody was made aware of until the applicant asked to close out the performance bond. There were 3 different Code Enforcement Officers on the project during the gap in between the transition. The project did not require any building permits and there is no trigger to have any site plan observations or inspections when there are no building permits required. Mr. Austin said what was built was slightly different, but essentially the same. As outlined succinctly and accurately in the request letter are 12 minor changes that occurred in the approved and recorded plan. Staff approves of 10 of the 12 changes. All but the removal of the gazebo and removal of the picnic table from the plan. It is a unique situation for the Planner to be asking about the gazebo and picnic table, but for those that remember the public hearing, those were two of the quintessential elements of the plan that were offered by the applicant as Gateway elements. Staff's recommendation is the Planning Board accept the request for substantial conformance as presented except for the gazebo and picnic table. This does not absolve the project of any prior conditions of approval. They need the as-built plan which includes the picnic table and gazebo, completion of the landscape inspection by a qualified professional and an asbuilt mylar to be recorded.
- Mr. House asked who was in attendance for the project.
- Justin Pasay, the applicant, announced his attendance and said he is alone in the room and has two other people on the phone, Mark Tabia, Senior Project Manager for group one and Steve Cattani from Dynamic Engineering Consultant, who is the civil engineer on the project.
 - Mr. Tabia said he is alone.
- 440 Mr. Cattani said he was alone.
- Mr. Pasay said he wanted to thank the Planning Board and Mr. Austin and Mr. Wolph. He said the package they submitted includes a rather detailed letter from them dated the 28th

of April that described the 12 discrepancies that Mr. Austin mentioned in his prologue. They also included the original notice of decision, a copy of the original proof plan which was recorded as plan 40275 at the registry of deeds, an as-built site plan and then a discrepancy plan which depicts the 12 discrepancies between the plan that was approved in October of 2016 and the as-built conditions as they exist today. Original approval was in 2016 and there was a one-year extension that was granted by the Planning Board. The basic construction and improvements wrapped up in the 2019 timeframe. As the engineering firm, Dynamic, started to close out the entitlement process with the Town and the town's Planning Staff, the 12 discrepancies became apparent. The Board has the authority to find whether or not the 12 discrepancies are material or are in substantial compliance. He doesn't intend on going through each of the 12 discrepancies. They can answer any questions that there are. They would like to summarize their hope for finding of substantial compliance from the Planning Board in the determination that these 12 discrepancies are minor as suggested by Mr. Austin. As outlined in the letter, many of the changes were required by physical on-site conditions or otherwise slight modifications which in their estimations really promote the more efficient use the property and certainly don't compromise essential tenants in the considerations that were part to the rather extensive site review process. There are no compromises to functionality or safety or operation and no abutter impacts and even improvements such as less impervious surface area in the as-built then what was approved. Beyond that, there aren't any aesthetics that have been changed from what was approved.

Mr. Pasay said he wanted to address two things that were not in the letter, the first is that in talking with Group One, they're happy to place a picnic table at the site at a location that can be approved by Mr. Austin and they can depict that on the site plan. He will let Mr. Tabia address the gazebo issue as well. Second, with regards to landscaping, pursuing to the original approval, Group One provided a site plan performance agreement and a subdivision bond to the town that guarantees the Landscaping in that term is for at least a year to follow the completion of the improvements inclusive of a full growing season. Any issues with landscaping can be addressed. The current situation of the properties and compliance with the landscaping plan that was reviewed and approved by the Board but certainly go through the process of having Mr. Austin review the status of that. Their goal is to obtain finding a substantial compliance that they can move past local entitlement process and finalize things and get an as-built recorded. He said again that they really appreciate the Planning Boards time for review and are happy to answer any questions that they may have.

Mr. House said that looking at their discrepancies sheet with a gazebo and picnic tables and then going back to the as-built it looks like they can go where they were in the first place. He said he doesn't have an issue with Mr. Austin coordinating that with them as long as it is not placed in the back of the building. The whole idea of Gateway is to place it in the front.

Mr. House asked if anyone had comments.

Mr. Canada said he intended to speak to the gazebo in the picnic table. He said they are out of compliance with Gateway because there is no alternative. He said he agreed with Mr. House's comment that it should be visible.

Mr. Houghton said that he will defer comments for now.

Mr. House said once the as-built is revised to show the picnic table and the gazebo it needs to be certified from a landscape architect or somebody and the drawings should be stamped to confirm everything is all set.

Mr. Roseen said he doesn't have any issue with the 12 items on there, but he would like to point out that he does not support the idea of substantial compliance because there is something obviously wrong with the bioretention systems that have been constructed. Driving by at 35 miles an hour he can tell that three or four of them are or will be completely non-functional with the way the overflows are set. He said he is surprised that both the town inspector code inspection hasn't caught that and that the as-built identifying where the lights are located why they wouldn't also be similarly looking at that important drainage pieces. He thinks they should be making sure that the overflow and bypass goes where it's supposed to. If 50% of the drainage out there is not done properly water is going somewhere it's not intended. He said at this point he would not support it and he thinks there needs to be some additional survey or sign off or something to ensure that it is done correctly.

Mr. Austin said the only thing the board would be acting on for substantial conformance would be the 12 things that were requested. Finding the project in substantial conformance tonight would only be relative to those things in the letter. Everything else would still have to be in compliance. If someone on the Planning Board, Mr. Roseen particularly, believes that the stormwater infrastructure was not installed correctly, similar to the Landscaping inspection, the Board has every right to say they don't think it was done right and require additional sign-off.

Mr. Roseen asked as a follow-up to that why would they extend the process why not just make sure that substantial compliance meets substantial compliance with the project as a whole regardless of the 12 items. He doesn't want to wait another two years for this to come back to the Board to see that those items are signed off on and the Board and the Town have limited leverage in terms of bringing those things to completion. They have their building permit and the Town has very limited leverage to get these things done correctly now.

Mr. house said that he had suggested having a landscape architect certifying as-built drawings with a stamp. He asked if they could place that responsibility on the landscape architect that stamped it.

Mr. Roseen said yes. He said as long as an element of that include sign off on the invert elevations. The plan set has a drainage sheet but does not have inverts. There should be an

indication of the design invert in the actual invert. If they're off that may be fine due to 522 local adjustments, but they still need to function and it is clear that many of these systems 523 overflow is so high that they cannot operate and that they're just for decoration. 524 Mr. House said they need to have that information on the drawing for the final as-built. 525 526 Mr. Roseen said that would be his opinion. Mr. House asked if the applicant wanted to respond to any of that. 527 528 Mr. Pasay said that the drainage issues was not one that they were aware of as Dynamic went through the process with Town staff. They noted several of the potential 529 discrepancies that they looked into and among those the drainage was not called out as an 530 issue. Group One is interested in obtaining substantial compliance with the finding with 531 the plan that was approved. His understanding is that the drainage was built to the plan. 532 Whether or not that drainage is functioning ideally he thinks is a different issue, certainaly 533 something Group One would be happy to look into and address. He said what matters is 534 the drainage on site is built to the plan that was approved. He thinks that's a distinct issue 535 all together. He thinks Group One would be okay with a finding tonight that pursuant to 536 request there is substantial compliance and there be a condition potentially to that approval 537 that says part of this administrative process after the hearing tonight would be a 538 certification that the as-built condition be the drainage infrastructure is consistent with 539 what the plan that was approved and the as-built plan depicts. 540 541 Mr. Austin said that it made sense to him, but it is up to the Board. 542 Mr. Roseen said that Group One would be willing to agree or commit to the construction of the grading and drainage is in substantial completion as per the approved plan set and in 543 so doing that would mean that that would need to be confirmed by survey or inspection or 544 something like that. He asked if that was what they were agreeing to. 545 Mr. Pasay said yes that is correct. What they are agreeing to is an as-built drainage 546 infrastructure that is consistent with and in compliance with the drainage infrastructure 547 approved and reviewed in the original processing. 548 Mr. Roseen said that sounds good to him. He said he doesn't think the issues were that it 549 was built as approved but isn't functional. He said some of the elevations are off and they 550 are simple things that just need to be chopped down by about 6 inches on one and 551 probably 4 inches on another. There are the things that would be revealed in an as-built. 552 553 Mr. House said they should have a landscape architect look at it for landscaping and an engineer, perhaps engineer record, to go out there and confirm that everything is on design 554 555 and have him stamp an as-built drawing as well. He asked Mr. Austin if that made sense.

Mr. Austin said that it makes sense to him.

557	Mr. House asked Mr. Roseen if that is satisfactory to him.
558	Mr. Roseen said it was.
559	Mr. House asked if the applicant was all set with that.
560	Mr. Pasay asked if he could have a few minutes to consult with his client.
561	Mr. House said he could.
562 563 564 565 566 567 568 569 570	Mr. Austin said that someone from Group One wanted to speak with regard to the Gazebo. It sounded from Mr. Pasay's presentation that the picnic table wasn't a problem but the gazebo warranted more discussion from Group One's perspective. Then Board discussion generally has been about all 12 except the picnic table and the gazebo. He thinks that dialogue needs to occur and then the Board needs to decide and ultimately make a motion. His suggestion is that substantial conformance of those elements is amendable to with the conditions that the landscape architect review and stamp the landscape plan for conformance with the approved plans and that an engineer do the same for the stormwater infrastructure.
571 572	Mr. House said he wants to give Mr. Laverty and Ms. Hollasch a chance to speak and then let the applicant speak to that.
573 574	Mr. Austin said he would wait for MR. Pasay to confirm the applicant is back on the phone.
575 576 577	Mr. Houghton asked how many of the elements of the plan existed and how many tasks were involved in the site plan revision. He asked if there were 24 items that they were supposed to work on and they didn't do 12 and 50% were wrong.
578 579	Mr. Austin said he doesn't know if he counted the number of changes from pre-planned approval to current state.
580 581 582	Mr. Cattani said the 12 items identified to his knowledge are the only discrepancies. There was not an initial punch list of 20 items and these are the 12 remaining. He said he believes these are the only 12 that were identified.
583	Mr. Austin said he agrees with that statement.
584 585 586 587	Mr. Houghton said he remembers this plan, but he doesn't have it front of him. He said it wasn't am expansive task and it was fairly straightforward. They were going to remodel their parking lot. He said it is disappointing to hear that there are 12 items that they didn't do and they thought it would be more efficient if they didn't do it.
588 589	Mr. Cattani said that several of the items are light poles that are off a foot or two from their original locations. He thinks relative to items that are not on the plan, the only items

are the gazebo and the table. He said he thinks the rest of these 10 items are fine. One of 590 the poles head is turned on the pole another poll was 2 feet from its original location. He 591 thinks they're not talking about things that weren't done, they're talking about the whole 592 593 premise of these minor discrepancies from the original approval. Mr. Houghton asked how he would you feel about a contractor that put his housing 594 structure of foot off the foundation. 595 Mr. Cattani said in all due respect, he would think a light pole foundation adjacent to a 596 parking stall is a lot different from a home foundation. 597 598 Mr. Tabia from Group One said that Mr. Cattani was correct. It wasn't that they left items out, but some items were changed based on site conditions that they found while building 599 a project. Touching on the Gazebo, it was at the site for sometime and their original plan 600 called for them to relocate it. When they went to do so, it was all rotting out and the 601 flooring was unsafe in it so they got rid of it. He asked when they replace the gazebo and 602 place a picnic table on the site if Mr. Austin would be the person to approve the gazebo 603 structure before they purchase and install it. 604 Mr. House said the Board is yet to agree to that. 605 606 Mr. Pasay said he would like to address the initial reason they went into their side bar as Mr. Tabia just referenced. He thinks that Mr. Austin is correct that they were happy with 607 the picnic table but after speaking with Group One they are good with the gazebo as well. 608 Group One will be happy to put a gazebo back on site and same thing for the picnic table 609 subject to Mr. Austin's review. 610 Mr. House said he personally doesn't have a problem with Mr. Austin reviewing that. He 611 asked the rest of the Board what they thought. 612 Mr. Pasay said with regards to the drainage, they're planning a condition that requires 613 verification that the as-built condition is consistent with what is approved. Group One is 614 also okay with that. 615 Mr. House asked if Mr. Roseen was all set. 616 617 Mr. Roseen said that he thinks that the proposed solution here is more than acceptable. Mr. Laverty said he has no other questions or concerns. 618 619 Mr. Austin said sheet 14 that is posted on the agenda link is the one that shows the compare and contrast between approved and existing. If Group One is amenable than that 620 puts the Planning Board in the better spot. He would strongly encourage them to consider 621 the picnic table and the gazebo where they're showing on that plan. 622 623 Mr. Austin said there are only three areas they can be put in.

Mr. House asked what the Board thought about having the applicant coordinate with Mr. 624 Ausitn. 625 Mr. Canada said he thinks it's important to give Mr. Austin the authority to approve the 626 gazebo design. Some flexibility may be needed on the exact sighting. 627 628 Mr. Houghton said he agreed with Mr. Canada. Mr. Roseen said he also agreed with Mr. Canada. 629 Mr. Laverty said he also agreed and had no additional comments. 630 631 Mr. Austin said that from the comments and presentation it sounds the Board is in the neighborhood of considering a motion to accept the request for substantial conformance 632 for the first 10 of 12 items as were presented in the letter from DTC with the condition that 633 the gazebo and picnic table be added back to the plan and indicated on an as-built. Prior to 634 the as-built being reported there be a landscape architect to certify the landscape plan 635 installation and that either the applicants engineer or similar qualified individual provides 636 a letter or certification that the as-built stormwater BMP condition matches the approved 637 stormwater design. Upon completion of the landscape and engineer sign off and the 638 inclusion of the gazebo and picnic table they're in substantial conformance. 639 Mr. House said he wanted to give the applicant one last chance to make a comment. 640 Mr. Pasay said that Mr. Austin did a good job of saying the condition. 641 Mr. House asked if they are supposed to open it to the public. 642 Mr. Austin said that they are not required to open it to the public. 643 Mr. House asked if there is a motion. 644 Mr. Austin said it is a motion to accept the request submitted by DTC for substantial 645 conformance with the conditions that the gazebo to be reviewed for architectural points 646 and locations, be reviewed by Town Staff and included on the as-built and the picnic table 647 to be included on the as-built. A mylar is to be recorded memorializing tonight's actions. 648 Further the applicant will commit to hiring a landscape architect and the applicant will 649 ensure an engineer sign-off on the as-built plan related to the stormwater BMP's on-site. 650 Mr. House asked for a motion. 651 Mr. Roseen made a motion and Mr. Laverty seconded the motion. 652 Jeremy Ricks asked if the Board is saying that he is not allowed to ask any questions. 653 Mr. House said that he could. 654

Mr. Ricks said that he thinks they are missing a few things. By moving the three spaces for the driveway they gained 12 spaces. They have stacked six or eight deep cars to those two lanes. He has seen cars double stacked along the front right side in the parking areas and in front. He's seen cars parked along the edge of the pavement where the septic system is located. He's seen them blocking access to the cistern and the cistern not plowed. He said that the plan was supposed to correct and they are still present. Group One said there would be no delivery and that is still happening. That site is not being used as it should be. They are allowing people to be parking where they shouldn't be and the fire cistern is blocked. He said he believes Group One is knowingly not complying.

Mr. Austin said there is Planning approval of the plan and then there is policing the site. He said he is appreciative that he voiced his concerns because now the town is made aware. He said before the Covid-19 pandemic there was a police order about deliveries on Route 108. He said he will address the other matters with the fire chief and the codfe enforcement officer to keep an eye on those concerns. He wants Group One to know that people notice when things operationally are not occurring. The parking relocation to the rear of the dealership couldn't occur. Those are not small things when putting a plan together. There is a separate distinction between Planning Board action on a substantial conformance then the operational components which can be addressed through other means.

Mr. Ricks said that it goes to the statement that it's easier to ask forgiveness than permission. Group One knew when they realigned that driveway what they were getting. In his opinion they were relocating three parking spaces and getting the ability to stack 6 or 7 cars deep two lanes wide, which they didn't have in the previous approved incarnation. Otherwise they probably wouldn't have done it.

Mr. House said to Mr. Ricks that all he can suggest is to talk to Mr. Austin about the operation. The Board is not here tonight to address those concerns.

Mr. Ricks asked if they could make them change the driveway back to what they originally approved.

Mr. House asked where he was talking about.

Mr. Ricks explained where on the plan.

Mr. House said that he doesn't have the full plan set in front of him.

Mr. Austin explained where Mr. Ricks was describing.

Mr. Ricks said that they gained something by doing something that they aren't supposed to. He said that he thinks that they couldnnt get a fire truck back there and especially not to the cistern. He said he thinks they knowingly did that.

Mr. House asked if there was anything said about stacking cars in the original plan.

Mr. Houghton said that spot didn't exist, there were only four spots where the driveway 691 692 was. Mr. Austin said he believes the Planning Boards general process is that they are allowed to 693 park vehicles where you have designated parking spaces. He said it's conceivable that the 694 695 Planning Board could make it clear on the as-built plan that there can be no additional parking spaces. 696 Mr. Pasay said that Group One appreciates the information from Mr. Ricks. Group One 697 wants to be a good neighbor. He said where they are right now is the product of the 698 collaboration with the town. It is the product of reviewing the revised plan set against what 699 exists on the ground identifying discrepancies and doing a comprehensive analysis of each 700 and every one of those discrepancies in their letter to explain why they're there and how 701 they got there. He can say for sure is that Mr. Cattani and Mr. Tabia can offer a different 702 viewpoint on the design of the end of driveway, the genesis of that design, and he is very 703 confident that the design was not to accommodate an illegal or a parking strategy that was 704 705 inconsistent with town regulations. He is hoping they can get back to the purpose of the meeting. He said that they are happy to engage in discussion of how they are operating, 706 but they are here tonight for the 12 discrepancies and he would like to get back on track. 707 Mr. House asked if the reorientation of the driveway was in the list of 12. 708 709 Mr. House said he agrees with him that they are here to look at the 12 discrepancies. If there is a violation, then they need to bring it up to Mr. Austin and the Code Enforcement 710 officers attention. 711 Mr. Austin said to answer Mr. Houses previous question, page 5 states the service drives 712 713 relocation. Mr. Austin said that the neighbors need to address him and Mr. Wolph to handle operating 714 concerns. Mr, Austin said the Board needs to focus on the 12 listed. 715 Mr. House asked if the service drive was listed, 716 Mr. Austin said only the service drive entrance is listed as one of the twelve. 717 718 Mr. House said that the Code Enforcement Officer is the one that can enforce the rules. Mr. House asked Mr. Canada what he thought. 719 720 Mr. Canada said that he thinks it is something for the Town to handle, but it is not for the Planning Board to handle. He needs to bring it up to the Code Enforcement Officer. 721 Mr. Houghton said he thinks that compliance issues should be taken up with Code 722

Enforcement.

- 724 Mr. Roseen and Mr. Laverty agreed.
- 725 Mr. House told Mr. Ricks that they appreciate his observations., but he needs to bring it up to the Code Enforcement Officer.
- 727 Mr. Ricks thanked them for allowing him to speak.
- Mr. House they have a motion and a second and asked if anyone wanted more discussion.
- He asked Mr. Austin to take role call. Mr. Austin took roll call; Canda, Aye; Houghton,
- Opposed; House, Aye; Laverty, Aye; Roseen, Aye. 4:1 vote, motion carried.

d. Other Business

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Mr. Austin said there are several businesses in town that may or may not be able to open in the near future. He believes that with regard to site plan amendments. The Planning Board hears it as there is no expedited site plan process. One of the things restaurants mayu be looking at is providing outdoor seating where indoor seating is not available. Mr. Austin said it is an ability for Town Staff to change the operational function of the site and making slight adjustments to the site plan until the emergency order has ended. He suggested having something that states the Town of Stratham Planning Board acknowledges site plan operational changes under the emergency Covid-19 order by the Governor and the Covid Pandemic accordingly authorizes or delegates the Code Enforcement Officer and Town Planner in consultation with the Chief of Police and Chief of the Fire Department to accept temporary modifications to a site plan to allow operations during the state of emergency for a period ff less than or equal to 1 year. The end of the state declaration of emergency or when pre-emergency order operations resume on site without formal site plan amendment. Essentially allow outdoor seating on a sidewalk for example. This is not taking up parking spaces. He doesn't know how many possible machinations this might take, but the idea, if it's something Staff is generally comfortable with, it can exist during the emergency order or sometime period, without coming back formally to the Planning Board for a Public Hearing and the mylar and all of that process. Staff would request the ability to say it is going too far and it should go to the Planning Board. If something goes beyond folding chairs on the sidewalk for example. If the Planning Board were willing to accept a statement like this it would ultimately be up to the Select Board to approve.

- Mr. House asked where this would happen. He asked if it was only for restaurants.
- Mr. Houghton said there are restaurants that want to provide outdoor seating because of social distancing. He said his view is that they shouldn't let an emergency order change site plan operations. He would find a different way to do that.
 - Mr. Austin said he agrees. The four triggers for site plan review suggest that outdoor seating needs to go in front of the Planning Board. He said he is not trying to sidestep the Planning Board. He is trying to adjust to the Pandemic. They don't have time to change

761 762 763	anything, so he wanted to write a temporary order to allow outdoor seating on the sidewalk as long as they're not creating a Police, Fire, or Code issue. The hardest part is trying to put a time period on it.
764	Mr. Houghton thinks they should try and accommodate that.
765 766	Mr. Roseen said that he agrees that they need to accommodate that without making it too strict. The temporary clause is an essential part.
767 768	Mr. Canada said that he thinks it is a good idea, but they shouldn't limit it just to restaurants. He said he thinks they need flexibility.
769	Mr. Austin said hypothetically the order would end in 30 days.
770	Mr. Roseen said he doesn't know if it needs to be only 30 days.
771	Mr. Houghton said it extends 30 days after the state of emergency.
772	Mr. House asked Mr. Austin if he could draft something and send it in an email.
773 774 775	Mr. Houghton said once the state of emergency is lifted they can resume to normal business. If they would like to perpetuate the outdoor seating they can move forward with a site plan.
776 777 778 779 780 781	Mr. Austin said his suggestion is that him and Mr. Wolph put a letter together that Planning Board acknowledges that site plan moderation may occur and that they give Town Staff, the Code Officer, the Town Planner, Police Department and Fire Department accept an outline for code safety for operations of the site during the state of emergency to expire 30 days from the end of the state of emergency for them to resume normal operations or submit a site plan for amendments.
782	The Board said that works for them.
783 784	Mr. Austin said he will write that memo and review it with Mr. Wolph and get Mr. Houses signature on it.
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786	4. Public Meeting:
787	a. <i>None</i>
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789	5. Adjournment

790 791		Mr. Canada made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 PM and Mr. Laverty seconded the motion. Chairman House asked for roll call; House, Aye; Canada, Aye; Houghton, Aye;
792		Roseen, Aye; Laverty, Aye.
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797	1	Note(s):
798 799 800	1.	Materials related to the above meeting are available for review at the Municipal Center during normal business hours. For more information, contact the Stratham Planning Office at 603-772-7391.
801 802	2.	The Planning Board reserves the right to take items out of order and to discuss and/or vote on items that are not listed on the agenda.