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PLANNING BOARD

NEW BEDFORD PLANNING BOARD

REMOTE MEETING

September 30, 2020

MEETING MINUTES

PRESENT: Kathryn Duff. *Chairperson*
Arthur Glassman
Peter Cruz
Alex Kalife
Kamile Khazan

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Jen Carloni

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
NEW BEDFORD, MA
2022 APR 12 PM 2:31
CITY CLERK

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Duff called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. and provided a statement related to Covid-19 and public meetings.

A motion was made (AG) and seconded (PC) to take the agenda out of order

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Board Member Glassman – Yes Board Member Kalife – Yes
Board Member Cruz – Yes Board Member Khazan - Yes
Chairperson Duff – Yes
Motion passes 5-0

Chairperson Duff then raised Agenda Item 4, the signature authorization vote for Kirsten Bryan to endorse ANR Plans on behalf of the planning board.

ITEM 1 - Case #20-26 – 100 Duchene Boulevard (site plan review)

Att. Michael Kehoe, New Bedford, appeared on behalf of the owner/applicant. He stated they are requesting the expansion of the glass recycling component of the currently operational facility. He described the scope and detail of the expansion, including solar canopies and parking, railroad spur line installation, and site improvements. He described the history of the project, including a 2017 planning board site plan approval; namely Case #32-17. He referenced the board's 2018 approval of a new pylon ground sign along with the structure addition. Att. Kehoe provided further project details, including orders of conditions, MEPA review and filing showing the project as Phase 1. He clarified that the applicant, this evening, is seeking a glass recycling expansion.

Chairperson Duff noted the additional of plastic as it was in the application, and suggested the need to modify the application.

Timothy Cusson, Vice-President of Parallel Products, provided a history of the company and its operations. He noted no operational complaints at the original facility, moving to Duchene Boulevard in 2019 and operating since February 2020, absent any knowledge of complaints. He noted some of the glass processing work is presently being done at the facility, and he described the same as well as the proposed expansion operations. He discussed storage, abutter concerns, and operation changes in light of the same. He discussed outside operations, the scope of the proposal volumes, and traffic.

Mr. Cusson then discussed rail service details. There was further board discussion on the railway correspondence, which Chairperson Duff read into the record.

Att. Kehoe introduced Christian Farland, Farland Corp. Mr. Farland, on behalf of the applicant, provided a history of their work on the Phase 1 project. He discussed the rail aspect of the project and the absence of the need for significant work on the same. He provided a presentation for the board to view and described the same, including the site buildings. He then provided information on the operation directions of travel of the project. He discussed storm water. He then described project changes/additions with the requested changes. He noted steps taken to minimize various impacts, and discussed the wetlands and storm water improvements. He acknowledged the staff report and he covered plans to address the comments. He noted no issues with DPI comments, which the applicant will address.

Chairperson Duff provided positive comments on the project plan. She commented on applications that need to be brought in line, including clarification on waiver versus permission. Chairperson Duff further discussed/clarified the plan with Mr. Farland, including the rail crossing. Chairperson Duff suggested clarification on the site travel details.

Timothy Cusson then explained site access and maintenance, product travel, loading, et cetera, on the site. Chairperson Duff clarified the use/direction of the conveyor, as well as employee site routes and site parking. In response to Chairperson Duff, Mr. Cusson stated there will be 75 employees over 3 shifts. He also discussed sidewalks, employee entrance, additional available parking and bike racks, and paved space versus green space. Christian Farland spoke further on green space/impervious space.

In response to Chairperson Duff, Mr. Farland stated they would explore installation of planting islands in the northeast section. There was further discussion, noting the area in question is part of the applicant's Phase II. Chairperson Duff suggested delineation of the two phases, noting only Phase 1 is before the board.

Phil Viveiros, McMahon Associates, discussed operation traffic impacts, noting their previous July 2019 memo which did not include glass trips. He discussed the glass trip updated figures. Chairperson Duff requested clarification of the displays and suggested the applicant speak with DPI regarding an updated traffic study.

Board Member Khazan requested clarification on the DPI traffic study request and their other concerns, as well as the applicant's position on the same. There was discussion on the same with Tim Cusson, to include buffering, truck traffic, et cetera.

Board Member Glassman raised question on the impact of approving Phase I as relates to any advantage created in relation to Phase II, encouraging the board consider these as two separate operations. Chairperson Duff welcomed comment from the City Solicitor's Office. Elizabeth Lydon discussed the matter with the board in answer to Board Member Glassman, noting calling for conditions.

Board Member Cruz inquired of Mr. Farland related to a railroad and wetland crossing retaining wall. There was discussion on the same. Board Member Cruz then discussed the storm water system with Mr. Farland, noting the railroad area and associated traffic, stormceptors, wetlands, and other site improvements. Chairperson Duff requested plans of the layout improvements related to the railroad.

Board Member Glassman discussed train operating hours with Mr. Cusson.

A motion was made (AG) and seconded (PC) to open the public hearing.

ROLL CALLVOTE:

Board Member Glassman– Yes

Board Member Kalife – Yes

Board Member Cruz – Yes

Board Member Khazan - Yes

Chairperson Duff – Yes

Motion passes 5-0

In response to Chairperson Duff's invitation to speak or be recorded in favor of the project, Eric Braitmayer, Imtra Corporation , an abutter, related questions on noise at conveyor operations, as well as railroad spurs and associated work on the same, as well as traffic.

In response to Chairperson Duff's invitation to speak or be recorded in favor or opposed of the project, Elizabeth Swible, Jennifer Lane, expressed concern of piggy backing phases and the lack of information on Phase II. She inquired as to the volume and employment opportunities. She stated she could hear the facility running late at night and questioned the need versus the benefit. Chairperson Duff provided comment on the same, noting the board's purview. Ms. Swible reiterated her concern that Phase II has impacts that are not being discussed.

In response to Chairperson Duff's invitation to speak or be recorded in favor or opposed of the project, Charles Kennedy, Birchwood Drive, reiterated the comments of the prior speaker, noting he was up at 5:30 a.m. hearing noise from the operation as well. He inquired as to hours of operation. Chairperson Duff stated she believes it to be 3 shifts per day, 7 days a week.

In response to Chairperson Duff's invitation to speak or be recorded in favor or opposed of the project, Ken Costa, Greenbrier Drive, reiterated previous comments about noise from the glass, and suggested studies of the same. He noted Phase II is already present on the rail drawings.

In response to Chairperson Duff's invitation to speak or be recorded in favor or opposed of the project, Vincent Carolan, Stephanie Place, discussed safety related to truck traffic children and school.

In response to Chairperson Duff's invitation to speak or be recorded in favor or opposed of the project, Tracy Wallace, Stephanie Place, expressed her traffic concerns and reiterated previous comments related to noise, which she described as significant. She noted her concern about safety when running on Phillips Road. She stated that in a 40 minute period she was passed by 14 Mack trucks and 4 tractor-trailers. She also noted the bike lanes and speed of motorists on that road. She spoke of trash, parked cars and Eversource traffic. She suggested a moratorium on the traffic. She also expressed concern on the Phase I and Phase II distinctions, to include "waste" as included in the current documents for review by the public.

In response to Chairperson Duff's invitation to speak or be recorded in favor or opposed of the project, Councilor Linda Morad echoed the previous comments given and the concerns expressed. She asked the board to clarify with the Solicitor's Office regarding the city's noise ordinance, in light of the hours of operation. Councilor Morad requested the board limit rail cars loading hours of operation, in light of the fact that the loading occurs outside. She requested current truck volume numbers. She requested any site dumpster locations and associated schedules and odors. Councilor Morad commented that should an updated traffic study be required for Phase I, she would request installation of traffic signals at the corners of Braley and Phillips Roads, as well as the 140 exit ramps, as the board had previously done.

In response to Chairperson Duff's invitation to speak or be recorded in favor or opposed of the project, Charles Kennedy reiterated that in the mornings there is a large amount of truck traffic and noise as they hit surface patches in the road. He noted concerns with the dust from the loading/unloading. He agreed with changes to the traffic study. He noted a complaint on the Phillips Road traffic.

In response to Chairperson Duff's invitation to speak or be recorded in favor or opposed of the project, Wendy Boucher, East Freetown, thanked Councilor Morad. She expressed concerns over noise, light pollution from a 24-hour operating site, vermin and traffic.

Chairperson Duff agreed with the traffic study points raised.

In response to Chairperson Duff's invitation to speak or be recorded in favor or opposed of the project, Jim Niland, Stephanie Place, stated he supports all the public comments expressed both for and against the proposal. He stated that traffic is an issue. He expressed concerns about lighting and trucks on Phillips Road, which would affect quality of life.

There was no response to Chairperson Duff's further invitation to speak or be recorded in favor or opposed of the project.

Chairperson Duff highlighted the concerns expressed, including noise. She confirmed the hours of operation with Mr. Cusson. Chairperson Duff again raised the conveyer operations and suggested closing the area on 2-3 sides. Chairperson Duff also noted the neighboring business's traffic concerns.

In addressing public comments, Mr. Cusson stated that all material is loaded inside. He acknowledged noise and stated he would look into it, such as restricting conveyor loading times. He addressed the early morning noise complaints, noting that Parallel Products is not the only area operator. He then discussed rail line access and the construction of the same.

Eric Braitmayer commented on the narrowness of the road and negative interference on Barnett Boulevard.

Mr. Cusson provided further comment, including an area for construction vehicles. He stated he would look into traffic interruption due to the rail. Mr. Cusson acknowledged traffic concerns and stated they would provide information on the same at the next meeting. Mr. Cusson discussed Phase II, which he stated may never happen and they are not looking for approvals or indications of the same. He discussed outstanding approvals needed. He commented on the economic feasibility and noted the limited build out of the rail. He acknowledged Phase II would not provide any extensive volume of jobs. He acknowledged the uptick in truck traffic in the Industrial Park due to the addition of many companies. He said they would self-police any trucks on Phillips Road and noted their agreement to a truck exclusionary zone. He discussed DPI comments and traffic signals. Chairperson Duff acknowledge the real problems expressed with traffic and noise and suggested perhaps a noise study. Mr. Cusson stated that there are currently no outside operations.

Board Member Glassman discussed ton limits on Phillips Road with fines.

After discussion with the applicant on meeting availability, a motion was made (AG) and seconded (KK) to continue the matter to October 28, 2020.

ROLL CALLVOTE:

Board Member Glassman– Yes

Board Member Kalife – Yes

Board Member Cruz – Yes

Board Member Khazan - Yes

Chairperson Duff – Yes

Motion passes 5-0

3. ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was a motion was made (AG) and seconded (PC) to adjourn 8:11 p.m.

ROLL CALLVOTE:

Board Member Glassman– Yes

Board Member Kalife – Yes

Board Member Cruz – Yes

Board Member Khazan - Yes

Chairperson Duff – Yes

Motion passes 5-0



Alexander J. Kalife, Clerk

4/12/22