



Planning & Development

208 Sanford Road, Wells, Maine 04090

Phone: (207) 646-5187, Fax: (207) 646-7046

Website: www.wellstown.org

Michael G. Livingston, Town Engineer/Planner

mlivingston@wellstown.org

Shannon L.M. Belanger, Assistant Planner

sbelanger@wellstown.org

Site Plan Amendment Application Memo

Date: February 23, 2022

To: Planning Board

From: Planning Office

Re: Wells Activity Center – Site Plan Amendment Application - Map 134, Lot 34-EXE

The Town of Wells has submitted a site plan amendment application for the Wells Activity Center located off of 113 Sanford Road. The existing 4,997 SF building is a Municipal Facility use. The Town proposes to add a Day-Care Center use to the building and construct a 2,480 SF outdoor playground. The property is located within the Residential Commercial District and also falls within the Mobile Home Overlay District and 75' Shoreland Overlay District from Depot Brook. The property is approximately 3.09 acres in size and is served by public sewer and public water. Tax Map 134, Lot 34-EXE.

§ 145-70. Applicability.

All uses identified as permitted with site plan approval in Article V shall be subject to the requirements of this article in the following situations:

- A. A new use is proposed on a lot; **YES - new lot coverage and Day-Care Center use proposed.**
- B. Resumption of a use on a property which has been discontinued for more than five years is proposed (See §145-12D regarding nonconforming uses.); or
- C. An existing use proposes to expand its gross floor area and/or land area.

§ 145-71. Reviewing authority. [Amended 4-19-1997]

- A. The reviewing authority for uses or structures requiring site plan review under Article V shall be determined by the Reviewing Authority Chart. *Editor's Note: The Reviewing Authority Chart is included at the end of this chapter. [Amended 4-18-1998] The amendments sought requires Planning Board approval.*
- B. If a particular reviewing authority is set forth in sections of the Wells Municipal Code other than Subsection A of this section for a particular use, structure or procedure that conflicts with the above chart, such other sections of the Code will control with respect to the proper review authority.

§ 145-72. Applications. [Amended 4-26-1996]

Appropriate application forms shall be available from the Office of Planning and Development. All applications shall be filed with the Office of Planning and Development, and the application fee shall be paid to the Town of Wells.

§ 145-73. Fees.

- A. An application fee as established by the Board of Selectmen, following notice and a public hearing, shall be paid at the time an application is filed. Application fee waiver granted by Board of Selectmen on 1/4/22.
- B. The applicant shall reimburse the Town for all expenses incurred for notifying abutters of the proposed site plan and advertising of any public hearing regarding the site plan.
- C. The Town staff or Planning Board may employ the services of technical experts to assist it in reviewing applications and in determining appropriate conditions of approval. The applicant shall be informed of the intended use of such services and their approximate cost. A deposit equal to the estimated cost shall be paid to the Town prior to the employment of any such technical experts. The total cost of any such review shall be paid by the applicant prior to the signing of any approved plans. If the entire deposit is not expended, the remaining balance shall be returned to the applicant. [Amended 4-26-1996; 11-7-2000]

§ 145-74. Review and approval process.

- G. Amendment to approved site plans.
 - (2) Upon receipt of an application to amend a previously approved site plan, the Code Enforcement Officer shall follow the procedure for reviewing a site plan review preapplication as set forth in Subsection A. Notice of the filing of an application to amend an approved site plan shall follow the notice procedure for the filing of a preapplication for site plan review as set forth in Subsection A. Procedure for site plan pre-application and application shall be followed. *
 - (3) The procedure for reviewing applications to amend a previously approved site plan shall follow the procedure for reviewing a site plan review application as set forth in this section unless the reviewing authority determines that the amendment is of such an inconsequential nature that the full site plan review procedure is not necessary. For applications to amend a previously approved site plan, the reviewing authority may combine the preapplication and application steps and may waive the requirement for a public hearing.
 - (4) Field changes to approved site plans. [Added 4-18-1998] Not applicable at this time
- H. The Planning Board may require that a performance bond or other suitable financial guaranties be posted by the applicant. The form and amount of this bond of financial guaranty must be acceptable to the Town Manager. Not applicable
- I. Technical assistance. The Code Enforcement Officer, the Staff Review Committee or the Planning Board may, at its discretion, forward a copy of the application, the plans and all supporting documentation to any appropriate technical expert for review. The review may include traffic impact, roadway and parking area design and construction, stormwater management and erosion and sedimentation control, as well as any other concerns of the reviewing authority. The applicant shall pay for the employment of any such experts. (See § 175-73C.) Not applicable
- A. Preapplication. [Amended 4-14-2000] *
 - (1) Prior to submitting an application, the applicant shall submit to the Office of Planning and Development a preapplication form, sketch plan of the subject property showing existing and proposed buildings, parking areas, lot boundaries, adjacent streets, entrances to the property, water bodies, any other significant features Plan provided, a list of names and addresses of abutters to the proposed project Provided, and a set of Size 10 envelopes addressed to the abutters Provided, affixed with first class postage. The addresses of these abutters shall be obtained from the Town of Wells Tax Assessor's records. Within seven days of receipt of a preapplication by the Office of Planning and Development, the Code Enforcement Officer shall:
 - (a) Determine the level of review to be required under § 14-71 and whether or not the proposed use is a permitted use on the subject lot. On 12/29/21 the Code Officer determined the uses are permitted.

- (b) If the proposed use is a permitted use on the subject lot: **Abutter notification mailed 12/29/21**
- [1] Send or deliver a notice to the applicant and the abutters of such determinations by first class mail. **YES**
 - [2] Certify that said notices have been sent or delivered.
 - [3] If the reviewing authority pursuant to § 145-71 is the Code Enforcement Officer, indicate to the applicant the information the applicant needs to submit as part of the application. **Not applicable**
 - [4] If the reviewing authority pursuant to § 145-71 is the Staff Review Committee or the Planning Board, place the applicant on the next available agenda for a preapplication meeting, if a preapplication meeting is requested by the applicant. **Planning Board received site plan amendment application on 1/10/22**
- (c) If the proposed use is not a permitted use on the subject lot, send a notice to the applicant of such determination by first class mail and certify that said notice has been sent.
- (2) The abutters' notification sent pursuant to Subsection A(1)(b)[1] above shall include a copy of the preapplication form and an explanation of the purpose of the notification. **YES** If the reviewing authority is the Staff Review Committee or the Planning Board and a preapplication meeting with the Committee or Board is requested by the applicant, the preapplication meeting date shall also be included in the notification **YES**, and said notification shall be sent or delivered by first class mail at least 10 days before the meeting. **Abutter notification mailed on 12/29/21; meeting was on 1/10/22**
- (3) The Staff Review Committee or the Planning Board at its preapplication meeting with the applicant shall indicate the information which the applicant will be required to submit as part of the application and may schedule an on-site inspection of the property. The Committee or Board may waive any of the submission requirements listed in § 145-77 if it determines that they would not be applicable or are not necessary to determine that the standards of § 145-75 have been or will be met. **Site walk held on 1/15/22**
- (4) If the applicant does not request a preapplication meeting with the Staff Review Committee or the Planning Board the applicant is encouraged to meet with the Director of Planning and Development to discuss the project and the information the applicant will be expected to submit as part of the application.

Recommendations and Conclusion:

1. The Planning Board to consider revisiting the buffer requirement of 145-24G(3) or the applicants request:
 - a. 145-24G(3) states: "All business uses and related storage, except for the sale of vegetables, fruits, plants and natural Christmas trees and wreaths, shall be located entirely within an enclosed structure, except for day-care home or day-care center/nursery school uses with a fenced-in and/or buffered area not to exceed 2,500 square feet. "Buffered area" shall mean vegetative screening or solid fence as approved by the reviewing authority."
 - b. A 6' tall solid fence was previously detailed.
 - c. On 2/14/22 the Board required a 6' tall vinyl fence.
 - d. The applicant asks the Board to reconsider the vinyl fence requirement as:
 1. The abutter to the east along Route 109, voiced no issue with the screening previously proposed.
 2. The fence will be visually screened by the proposed 6' tall evergreen tree plantings planted every 5 feet along the lot line.

3. The vinyl fence will also be screened from the view of Route 109 as the evergreen plantings will wrap around the playground.
2. Planning Board to consider if the vinyl fence requirement will be rescinded or not. Two site plan options and two Findings of Fact & Decisions have been prepared so an approval could be considered on 2/28/22.
3. Planning Board to consider finding the application compliant.
4. Planning Board to consider voting to approve and sign the Findings of Fact & Decisions and site plan.