



Planning & Development

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Site Plan Application Memo

Date: May 20, 2022

To: Planning Board

From: Planning Office

Re: US Site Solutions – Tax Map 40, Lot 3-13

Austin Fagan of BH2M has submitted a site plan application on behalf of the property owner/applicant U.S. Site Solutions/ Steve Koeninger. The Site Plan Pre-Application is for a new 5,000 SF building with associated 1,400 SF materials storage area and parking for a Business Contractor use. The 2.61 acre parcel is located off Willie Hill Road and is located within the Light Industrial District. The parcel shall be served by private on-site well and on-site septic system. The property is part of the Berwick Road Subdivision, lot 13. The property is identified as Tax Map 40, Lot 3-13.

§ 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 use proposed on a vacant lot**
- 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. **Applicant submitted a partial application fee and some escrow. Additional escrow and fee to be provided.**

- 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.

D. Planning Board review process.

- (1) If there are site plan approval applications to review, the Planning Board shall meet at least two times a month and its meeting agenda shall be posted in the Town Hall at least seven days prior to the meeting. Applications and other supporting submittals shall be filed by the applicant in the Office of Planning and Development at least 10 days before the meeting. Additional materials received from an applicant less than 10 days before a meeting will be held by the Office of Planning and Development staff until the meeting and will be distributed when the application is discussed. Such late submittals may only be considered at the discretion of the Planning Board. The Board shall only consider accepting late submittals upon finding that the content is nontechnical, brief and may be easily reviewed in a short time period, and any parties to the proceeding will have adequate time to review and respond to the submittals. **Application submitted on 5/3/22. Planning Board scheduled to receive the application on 5/23/22**
- (2) Applications for site plan approval are to be filed with the Office of Planning and Development. The application shall be accompanied by a site plan and the required fee along with a certification that the applicant has sent or delivered notices to the abutters of the filing of the site plan approval application. If the abutters have been notified by the Code Enforcement Officer of a preapplication for the same project within the last 60 days pursuant to Subsection **A(1)(b)[1]**, the applicant shall be exempted from notifying the abutters of the site plan application filing. Within seven days of receipt of the application by the Office of Planning and Development, the Code Enforcement Officer shall determine if the proposed use meets the requirements of Articles **V, VI and VII**. If it does not, the Code Enforcement Officer shall notify the applicant in writing. If it does, the application shall be reviewed for completeness by the Planning Board's agent or placed on a Planning Board agenda for the Planning Board to review for completeness. The applicant may request, in writing, that the Board waive submission of the requirements of § **145-77**. The 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. **Abutters mailed notice of application on 5/12/22**
- (3) It is the responsibility of the Planning Board, or its agent if so designated, to determine if the application is complete. If it is the responsibility of the Board to determine whether the application is complete it must be done within 21 days of receipt of the application by the Board. If it is the responsibility of the Board's agent to determine whether the application is complete it must be done within 14 days of receipt of the application by the Office of Planning and Development. The time period for determining completeness may be extended by mutual consent of the applicant and the Planning Board or its agent. If the application is complete it shall be placed on an agenda for presentation to the Board at a public hearing. If the application is not complete, the applicant shall be notified, in writing, of the additional information needed to complete the application. If the additional information or a written request for an extension is not submitted within 60 days of the notification, the application shall be considered to be withdrawn. If the Planning Board's agent has determined that the application is not complete and the applicant believes it is complete, the applicant may request in writing for the application to be placed on the agenda for the next Planning Board meeting and have the Planning Board review the application for completeness. **To be determined**
- (4) Upon determining that a complete application has been submitted, the Office of Planning and Development shall notify the Staff Review Committee members of the application and request their comments on the application in writing. **To be determined**
- (5) Within 35 days of determining that the application is complete the Planning Board shall hold a public hearing on the application. **To be determined**

- (a) In scheduling public hearings under this section, the Planning Board shall publish notice of the hearing at least 10 days in advance in a newspaper of general circulation in the area. The applicant shall be responsible for paying the cost of such notices.
- (b) The Planning Board shall notify, by certified mail, the applicant and all abutters of the lot involved, including owners of lots on the opposite side of the street, at least 10 days in advance of the hearing, of the nature of the application and of the time and place of the public hearing.
- (c) The lot owners shall be considered to be those against whom taxes are assessed. In the case of condominiums, the condominium association, not each unit owner, shall be notified. Failure of any lot owner to receive a notice of public hearing shall not necessitate another hearing or invalidate any action by the Planning Board.
- (d) At any hearing, a person may be represented by his agent or attorney. Hearings shall not be continued to other times except for good cause.
- (e) The applicant's case shall be heard first. To maintain orderly procedure, each side shall proceed without interruption. Questions shall be asked through the Chair. All persons at the hearing shall abide by the order of the Chairman.
- (6) Within 35 days of the public hearing or a period of time agreed to by the applicant and the Planning Board, the Planning Board shall reach a decision based on the criteria found in § 145-75 and shall inform the applicant in writing within seven days of its decision stating its reasons. The Board shall prepare detailed, written findings of fact and conclusions, based on the evidence presented at the public hearing and evidence presented by the applicant and evidence presented by Town staff. **To be determined**

Recommendations and Conclusion:

1. The Planning Board should consider receiving the site plan application.
2. The PB should review and workshop the V, VI and completeness review comments:
 - a. The lot is part of the Berwick Road Subdivision. A final amendment to the subdivision plan is required to relocate and add a second driveway onto Willie Hill Road.
 - b. Willie Hill Road 40' landscaped buffer:
 - i. The 40' wide buffer is required to be planted with shrubs and/or ground cover and shade or evergreen trees (2" diameter at breast height) planted a maximum of every 30 feet on center along the entire distance of the street frontage.
 1. 11 arborvitae trees are proposed every 8' between the two driveway entrances proposed.
 2. No plantings are proposed to the north of the northerly entrance and are required.
 3. The existing trees/vegetation to the south of the southerly entrance to be noted to remain and be maintained.
 4. Determinations to be made after the public hearing.
 - c. Stormwater considerations to be reviewed. Willie Hill Road drainage appears well managed. On-site stormwater directed to the level spreader, curtain drain or side slope in a sheet flow condition or converted to a sheet flow condition.
 - d. Minor plan note/label corrections recommended.
 - e. Does bound monument along Willie Hill Road exist? Will it be removed? Plan to identify.
 - f. Applicant to confirm if any machinery that produced noise to be located near lot lines.
 - g. Abutters across Willie Hill Road to be identified.
 - h. Planning Board to determine if any additional traffic data is to be required.

3. The Planning Board to consider appointing the Planning Office as the completeness agent so that the subdivision amendment application can be filed and a public hearing scheduled.