

**MARCH 3, 2016
MINUTES**

Chairman Perkins called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM at the Town Hall

Members present: Perkins, Barringer, Burke, Giger, Vega and Wilson

Member absent: Svarczkopf

SITE PLAN REVIEW – LAWRENCE ACADEMY ENTRANCE

The Groton Planning Board held a continuation of the public hearing to consider Lawrence Academy's application to construct a new entrance to the campus on Main Street. Dan Scheibe and Linda Deasy of Lawrence Academy, Stan Dillis of Ducharme & Dillis Civil Design Group, and Ken Cramb of Bayside Engineering were present.

Mr. Dillis summarized the discussion of the Feb 11th session. In deference to the comments received at that session of the public hearing, he explained that the Plan was modified to depict the driveway entrance 20-22 feet to the north. He explained that he was not able to move the entrance further to the north due to existing topography and the need to maintain a maximum grade of 8% for the driveway. Additional trees will be added to the south of the new proposed driveway location to mitigate the headlights. The site distance at the new proposed driveway entrance exceeds minimum requirements. One tree along Main Street that was originally slated for removal will be preserved due to the change in location. Only one 8" caliper maple tree will be removed; the Applicant will pursue required approvals with regards to removal of a Public Shade Tree.

Mr. Dillis responded to Ms. Bonavita's comment letter as follows:

- Designated turn lanes will be eliminated.
- On-street parking on Main Street will be maintained.
- Street light specifications previously approved by the Historic District Commission will be submitted for Planning Board review and approval with the final version of the Plan.
- The Applicant does not intend to name the driveway therefore a street sign is unnecessary. The Applicant will petition the Board of Selectmen to abandon the portion of Powderhouse Road that will be relocated. If the Applicant is required to name the new driveway for E-911 purposes, they will likely name it Powderhouse Road.
- The Applicant intends to install a free-standing sign identifying Lawrence Academy that will be externally lit with gooseneck lighting. The style of this freestanding sign will be as previously approved by the Historic District Commission and currently installed elsewhere on campus.
- Crosswalk designs are still being explored and alternatives will be presented at the next session of the public hearing.
- The Applicant will add school zone signage, which will be unlit and a standard diamond shape.
- The Applicant will further examine bringing the sidewalk along the northerly portion of the proposed traffic circle to facilitate pedestrian accessibility.

Comments from the Planning Board were as follows:

- In response to a question from Giger, Mr. Cramb stated that 38 cars turn left onto Main Street via the Powderhouse Road exit during the AM peak hour (between the 7:15 to 8:15 am).
- Wilson mentioned that he is concerned about compliance with dark sky lighting requirements, especially since the lights recently installed towards the rear of the campus do not comply.
- Burke suggested that the Applicant explore installing bump-outs as a means of shortening crosswalk length and more clearly defining the crosswalk.
- Vega suggested lighting the crosswalk from below as a means of defining it. Mr. Cramb replied that imbedding lights in the pavement would be a maintenance issue but he will explore further.

- Barringer mentioned that the crosswalk on Route 40 has limited site distance and, therefore, should be addressed in the School's safety plan.

Dan Scheibe, Headmaster of Lawrence Academy, stated that pedestrian safety and aesthetics are priorities for Lawrence Academy. The School is willing to work with the Town on crosswalk design to slow vehicular traffic and maximize safety for pedestrians.

The Board voted unanimously to continue the public hearing on March 17, 2016 at 7:30 pm. Burke made the motion and Barringer seconded the motion.

CORRESPONDENCE – ROBERT STEPHENS

The Planning Board discussed a letter forwarded by Robert Stephens dated February 19, 2016, two letters prepared by the Building Inspector, Edward Cataldo, dated November 5, 2015 and March 1, 2016, and a letter prepared by Takashi Tada dated February 26, 2016.

Mr. Stephens' letter claimed that the owner of 398 West Main Street (Groton Nursery) erected a block wall to contain mulch and similar products within the floodplain and without permits. In addition to the letter, Mr. Stephens submitted excerpts from the Zoning Bylaws and a portion of the Flood Insurance Map from 1982.

The letters from Mr. Cataldo and Mr. Tada state that enforcement was commenced against the Groton Nursery with regards to the concrete block wall, and that the owner has since addressed the violations by relocating the wall and lowering its height.

After discussing the matter, the Board ultimately agreed that they have no jurisdiction over this matter. They advised Bonavita to send a letter to Mr. Stephens, with cc to the Board of Appeals, explaining this.

MINUTES

Burke made a motion to approve the minutes of February 11, 2016. Giger seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of approving the minutes. The Board discussed the minutes of February 18, 2016 and requested that Bonavita make the following changes: Fix the spelling of "Groton" on page 2 and add reference to Mr. Collins' comment that the Groton School will work with the Board of Selectmen to provide a pedestrian connection to the bikeway. The Planning Board voted unanimously in favor of approving the minutes of February 18, 2016 as amended (Burke made the motion, Giger seconded it).

MISCELLANEOUS

Burke made a motion to enable Bonavita to endorse ANR plans on behalf of the Planning Board once they are approved. Giger seconded the motion and the Board voted unanimously in favor. Burke requested that Bonavita prepare a document for signature and recording at the Registry of Deeds that enacts said provision. The document must be notarized prior to recording.

Barringer asked Bonavita to request a copy of Michael Rosa's application for renewal of a special permit from the Board of Appeals for 72 Boathouse Road. The Planning Board may choose to discuss the application at their next meeting and provide comment.

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Meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM. Wilson made the motion to adjourn, Giger seconded it and the Board voted unanimously in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Laurie Bonavita", is written over the typed name.

Laurie Bonavita
Land Use Director/Town Planner