**TOWN OF GROTON PLANNING BOARD**

**Thursday, April 7, 2022**

**Meeting Minutes**

A virtual meeting of the Planning Board was held on Thursday, April 7, 2022, at approximately

7:03 p.m. All votes were to be taken by roll call because the meeting was virtual.

**Members Present:**

Mr. Scott Wilson, Chair

Ms. Annika Nilsson Ripps, Vice-Chair

Ms. Alyson Bedard, Clerk

Mr. George Barringer, Board Member

Mr. Russell Burke, Board Member

Mr. David Bonnett, Board Member

**Members not Present:**

Ms. Lorayne Black, Board Member

**Also Present:**

Mr. Takashi Tada, Land Use Director/Town Planner

Mr. Wilson noted that he was not feeling well and asked Ms. Nilsson Ripps to Chair the meeting.

Per the Massachusetts Attorney General’s guidance regarding the Massachusetts Wiretap Statute, Mr. Wilson stated the meeting was virtual and being recorded and all votes must be taken via roll call. Further, Mr. Wilson introduced the people who were participating in the meeting.

***Public Hearing (Continued) – Major Site Plan Review for Florence Roche Elementary School and Track, Phase I, 342 Main Street (Town of Groton/Groton Dunstable Regional School District)***

Mr. Tada said he had received a few emails from Nitsch Engineering indicating they reviewed the response to their first comment letter provided by Samiotes Consultants. He said Nitsch Engineering were initially satisfied except for the one comment related to a temporary construction trailer site plan because they did not have a copy of the plan. Mr. Tada state he had since forwarded the plan to Nitsch Engineering and they were satisfied with it.

Mr. Tada indicated the Board received supplemental information from the applicant as requested, and also commented that there was a Memorandum of Understanding between the Groton Dunstable Regional School District and the Conversation Commission which would put some of the land on the far side of the new track into a permanent conservation restriction.

Mr. Tada referred to Condition 11 of the draft Site Plan Review Permit which stated: “a flag person shall be required when five or more dump trucks are used in a day.” This condition was suggested by Mr. Bonnett, who said he was concerned about safety due to the high number of truck trips anticipated.

Mr. Mark Haddad, Town Manager, said that the cost of adding a flag person would drive the cost of the project up. He asked the Planning Board to remove the requirement and noted they were trying to find a local entity in Groton that would be willing to take a majority of the fill that would be removed from the site. He also said most of the trucks exiting the site would be taking a right-hand turn onto Rte. 119 and thus would not need a flag person.

Ms. Nilsson Ripps asked if the trucking operations would not be happening during high-traffic times such as student pick-up or drop-off. Mr. Haddad replied that was correct.

Mr. Tripp McElroy of Gilbane Building Co. (General Contractor) said they plan to restrict truck traffic during “blackout times” that coincide with drop-off and pick-up times during school days. They also expect most of the truck trips to occur during the summer vacation. Mr. McElroy estimated 50 truck trips per day during the peak of earth moving operations.

Mr. Burke suggested pulling the condition out and then if needed once the project started, they could do a field change.

Ms. Nilsson Ripps asked if there were members of the public who had questions or comments. There were none.

**MOTION:** Mr. Burke made a motion to close the public hearing. Mr. Barringer seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken, which resulted as follows:

Yea: Mr. Burke, Ms. Bedard, Mr. Bonnett, 6

Ms. Nilsson Ripps, Mr. Barringer, & Mr. Wilson

Nay: 0

**The motion carried 6 – 0 – 0.**

The Planning Board collectively reviewed the waivers and conditions on the site plan with the following edits:

* Condition 10: Per the Code of the Town of Groton, Ch. 266 Traffic Rules and Regulations, the use and operation of heavy commercial vehicles that had a carrying capacity of more than 2.5 tons were restricted on Champney Street. The language to be changed from “to avoid Champney Street to “commercial vehicles exceeding posted weight limits shall not use Champney Street.
* Condition 11: After some discussion, the Planning Board collectively decided to eliminate the requirement for a flag person, but noted the situation would be monitored and if needed to impose traffic mitigation and safety measures.

**MOTION:** Mr. Burke made a motion to approve the site plan review as amended. Mr. Barringer seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken, which resulted as follows:

Yea: Mr. Burke, Ms. Bedard, Mr. Bonnett, 6

Ms. Nilsson Ripps, Mr. Barringer, & Mr. Wilson

Nay: 0

**The motion carried 6 – 0 – 0.**

***Adjournment***

**MOTION:** At approximately 8:03 p.m. Mr. Burke made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Bedard seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken, which resulted as follows:

Yea: Mr. Burke, Ms. Bedard, Mr. Bonnett, 6

Ms. Nilsson Ripps, Mr. Barringer, & Mr. Wilson

Nay: 0

**The motion carried 6 – 0 – 0.**

Respectfully submitted:

Trish Gedziun

Recording Secretary

*Approved 5/12/2022*