KENSINGTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE 1 2 PLANNING BOARD 3 WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 2024, 6:30 P.M. 4 AT KENSINGTON TOWN HALL, 95 AMESBURY ROAD, KENSINGTON, NH 5 **MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT** 6 7 8 9 10 V. Rozier called the meeting to order at 6:32pm and announced that she was reordering the agenda 11 since there was no representative present for the 23 Moulton Ridge Rd. application. 12 13 14 In attendance: Vanessa Rozier (Chairperson), Justin McLane (Vice Chairperson), Bob Solomon (Selctboard Representative), Aaron Fenton (Member), Mary Smith (Member), Carly Fenton (Member), 15 Marty Silvia (Member), and Glenn Greenwood (Town Planner). 16 17 18 **PUBLIC HEARINGS:** 19 20 MOTION: M. Smith motioned to open the public hearing, M. Silvia seconded. All in favor. 21 22 The public hearing was opened at 6:33pm. 23 24 Planning Board Public Hearing: 25 Michael Schwotzer 26 Owner: First Congregational Church of Kensington 27 108 Amesbury Rd, Kensington, NH 03833 28 Map 11 lot 9 29 The applicant is requesting that the Planning Board grant site plan approval under Article III, Section 3.3.B.3 for a childcare business on the first floor of the existing building. The 30 31 Zoning Board of Adjustment granted a Special Exception for a commercial business under Article III, Section 3.3.B.1 on January 2, 2024. 32 33 34 MOTION: M. Smith motioned to open the public hearing. M. Silvia seconded. All in 35 favor. The public hearing was opened at 6:33pm. 36 37 V. Rozier asked G. Greenwood if he had reviewed the application for completeness. G. 38 Greenwood stated that he had reviewed the application, and he found 4 items that were 39 missing: 40 41 1. Hours of operation 42 2. Number of employees 3. Representation of parking 43 4. More information on septic system 44 45 Mr. Schwotzer explained that he provided a letter to the Land Use Administrative 46 Assistant that provided the missing information (Addendum 1). He explained that the 47 ZBA had granted a special exception on January 20, 2024. He stated a condition of 48 approval from the ZBA was to get site plan approval from the Planning Board. 49

Mr. Schwotzer explained that even thought this would be considered a commercial operation, the New Hampshire home group childcare policy allows for childcare up to 12 children, which allows for less stringent requirements in contrast with a larger, commercial childcare center.

Mr. Schwotzer provided details of the building layout and stated that the children would have the required space per child (50'). He also stated that there would be 14 parking spaces provided in the church parking lot.

- J. McLane asked that with the entrance of the parking lot being blocked for the safety of the children, would vehicles still be able to enter the church parking lot. Mr. Schwotzer stated that there would still be access without compromising child safety. V. Rozier asked Mr. Schwotzer to detail where the parking lot would be blocked. Mr. Schwotzer explained that it would be at the southeast tip of the building, with a similar barrier at the other end of the building. He explained that vehicles would be able to enter and exit from Rt. 150, and the design would prevent vehicles from using the church parking lot as a cut-through.
- Mr. Schwotzer explained that teachers would have no more than 6 children at any one time. With a maximum of 12 children, there would be 2 teachers on staff. J. McLane expressed concerns about congestion at the church parking lot during pickups. He suggested opening the parking lot up during drop offs and pickups to allow vehicles to exit the parking lot without having to turn around. Mr. Schwotzer stressed the safety of the children walking across the parking lot when vehicles are transiting through and stated that he does not believe there will be significant traffic during drop off and pick up times.

Jean Waldron of 62 Cottage Rd. explained that she attends the church had has worked extensively in day cares, and based on her experience, it is unlikely that all kids will be picked up at the same time. She also explained that the kids are still very little, and many will be carried to their pickup vehicle.

- G. Greenwood stated that the small number of kids attending the day care does not present a significant impact on land use.
- A. Fenton inquired as to the board's goal in conducting a site plan review, given the small size of the proposed use of the church. V. Rozier explained that it is required under Article III, Section 3.3.B of the Kensington zoning ordinance.
- Mr. Schwotzer detailed the septic system design, explaining that it was adequate for what is being proposed. M. Smith asked if there are state requirements regarding the required number of restrooms. Mr. Schwotzer stated that two is sufficient for the number of people being proposed.
- C. Fenton asked about the targeted age group. Ms. Waldron replied that the children would be no younger than 18, as there would be a requirement for a separate changing room with a means to hand wash within the room.
- Mr. Schwotzer presented 2 waiver requests to the board (*Addendums 2&3*). With regards to Addendum 3, V. Rozier expressed concern about the Planning Board granting waivers for items under site plan review that may be under ZBA jurisdiction. G. Greenwood stated that the setbacks should not be an issue, since the building is over 15 years old. The Board discussed the setback requirements and agreed that the setback is

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a legally existing, non-conforming use, and that nothing needs to be recorded other than explaining the reasons for allowing a non-conforming use. J. McLane observed that there are quite a few items on the checklist that do not apply because of the simplicity of the proposal.

V. Rozier stated that before the Board moved forward with any decisions, they vote to accept jurisdiction of the application.

<u>MOTION</u>: M. Silvia motioned to accept jurisdiction of the application. C. Fenton seconded. All in favor.

V. Rozier entertained a motion to approve the waiver for 22'X34' site plans.

<u>MOTION</u>: M. Smith motioned to approve the waiver based on information provided by the applicant. J. McLane seconded. All in favor.

- V. Rozier suggested a condition of approval to ensure that a state approved septic plan is on file. G. Greenwood stated that the septic was installed in 2017, and therefore state approval would have to already be on file.
- J. McLane suggested a condition of approval that all guidelines for the state and local fire policy are met.
- A. Fenton opined that he was unsure that a site plan review was necessary, as his reading of site plan regulations is focused on development, and this proposal seems like a change of use. J. McLane stated that because of the change in use, it is necessary for the Board to conduct a site plan review to ensure that the proposed change of use meets all regulations and safety requirements. V. Rozier stated that the reasons for conducting a site plan review are that 1.) the zoning ordinance requires it, and 2.) the site plan for the church was last approved in 1927 based on a certain use, and since this is a change in use, portions of the site plan review applies (occupancy, septic plan, etc).
- V. Rozier entertained a motion to approve the site plan.

MOTION: J. McLane motioned to approve the site plan for Map 11, Lot 9, 108 Amesbury Rd, for a childcare business with the following conditions:

- 1. The applicant will provide the town with their state approval for the operation.
- 2. The applicant will comply with comments from the fire department on the proposal.
- C. Fenton seconded. All in favor.

<u>MOTION</u>: M. Smith motioned to close the public hearing. C. Fenton seconded. All in favor.

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Planning Board Public Hearing:

Continued Public hearing from February 21, 2024

Owner: Connor Lincoln 23 Moulton Ridge Rd Kensington, NH 03833

Map 11 Lot 46

The applicant is requesting that the Planning Board grant approval of a 3-lot subdivision, as stated in Article III, Section 3.3 of the Kensington Subdivision Regulations.

V. Rozier read the purpose of the hearing and entertained a motion to open the public hearing.

MOTION: J. McLane motioned to open the public hearing. C. Fenton seconded. All in favor.

- V. Rozier stated that the Board had received a letter from the applicant requesting to continue the application. She explained that the applicant had withdrawn their application for special exception to the ZBA. Mr. Schwotzer (ZBA chair) was still in attendance and explained that the applicant withdrew their application because the changes to the original plans were extensive and included broader impact to more than just lot 46-3.
- J. McLane asked if a continuance request letter had been received for the March hearing.
- *Note: continuance letters were provided in both February and March. The February continuance request letter was mistakenly placed in Planning Board packets for this meeting (Addendum 1). The contents of the continuance request for March was for the same reasons as the previous request: the applicant wanted to obtain ZBA special exception approval before seeking approval from the Planning Board and avoid re-noticing abutters if possible (as re-noticing is not required if the Board continues an application and states the date, time, and place of the continued hearing).
- G. Greenwood stated that if the board concurred, he would be comfortable with not granting the continuance. He detailed that the original public notice that indicated the extent of wetland impact is no longer an effective representation of what the wetland impact will be.

The board discussed whether there was a request to continue the March hearing in front of them. V. Rozier stated that based on email communications between B. Gier and the Land Use Administrative Assistant, she believed that there was a continuance request for this hearing. The board discussed the issue, and they agreed that a continuance was requested.

- G. Greenwood stated that by rejecting the request for continuance, they are effectively denying the application. J. McLane highlighted the need for the public to be legally noticed, particularly with so much change in the plans.
- G. Greenwood suggested that the Board not grant the continuance because the continuance was originally requested so that the applicant could obtain ZBA relief, and now that the

applicant has withdrawn the application, there is no ZBA process in place until they accept a new application.

The board further discussed whether to grant or deny the continuance. G. Greenwood stated that if they deny the continuance and the application, the Board needs to state the specific reasons for the denial under state law. He also stated that the Board should note that the applicant can resubmit a new subdivision application if they so choose.

<u>MOTION</u>: C. Fenton motioned to deny the continuance request for the subdivision hearing at 23 Moulton Ridge Rd, Map 11, Lot 46. A. Fenton seconded. All in favor.

<u>MOTION</u>: C. Fenton motioned to deny the application for 23 Moulton Ridge Rd, Map 11, Lot 46 based on the application being withdrawn from the ZBA, no ongoing ZBA process for the application, and that there is no updated information for the Planning Board to consider. M. Silvia seconded. All in favor.

<u>MOTION</u>: C. Fenton motioned to close the public hearing. M. Smith seconded. All in favor.

UPDATES ON PRIOR BUSINESS:

• Master Plan survey

- J. McLane asked if the Board has received further feedback from town committees. G. Greenwood stated that the Kensington Sawyer Trust had concerns with the section of the survey giving respondents the option to recommend "replacing" town facilities, as that is not an option with Sawyer Park. The trust did like the option of recommending upgrading the facilities, such as adding recreational activities that are currently unavailable.
- C. Fenton suggested adding separate open-ended question such as, "Are there recreational facilities that should be added to Sawyer Park." She asked if the board felt they should eliminate the "replace" option on the survey with regards to facilities. J. McLane suggested that rather than completely eliminate the "replace" option, the Board might tailor it to specific things, such as providing an option for replacing facilities such as municipal offices, library, etc.

The board discussed strategies for distributing the final survey to the public, such as: posting the survey to the town website, sending it out in the church newsletter, posting on Kensington Connects, and providing print copies at the town hall and the library. A. Fenton asked if a mailing would be possible. V. Rozier highlighted current budget constraints. J. McLane suggested providing an option for respondents to receive a mailed copy of the survey if they cannot make it to the town hall to pick up a hard copy survey. V. Rozier suggested that B. Solomon ask the Selectboard at their next meeting if they'd be amenable to the cost of mailing the survey. C. Fenton suggested mailing a postcard with a QR code that would give respondents access to a digital copy of the survey.

V. Rozier entertained a motion to approve the survey.

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254	MOTION: A. Fenton motioned to approve the town survey with the revisions discussed.	
255	M. Silvia seconded. All in favor.	
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257 258	Site Plan Review	
259 260	*TABLED	
261 262	• Any other business brought before the Planning Board.	
263 264	V. Rozier stated that this would be her last meeting as chair and a member of the Planning Board. The Board discussed continuity of Board leadership.	
265 266 267	<u>MOTION</u> : M. Smith motioned to nominate Justin McLane as Planning Board Chairperson A. Fenton seconded. All in favor.	
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269	MOTION: V. Rozier motioned to nominate Carly Fenton as Planning Board Vice	
270	Chairperson.	
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273	 Approval of Minutes from January 17, 2024. 	
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	Next Pegular Monthly Meeting, Wednesday, April 17, 2024, at 6:20pm	
278 279	Next Regular Monthly Meeting: Wednesday, April 17, 2024, at 6:30pm	
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281	Adjournment	
282	Adjournment	
283	MOTION: V. Rozier motioned to adjourn the meeting. C. Fenton seconded. All in favor.	
284	MOTION. V. Nozier motioned to adjourn the meeting. C. I enton seconded. All in lavor.	
285	The meeting was adjourned at 8:27pm.	
286	The meeting was adjourned at 0.27 pm.	
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289	Respectfully Submitted,	
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291	Owen Corcoran	
292	Land Use Administrative Assistant	
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