

TOWN OF NORTHFIELD
PLANNING BOARD
April 6, 2015
MINUTES

Members present: Jason Durgin, Doug Read, Kim Robichaud and Wayne Crowley. Absent: Mike Murphy and Glen Brown.

Minutes: Wayne Crowley moved, seconded by Kim Robichaud to accept the minutes of March 2, 2015 with a spelling correction. Motion passed.

Phoenix House (U7 Lot 79): Peter Dalpra of Phoenix House explained that he had previously asked for a waiver to allow drug treatment at 23 Elm Street for 6 months. This is no longer necessary as the plan is to continue as transitional housing with the addition of onsite 24/7 staff. This will be for the same type of clients who will have completed a treatment program. There will be no clinical services added. The clients will still be housed on a voluntary basis but can either be paid by insurance or self pay. The clients would not be court ordered but a court could encourage or suggest that someone be housed at Phoenix House. The applicants will still be screened with no criminals, sex offenders or arsons allowed.

There has been little need for police or fire intervention at 23 Elm Street since opening. Currently all but one resident have jobs. The clients are NH residents, have completed a drug or alcohol intervention program and are allowed to stay at Phoenix House for up to 6 months. The current success rate (staying sober) is about 60%.

The staff will have been trained by Phoenix House for substance abuse counseling with at least one person being a licensed alcohol/drug counselor. Having staff on location will provide more security at the home.

The consensus of the Planning Board was that the addition of onsite staff does not constitute any change to the previously approved Site Plan for Phoenix House at 23 Elm Street.

UMRLAC: Board members reviewed a map prepared by UMRLAC showing the impervious surfaces throughout town. While it is difficult to make it thoroughly accurate, the map appeared to show where the majority of impervious surfaces are located and members considered it to be acceptable.

Medical Marijuana Dispensaries: State law authorizes 4 facilities for the production of medical marijuana throughout the state. This issue needs further study to determine whether to present an ordinance relative to such dispensaries to the voters.

Bestway: Jason Durgin stated that he had attended the DES hearing relative to Bestways' application to expand their facility for handling hauled trash to their site which is located over a "Stratified Drift Aquifer" in Belmont. Jason stated that all trash is dumped inside the building

and removed via trailers while anything that is left overnight is covered by tarps. Wayne Crowley stated that the Tilton Selectmen sent a letter opposing the expansion and Northfield Selectmen sent a letter asking that great care be used in reviewing the plan. He added that there is concern about trucks catching fire (because of hazardous items in the load) and the danger of hazardous materials leaching into the aquifer before the Fire Department arrived. This plan will triple the amount of potential “Hot” loads entering that lot, increasing the risk of contaminating the aquifer.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Eliza Conde, Secretary

Minutes approved 05-04-2015