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City of Rochester Planning Board
31 Wakefield Street
Rochester, NH 03867



March 24, 2017

RE: Proposed Lot Line Revision & Major Subdivision
Portland & Franklin Street
Harold & Dorothy Caler & Real Estate Advisors Inc

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Rochester Planning Board,

As you know, late last fall the Planning Board made it clear to the applicant that a second full access point would be required for the size development contemplated for the property commonly known as 24 Jeremiah Lane. At that time the applicant had completed all of the engineering for the project and was in the middle of TRG review, as well as state and federal permitting. Since then, the applicant has secured access through Lois Erickson's parcel known as Tax Map 223, Lot 18, and we have conducted the required survey work, wetlands analysis, and site specific soils mapping required for this development, on that parcel.

The applicant was before the board in February of 2017 to present the new layout for the project, and presented the same to the TRG, where we received some technical input on dimensional requirements, but in general most seemed pleased the applicant complied with the concerns of staff and the board, with respect to the access.

The project now stands as a looping road from the intersection of Portland and Franklin, back to Portland, just west of Brenda Lane. The proposal contains 74 units, 38 single family homes, 10 duplex units, and four four-plex lots. The lot designations are labeled with an (S) for single family, (D) for duplex and a Four-Plex for the four units. The open space is now generally clustered towards the rear of the site, the perimeter, along with the front field still remaining open. Much of the concerns of the board and one of the abutting parties was centered on the easement and access road which transverses through the property. This access easement is not exclusive and is 30 feet in width. The new design designs the lots and lot lines around the existing easement, so that it now runs along the perimeter of Lots 17, 9, 10 (collectively) and then along Lot 38 and 39 (collectively.) Shared access to Lots 17, 9, 10 will be taken from the neck of Lot 17 onto Evelyn Drive, so that the access road will not be used for driveway access to those lots or units. There will be one crossing of the easement onto Lot 9. The easement then crosses Evelyn Drive once, and has no other encumbrance onto the roadway system. The easement bordering Lots 38 and 39 will be used for maintenance access to Drainage Area #3, but will remain open at all times to the easement holder.

The intersection of Portland and Franklin is still to be upgraded along with the culvert under Franklin Street, just as the original plan proposed. The traffic analysis and report is being updated pursuant to the two full access points by TEPP LLC.

The applicant has met with the Rochester Conservation Commission on two occasions, once in February, and has recently had a meeting with them on March 22nd. On the 22nd, the commission voted to recommend approval of the Conditional Use Permit and wetlands impacts associated with the project with a number of conditions. A few of these conditions were:

- Where the 50' buffer encumbers lots, the 25' buffer will be signed with placards and will be planted with native species shrubs, and a mulch berm installed. The intent is to act as a visual and structural barrier for future home owners of the lots.
- Culvert crossings are recommended to be oversized embedded culverts or box style culverts.
- The HOA documents are to discuss and regulate the use and management of the open space, disposal of yard waste, the use of low / no nitrogen and phosphate practices for fertilization, and buffer education.

Please note that this is not a complete list, and is paraphrased, but were some of the highlights. The final list will be received from the commission and incorporated into the project plans.

Some of the abutting concerns, stated at the last meeting have been:

- Drainage and wetlands.
 - Please note that a complete drainage analysis is being completed for this revised project which addresses drainage concerns for all of the analysis points within. Storm flow and treatment has been a concern of the board's from the onset of the project, and they have specifically asked for an outside review of the analysis. There will also be an internal review of the analysis as well as a state review of the analysis. Culvert sizing at the first crossing off of Franklin has been carefully considered whereas the abutting parties have provided empirical evidence throughout the process.
 - The wetlands shown on the plans are the wetlands found on the ground. The soils found on site are hydrologic soil group "C", which is a very common soil type for Rochester and New Hampshire in general. The wetlands have now been reviewed twice by Gove Environmental, who also prepared a Site Specific Soils Map for the project as required by New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services.
 - Large scale soils maps prepared by NRCS, or graphical tax maps do not supersede or override the onsite mapping conducted by a licensed professional.
 - Gove Environmental has conducted a Functions and Values analysis for the applicant, which will be submitted as part of the full application package. In it, along with the first application, they find that there are no vernal pools on site.
 - There is no spring on site. There is a structured well within the proposed open space of the project, in the lower field, adjacent to the wetlands. It is a dug well, and utilizes ground water. There are no private rights to this well.
- The existing Farm House and Jeremiah Lane



- The existing farm house is proposed to be on lot 24, which will contain roughly $\frac{3}{4}$ of an acre.
- Jeremiah Lane is no longer going to be utilized by this project other than the existing use it enjoys today. No infrastructure is proposed on Jeremiah Lane. The limits of Jeremiah Lane can be found on the Existing Conditions Plans previously presented to the board, and will also be found on the Existing Conditions Plans presented as part of the revised project review.
- Buffers and Open Space
 - The original design kept the central field and the lower field free from development. This design develops the central field, but keeps a larger connected mass of open space, which is also connected to abutting open space. This design removes a stream crossing, has less road construction, and creates the second full connection point to Portland Street.
 - The design incorporates a buffer along the rear of Lots 25 and 26. This buffer is located on and in the open space and can therefore never be developed. The buffer is along the existing woods line so that no additional vegetation is removed.
 - There is additional constructed buffering proposed along the proposed Evelyn Drive along abutting land owned by Mr. Dillow, as well as Mr. and Mrs. Burgess. There is constructed buffering along the entrance alignment of Evelyn Drive to block the view of the road from abutting land owners on Portland Street. (Benton, Caler, and Huppe)

During the February Planning Board meeting we discussed how we now needed to get the final survey data, environmental data, and design the project. Since that time we have been doing this work and will be applying to the TRG on April 4th so they can start their review of the technical details. To date the TRG has seen this project, in its current form once, and made broad stroke comments only. TRG will not have a chance to comment further on this submission, and its only purpose is to glean comments from the board and abutting parties so that we may work with TRG on implementing those detail into final plan submissions. Please note that we have submitted DRAFT copies of the subdivision layout, so the board may review it and make comments.

We would ask that the planning board continue this application to a date certain, for the first meeting in May.

Thank you for your time and consideration to this matter.

BERRY SURVEYING & ENGINEERING

Christopher R. Berry, President



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