

FARMINGTON PLANNING BOARD
Farmington Village Corporation Field
Site Walk-over – Event Camping
June 22, 2021 – 9:00 A.M.
Notes

Planning Board members present: Clayton King, Lloyd Smith, Craig Jordan, Gloria McGraw, Mike Otley and Judith Murphy.

Alternate members present: None.

Members unable to attend: Jeff Wright, Linda Brown and Michael MacNeil.

Others present: Town Manager, Richard Davis; Fire Rescue Chief, Terry Bell; Code Enforcement Officer, Steve Kaiser (CEO); Code Enforcement Assistant, Kate Foster; applicant, John Moore and University of Farmington (UMF) Chief Business Officer, Laurie Gardner; abutter, Wayne Kinney.

Mr. King opened the site walk-over meeting at 9:02 a.m.

Mr. King reviewed the rules, regulations, and process of the site walk-over with everyone present and made sure everyone understood, then asked John Moore to present the project.

Mr. Moore pointed out the field and stated where the circles are mowed is where each camp site would be.

Mrs. McGraw asked if event attendees could drive to their campsites.

Mr. Moore said no.

Mr. Davis asked if the sides of the entrance would be marked in some way.

Mr. Moore said it would be roped off.

Ms. Foster asked if the grass and field was going to be treated for ticks.

Mr. Moore replied that, since it's Farmington Village Corporation (FVC) property and in wellhead protection, he isn't going to be treating any of it.

Mr. Moore then pointed out the area where the two semi-circle fire pits are going to be.

Mr. King asked where the Village Business/Farm & Forest zoning boundary is.

Mr. Moore pointed out roughly where they go through.

Mr. Kaiser said that if someone shot the 100-year flood elevation - it would likely be somewhere near the top of the bank or slightly upland - that would be the boundary - Village Corporation land on the right - which is Farm & Forest - and John's property on the left which is Village Business.

Ms. Murphy asked where the porta potties would be going and how many there would be.

Mr. Moore pointed to the area to the left [north] of the bottom of the embankment and Pleasant Street Extension and said that he believes the companies that supply them have a chart to determine how many are needed based on the number of people.

Mr. King asked where 103 Main Street is - the abutter that wrote a letter to the Board at the previous meeting.

Mr. Moore pointed to the old green telephone building [now GreenGrow] up on the hill and said it's two houses [north] beyond that and sits close to the road [Main St.]. He added that they [the abutters] don't own any of the woods and he has started marking the boundary with pins and will do quit-claim deeds with the abutters.

The Board was looking at the steep embankments on each side of the road behind the abutters, and Mr. Moore said he doesn't see someone going up those - especially in the dark after couple of drinks. He said he doesn't see it happening, but will address it if it does. He added that he hasn't advertised the road but it has had a fairly good amount of traffic especially with people walking.

Mr. Otley asked if the road was going to be paved.

Mr. Moore replied that he is going to lift the grade roughly 6" to create a run-off swale near the top, then pave the top part. He added this will hopefully help stop the catch basin there that fills with silt.

Mr. Smith asked if the field gets hayed.

Mr. Moore said the water company periodically used to hay it.

Ms. Gardner said they hadn't hired anyone to hay it recently.

Mr. Moore stated to the right [north] of the current mowed camp circles he will mow more - for a total of about 40 circles for camp sites. He then pointed out where the sites in his next phase in Village Business would go at the toe of the upper bank.

Mr. Otley asked if there was going to be parking in the field as well.

Mr. Moore said there will be some at the toe lower bank of the field. He added if Trek Across Maine comes back there will be hundreds attending.

Ms. Gardner added that some stay in the dorms as well as camp.

Mr. Moore said there is roughly 50-60 camp sites for that event.

Mr. King asked how many people does he figure for each tent.

Mr. Moore said it would probably be 2-4 people per site.

Ms. Murphy asked if pets were going to be allowed.

Mr. Moore stated pets will not be allowed.

Mr. Otley verified with Mr. Moore that the concerts were held in the area in front of the screen.

Ms. Murphy asked what there was for seating.

Mr. Moore said it is bring-your-own seating.

Mr. Otley asked about the white tent that was on site.

Mr. Moore said it was for the bands – to function as their green room.

Mr. Otley asked if campers were going to be allowed.

Mr. Moore said no, but eventually they are hoping to have “glamping”.

Mr. Moore pointed to the small tree line in between fields and said that is as far as they would go with the camping.

Ms. Murphy asking about the number of parking spaces for campers.

Mr. Moore said it is 9’ width per spot, it will be tucked up close to the banks, and for 40 spots he will need roughly 400’ length - and there is 600’ available - so he could do more than 40 parking spots if necessary.

Ms. Murphy asked where concert patrons park.

Mr. Moore said they park in the theater parking lot, and with concerts on Saturday nights, the regular businesses in that area are closed therefore there are plenty of spaces.

Mr. Moore stated these events are great for Farmington food businesses because a lot of people want to get something to eat after an event.

Ms. Murphy asked when the first event is going to be.

Mr. Moore replied there is a concert on July 18th, Dave Mallett, and on the 24th, a Grateful Dead tribute band, and camping provision will be specific to the band and crowd they attract.

Mr. King closed the site walk-over meeting at 9:20 a.m.

Notes respectfully submitted by Kate Foster.

Planning Board

Date