Development Review Board

Drew Clymer, Chair Christopher Walton David Kelly Leigh Wasserman Thomas Hand Peter Roberts Mary Black



Town of Stowe Development Review Board Meeting Minutes - March 7, 2023

- A regular meeting of the Development Review Board was held on Tuesday, March 7, 2023, starting 4
- 5 at approximately 5:00 pm. The meeting was held at the Stowe Town Office with remote
- 6 participation using the "Zoom" application.
- 7 Members Present: Drew Clymer, Tom Hand, Mary Black, David Kelly, Leigh Wasserman, Sarah
- 8 Henshaw (alternate)
- Staff Present: Sarah McShane- Planning & Zoning Director, Ryan Morrison- Deputy Zoning 9
- 10 Administrator
- 11 **Others Present in Person**: [See sign-in attendance sheet]
- 12 **Approval of the Agenda**

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14 Chair Clymer called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

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16 **Development Review Public Hearings**

- 17 Project #: 7022 (Applicant Requested a Continuance to March 21st)
- 18 Owner: AWH Stowe Resort Hotel LLC c/o AWH Partners LLC
- 19 Tax Parcel #: 11-138.000
- 20 Location: 199 Topnotch Dr
- 21 Project: Construct Four Story Multi-Family Dwelling with Conference Room
- 22 **Zoning: UMR/PUD**

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24 The applicant submitted a written request to continue the hearing to the March 21, 2023, DRB

25 meeting date.

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M. Black made the motion to continue the application to the March 21, 2023, DRB meeting. The 28 motion was seconded by D. Kelly and unanimously approved.

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- 30 Project #: 7018 (Cont. from 11/1/22 & 1/17/23)
- **Owner: David Bailey** 31
- 32 Tax Parcel #: 03-077.000
- 33 Location: 2878 Waterbury Rd
- 34 Project: Change of Use from Single-Family Dwelling to Office; Nonconforming Use Review
- 35 **Zoning: RR2**

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- The applicant submitted a written request to continue the hearing to the next available DRB 37
- 38 meeting date.

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40 S. Henshaw made the motion to continue the application to the May 16, 2023, DRB meeting. The 41 motion was seconded by M. Black and unanimously approved.

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- 43 **Project #: 7055**
- 44 Owner: YS Views LLC Ben Cavalic & Dr. Matthew Tormenti
- Tax Parcel #: 07-170.000 45

46 Location: 917 Taber Hill Rd

47 Project: Subdivision Amendment- Re-subdivision: Create 3 Additional Lots Within

48 Previously Approved Subdivision/PRD; Proposed Clearing Limits on Lot 5

Zoning: RR2/RR5

The applicant submitted a written request to recess the hearing to a future DRB meeting.

S. Henshaw made the motion to recess the application to the May 2, 2023, DRB meeting. The motion was seconded by M. Black and unanimously approved.

Project #: 7062

57 Owner: Peter Livaditis- Maple Corner Investments LLC

Tax Parcel #: 7A-135.020
 Location: 59 Mountain Rd #b

60 Project: Renovate Existing Mixed-Use Building; Construct Addition; Add Dwelling Unit &

61 Related Improvements

Zoning: VC-10

Chair Clymer swore in Andrew Volansky, John Grenier, and Peter Livaditis.

 A. Volansky provided a summary of the project. The application is to renovate, upgrade, and construct an addition to the blacksmith shop which will include a lower level apartment and an upper level apartment. The main level will continue to be used commercially. The project will include lifting the building up to put a new foundation underneath. The application was reviewed by the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) on January 11, 2023, and received a favorable recommendation.

A. Volansky addressed the setback issues that were brought up by staff and acknowledged that the project will be going back to the HPC on March 8, 2023, to address a waiver request to the front yard setback and the 50-ft riparian/watercourse setback.

At 5:08pm, Chair Clymer went through the standards.

Chair Clymer asked if the design meets all setbacks. A. Volansky responded that it doesn't meet the front yard and riparian/watercourse setbacks. The application will have to go back in front of the HPC for a recommendation on the setback waiver requests. Because four properties gain access from the shared access right-of-way (ROW), the ROW is considered a street and requires the standard front yard setback. Regarding the riparian/watercourse setback, the applicant received favorable recommendation from the state agencies involved.

J. Grenier argued that the access ROW is more of a driveway to the existing parking area and properties than it is a street. S. McShane pointed out that the definition of 'Street' in the zoning regulations indicate that the ROW clearly falls within the definition of 'Street' because it serves four properties, and therefore the front yard setback applies from the edge of the ROW. The proposed front porch is within the 10-ft front yard setback, and a waiver is needed to allow it.

A. Volansky noted that with the presence of an existing retaining wall and patio, no new encroachment toward the watercourse will occur.

 D. Clymer asked if parking is owned by all businesses in the development. A. Volansky responded that parking is shared by all businesses in the development.

The board questioned how floodwaters could affect the property, given the site's topography. Given varying factors site and river factors, particularly how the river forms into a gorge behind the property, flood water could go over the bank and into the parking lot. As a result, the development will be elevated 3-ft above the base flood elevation.

 D. Kelly asked if the Public Works Director has commented on the proposal. S. McShane confirmed that he had, and he noted that the town has an access easement to the interceptor sewer that runs along the edge of the river. Given the layout of the proposed improvements, that easement appears to be eliminated. An easement will be needed through the property to access the sewer – recommends at least a 10-ft wide, undisturbed easement. The PW Director recommends the south side of the building, but per J. Grenier, there are 2 levels of retaining walls, a permanent structure, a set of stairs, and a maple tree; and it's much steeper on the south side – a situation which would prove difficult to obtain access to the sewer access. J. Grenier noted that they would propose the 10-ft wide easement to locate on the other side of the building.

Chair Clymer stated that he'd like to get back to focusing on the setback issues. He noted that procedurally, the application will have to go back to the HPC for their setback waiver recommendation, and then follow up again with the DRB. S. McShane provided the definition of 'Street' again, where it says that a ROW serving more than 3 lots is considered as street – which is the case here. Therefore the 10-ft front yard setback applies to the edge of the ROW.

Chair Clymer asked if any board members had further questions regarding the riparian setback waiver request. No board members had questions about this.

Chair Clymer asked if the 'bones' of the existing building will be preserved within the new development. A. Volansky confirmed that they will be incorporated as much as possible into the new design.

T. Hand asked about the Fire Department's requirement for the 'no parking area in the front' and any implications that that may have to overall parking. J. Grenier responded that in front of the building is a travel lane providing access to parking beyond the blacksmith shop, so there will be no parking in front of the building.

Chair Clymer asked if the structure is historic. S. McShane confirmed that it is in the historic district and the structure is a contributing resource on the National Historic Register.

Chair Clymer asked if there is an HOA agreement for the maintenance of the driveway and parking area. P. Livaditis responded that there is, and those bylaws are recorded.

T. Hand asked if the applicant has summarized the parking demand for the entire property, because there is one space on the subject parcel, and then six offsite devoted to the subject property? J.
 Grenier noted that everybody in the development is deeded a certain amount of parking spaces.
 The applicant is legally deeded seven parking spaces. The proposal will require four spaces.

P. Livaditis stated that the seven deeded spaces are not assigned, they're part of a parking space pool. S. McShane noted that the applicant should provide a copy of the parking agreement for the record.

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146 147 148	Chair Clymer asked the applicant to detail the project, floor by floor. A. Volansky stated that the top floor will be a one-bedroom apartment. The main floor (parking lot level) will be a tenant fit-up space. The lower level will be a small apartment.
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150 151 152	L. Wasserman asked if the apartments will be short or long term rentals. P. Livaditis responded that they will be 'either/or'.
153 154 155 156	The question of ADA parking/access was asked. P. Livaditis confirmed that there is signage for ADA parking adjacent to the toy store, but within the overall parking area, there is not a single striped parking space. A. Volansky noted that a ramp will provide access to the subject development.
157 158 159 160 161	L. Wasserman asked about the chimney and if it will stay. A. Volansky noted that it is in good shape, so it will stay, and may actually lift up with the building, or remain as is. It is an unused chimney that will just be decoration.
162 163 164	T. Hand asked about the stormwater and erosion control. J. Grenier responded that the standard stormwater and erosion control measures will be implemented.
165 166	A. Volansky walked through the elevation plans which show the exterior light fixtures.
167 168 169	A. Volansky requested that the board continue the hearing so that the application can be reviewed by the HPC for the setback waiver requests
170 171	M. Black made the motion to recess the application to the April 4, 2023, DRB meeting. The motion was seconded by T. Hand and unanimously approved.
172 173 174	Other Business:
175 176	None.
177 178	Review of Upcoming Schedule:
179 180	N/a Annuaral of Minutage
181 182	Approval of Minutes:
183 184 185	S. Henshaw made the motion to approve the meeting minutes of February 21, 2023. The motion was seconded by M. Black and unanimously approved.
186 187	At 6:37pm the meeting was adjourned.
188 189	Respectfully Submitted, Ryan Morrison
190 191	Deputy Zoning Administrator