

TOWN OF WILLSBORO

PLANNING BOARD

MINUTES PLANNING BOARD MEETING DATE: March 21, 2022 at 6:00 PM

LOCATION: Willsboro Central School Auditorium

Present: Chairman: Gregory Gordon Members: Tom Dwyer, Chauntel Gillilland, Brian King, Andre Klein, Gina Minessale, John Sucharzewski and Larry Charbonneau

Members of the Public: Drew Reithel, Alvin Reiner, Jim Abdallah, Mike Coon, Andrew Jeja, Rob Powell, Mary Hottelet, Kasey Young, Scott Davison, Cathy Alden, Sarah Auch, Terry Pulsifer Jr. (CEO)

Chairman Gregory Gordon called the meeting to order at 6:00pm and welcomed the public. Gordon welcomed the public and reviewed the ground rules for the public hearing.

Public Hearing:

Seville Development, LLC – NYS Route 22 – 30.12-2-19.200 – HC-1 – Dollar General Retail Store

Gordon asked if Seville Development or AEDA would like to speak in regard to the project.

Jim Abdallah, AEDA, stated that Seville Development, LLC is looking to build a commercial facility to house the Dollar General. Abdallah stated that it would be a wood framed structure about 8800 square feet. Abdallah stated that AEDA and Seville Development, LLC have worked closely with the planning board and made adjustments to meet the requirements of the Town of Willsboro Zoning Law as well as the requests from the planning board. Abdallah stated that from the last meeting the planning board asked if they could place the propane tanks and ice chest on the side of the building instead of the front and also asked if they could ask Dollar General not to do any sidewalk sales or have any product outside in front of the building. Seville Development stated that they are able to widen the sidewalk on the side of the building for ample space for the ice chest and propane tanks and that they have stated that they will not allow Dollar General to have product in the front of the building. Abdallah stated that they have received a formal response from Department of Transportation (DOT) which was stage 1 and they are now moving into stage 2 review and approval. Abdallah stated that there were also questions in regard to the two species that may be present on that parcel, the Eastern Sand Darter and the Eastern Pearl Shell. Abdallah stated that the applicant hired a private environmental consultant to conduct a study and provided the board with the findings at the last meeting.

Scott Davison, Seville Development, stated that they would like to build a commercial building that will be about 8630 square feet across the road from where the Country Store is. Davison stated that

his initial tenant for the building he would like to build will be Dollar General but could potentially be someone different down the road. Davison stated that with this building being stick built, he would have the ability down the road to divide the building into different spaces if the Dollar General were not to stay. Davison stated that they are abiding by the Town of Willsboro Zoning Law and they do not need any variances. Davison also stated information in regard to the ice chest, sidewalk sales and propane tanks. Davison stated that the planning board is doing their job to make this an attractive building and site but Seville Development and the tenant have been accommodating to those requests.

Gordon stated that we will now move into public comment. Gordon asked if anyone that received a letter, being within 500' of the subject parcel, would like to speak. No one. Gordon asked if anyone from the public would like to speak.

Rob Powell stated that he wanted to commend the board for a job well done as he was delighted to see the size and architecture of the building and how it conforms to Willsboro. However, Powell stated that he is worried about the economics and the future of Willsboro. Powell went into detail in regard to when a group reviewed and completed the comprehensive plan and stated that they went into detail in the law about what you could and couldn't do for adult entertainment but didn't do a lot for letting larger commercial stores in the town. Powell stated that Dollar General is a life line to many small towns without infrastructure but could be very detrimental to small towns with infrastructure and could drive other businesses out. Powell stated that in terms of a visual – the building certainly fits in with Willsboro.

Gordon asked if anyone else from the public had any comments. No comments.

Gordon stated that the planning board received an email correspondence in regard to the project and that will be submitted into the record and be a part of the minutes. (See attached)

Gordon stated that the rules and regulations have been followed by the planning board. There were a lot of comments via social media and anticipated a larger crowd.

Gordon thanked the members of the town that were present and thanked the representatives from AEDA and Seville Development.

A motion was made my Charbonneau, seconded by King to keep the public hearing open until tomorrow's meeting. Roll call: Minessale, King, Klein, Gillilland, Charbonneau, Sucharzewski, Dwyer, Gordon. All in favor and motion carried.

A motion was made by Charbonneau to adjourn the meeting at 6:17pm, seconded by Klein. Roll call: Minessale, King, Klein, Gillilland, Charbonneau, Sucharzewski, Dwyer, Gordon. All in favor and motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Morgan Denton Secretary for Planning and Zoning Board