

Points for Public Hearing on Ben's Expansion - Planning Board Site Plan Review

1. I support Ben's project and believe when done correctly can be a smart and beneficial addition to our town.
2. I take issue really only with his attorney, Tom Hannah's characterizations of the local regulatory process as unduly burdensome and lengthy. I don't know when he came to NH, but NH has a long history of neighborhood and community opposition to commercial projects, as well as large residential projects. Think Seabrook and the Clam Shell Alliance, the Claremont Waste Incinerator, and the Tamposi subdivision proposed for the east side of Pack Monadnock. Our neighborhood hired Tom Hannah to stop Tamposi's housing project and we successfully engaged in months of meetings and state and local review of that project. Perhaps Tom's memory isn't what it used to be.
3. Ben appears to be thoughtful and smart with his plans. The ZBA allowed for a thoughtful review of the project and some neighbors are satisfied with the conditions on the business, like operating hours and product restrictions. I speak only for myself.
4. I commend Ben on his wish to make this a store that the community can be proud of. I believe Ben is a savvy entrepreneur and I wish him continued success. And I look forward to using his store and buying his products there.
5. I only have a couple of requests as an abutter and one suggestion:
 - i. Additional installation of a handful of evergreen trees and shrubs on the northerly and westerly side, to further screen the backside of the facility from Old Revolutionary Road. Ben has proposed 10 Fraser fir trees. I'd like to see that increased to 15 – with the extra 5 at the northwest corner, in front/between the two farthest westerly bar ways, as well as 10 evergreen shrubs like rhododendrons or mountain laurel. The ZBA requires that Ben install a heavy evergreen buffer. I think 15 trees and 10 shrubs better meets that requirement than the current plan of 10 single Fraser firs.
 - ii. Confirmation/reaffirmation that the metal and plastic barrels, and other materials and vehicles now stored behind the 3-bay garage building at 5 Old Revolutionary Road will be moved to the new facility and that the field will be returned to current use.

A Suggestion:

- i. Plant additional native species of trees around the site. I'll submit a list of species that a landscaper friend has supplied to me.

Planting natives is always a good route and having some combination of a few species will aid in the landscape's resilience and health in the chance of some sort of disease or climactic impact. Additionally, having a greater contrast in vegetation will hugely benefit the aesthetics of the location.

Here are some species I believe would help integrate Ben's site into the natural and historic neighborhood:

- *Malus domestica*; **apple tree**
- *Quercus alba*; **white oak**
- *Betula papyrifera*; **paper birch**
- *Acer rubrum*; **red maple**

- *Cyanococcus sp.*; **blueberry**
- *Ilex verticillata*; **winterberry**
- *Viburnum sp.*; **viburnum**
- *Hamamelis virginiana*; **American witch-hazel**

And here are some evergreens that would be particularly nice incorporated into the western and northern boundaries of the site:

- *Rhododendron sp.*; **rhododendron**
- *Clethra sp.*; **pepperbush**
- *Conium maculatum*; **hemlock**
- *Picea abies*; **Norway spruce**
- *Juniperus virginiana*; **red cedar**
- *Thuja sp.*; **arborvitae**

Clifton-Waite notes for Temple Planning Board Public Hearing Aug. 17, 2021
on Ben's Sugar Shack for Old Revolutionary Road and Webster Highway

Requests for Ben's Sugar Shack site plan during Planning Board review:

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