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From: Temple NH via Temple NH <[cmsmailer@civicplus.com](mailto:cmsmailer@civicplus.com)>

To: [TempleClerk@comcast.net](mailto:TempleClerk@comcast.net)

Date: 03/16/2021 9:04 AM

Subject: Form submission from: Contact The Town

Submitted on Tuesday, March 16, 2021 - 9:04am

Submitted values are:

What does this comment regard: Town Clerk

Please include any questions or comments:

To the Temple Zoning Board of Adjustments:

First I want to thank all the Members of the ZBA for the time and service they commit to our community, and for sifting through and dealing with all the comments, positive and negative, that come from those decisions. I have spoken personally over the 6 1/2 years living in Temple with some of the ZBA and have had great respectful discussions over topics and hope to continue them. We may not agree always, but they've always been fruitful and enjoyable and we always greet each other warmly when meeting. It's one of the positive benefits of living in a small community. We have a lot to be thankful for living in this wonderful spot of the world.

I was reminded of this last week when so many people from outside of Temple I knew commented to me about the story of Governor Sununu visiting the Connolly Brothers Dairy Farm last week helping to promote the Maple Houses throughout the state. I was taken by how positive those people were about how lucky I was to live in such a wonderful area and I reassured them that I did feel very fortunate to call this place home. I was also very pleased and proud for the Connolly's and all the hard work, time, effort and investment that they put into their business paid off with all this publicity and a visit from the Governor. Well deserved!

Unfortunately this doesn't contrast as well with the light that has been shone on the recent ZBA meetings on the proposal concerning the expansion of Ben's Sugar Shack business. Frankly, to myself and many others I've spoken with, it's become a bit of an embarrassment. I completely understand the many concerns of the surrounding neighbors and they should be addressed properly. This is not about that, it is about the comments and behaviors of ZBA members and dragging this issue out for so long.

At our recent Candidate's Night, our ZBA Chair commented about how there should be transparency concerning how business should be done on all boards in town to streamline any proposals as best as possible to curb unnecessary money being spent on any town business by the proposers and the town. I have lost count of how many meetings this particular proposal has occupied, but it likely could have been wrapped up by now. I understand the limitations imposed by the pandemic, but this is reaching a

level beyond that. It appears to me that the same questions are asked repeatedly, session after session, simply due to the fact that the answer doesn't fit into what a ZBA member's preconceived notion of what they wanted the answer to be. I lost track of the time wasted in the last meeting when a ZBA alternate continued to ask the same question numerous times when an answer had been given and explained each time. Was the answer not understood by at least the second time or is it that it was just an outright refusal to accept the answer as given and to keep repeating the question until it magically turned into fact? How many times does any question need to be asked and answered?

I'm also taken back to a Facebook post on our Town page by another board member concerning being nice when commenting about the previous meeting. When this member at the last meeting asked one of Ben's witnesses – a real estate professional - about his experience with property values and sales of lots around the Northern Pass project, his answer was met with her announcement of her profession as a lawyer. She then responded dismissively and condescendingly that she felt that his answer of that it had little to no effect as, if I recall correctly, "ludicrous". Please feel free to correct me on that term, but that was clearly the implication. Maybe being nice and respectful on a Facebook post takes precedence over being respectful and professional in a public meeting.

I am also reminded of the repeated use of the term 7-11 when describing Ben's proposed building by the Chair during at least one meeting when he is obviously intelligent enough to know that the proposal is nothing like that. This prejudicial attitude stands out starkly when we try believing at the start of every meeting that each member has no reason to recuse themselves from making a preconceived judgment on this proposal and willing to have an open mind.

I understand that Temple is not zoned commercially, everybody does. This proposal is the reason Exceptions exist. We don't have Exceptions on the books so that they are ignored out of hand simply because of philosophical differences. This proposal is not a "monstrosity", not a 7-11 and should stop being referred to as such by, at the very least, the members of the board. As members of the board you are responsible for seeing all are matters dealt with professionally and hopefully with as little hyperbole as possible, not spark it or continue it. Give us facts, ask and answer questions respectfully and professionally. Please stop the continued assaults that the possible approval of this project will ruin the rural nature and values of Temple. The people of this town are the embodiment and reality of the values and nature we all hold dear. Stick to the business at hand.

Allow me a little hyperbole outside of a meeting. This "monstrosity" isn't proposed to be built on the Village Green, not anywhere near this sacred area of our beautiful town. It's proposed to be built on NH 101. Arguably the busiest East-West route in the entire state, even though this section pales in the amount of traffic seen east of us. I firmly believe that anyone passing the intersection in the less than 20 seconds it takes would ever remark on the proposed site that it ruined the rural bucolic view they had been enjoying up to that point. The State has absolutely no issue from what we've been told

with the traffic that may result from an approval, that's their job, it's what they do. I don't believe for a second that if approved, that intersection will turn into Hampton Beach in front of the Casino on Memorial Day, forcing everyone to take a ridiculous so called "shortcut" on to Old Revolutionary Road or Old Peterborough Road. From the east, there are at least 2 other commercial properties on 101 in Temple before coming upon the intersection at the proposed site. I also think I can say for argument's sake that kitty corner from Ben's site is another commercial property. Frankly, don't care how or when they were built there, they're there. Commercial business. Precedent. Not a lawyer, but sounds good and I'm sure I'll get an explanation from somebody at some point. I'm not saying that 101 should be turned into the Temple Industrial Corridor, so relax, I wouldn't want that either and will fight side by side with anyone to limit any type of commercial growth within reason. Again, it's not a monstrosity, not a WalMart, not even a 7-11. Not going to destroy the rural character of our beloved community. Let's take off the sandwich board, the end isn't near, douse the torches and put down the pitchforks.

Not an easy task, not an easy issue to deal with. I feel for you all. You folks are up there representing all of us and we all expect you to do the due diligence based on the facts at hand. With an open mind. Calmly, coolly, respectfully and dignified. Not with snide remarks, comments or attitudes.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Donald J. McElreavy

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