

4.2 + 4.3

Re: NAF

Public Hearing

Mon 8/26/2019 1:43 PM

To: Susan Dexter <susie.nomad2591@gmail.com>

Ms. Dexter

I have received your email and will provide such to the Planning Board for tonight's meeting.

Wayne

From: Susan Dexter <susie.nomad2591@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, August 26, 2019 1:32 PM

To: Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Subject: NAF

Dear Planning Board-

I am unable to attend this evening's meeting but have a question.

Has the city assessed the impact on property values in the neighborhood of the huge proposed facility. Much of the appeal of the Belfast area, including the homes which will be affected, is our proximity to nature, the bay, and the recreational Little River. How will views of an enormous industrial facility and it's operation (ie truck traffic on Rt 1), as well as the reduction of visual appeal of the Little River corridor, affect property values of nearby homes and the taxes those properties generate for the town?

Susan Dexter
19 Cedar Lane
Belfast

Re: Nordic Aquafarms, comments on item 4.2

Public Hearing

Mon 8/26/2019 3:06 PM

To: Kathryn Shagas <kathryn@kshagasdesign.com>

Dear Ms. Shagas

I have received your comment and will provide such to the Board for tonight's meeting.

Wayne

From: Kathryn Shagas <kathryn@kshagasdesign.com>

Sent: Monday, August 26, 2019 3:02 PM

To: Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Subject: Nordic Aquafarms, comments on item 4.2

To the Planning Board:

I am a resident of Belfast and am writing with questions on item 4.2 of the Nordic application. I am concerned about the visual impact of 45 ft. buildings covering an area equal to 22 football fields.

Land-based fish farming is an industry in its infancy. It is likely that any structures built in the next few years will be obsolete, even before Nordic's 30-year estimate. Whether or not Nordic sells to another corporation before that time, what are the commitments to dismantling these massive buildings and renewing the forest that they propose to cut down?

If the trail is close to the buildings what will families who use the trail see?

What exactly will be the view from the trail or the road in the first 5-10 years as tree cover is growing?

Where are the oxygen tanks situated ?

What about the view in colder months? How will the sunlight and shadow in winter months affect the view?

My understand is that Nordic's estimate of the buffer zone area has changed during this process. How will accountability be enforced?

Thanks for your hard work and your due diligence on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Shagas

Belfast

COMMENTS FROM HOLLY FAUBEL & DAVID SPRAGUE**Belfast, Maine 7/26/19 BPB Review #3****Rev 0.**

4.2 The Board will consider if Nordic Aquafarms can satisfy requirements regarding the project's visual impact on the scenic and natural beauty of the area and aesthetics; particularly reference the Visual Assessment Report in Attachment 27 of the application.

4.2.3 Public Hearing on Visual Impact**FROM THE RANSOM REPORT:**

"Other vantage points will include public rights-of-way such as Rt. 1 / Northport Road and Perkins Road, which afford(s) views into the site but are not defined as "public viewing areas" and are not required to meet applicable scenic quality regulations. The proposed development is designed in accordance with all requirements of the City of Belfast Code of Ordinances."

I went looking for an ordinance for visual impact that might apply to this site. And couldn't find one. Either because they don't exist for anything other than the downtown area, or simply because I couldn't manage to navigate to it in time.

In the rendering of the restored building shown in Addendum to Appendix 27-A, it would be more in keeping with the aesthetics of the restored pumphouse to use fieldstone facings on all new/restored facing materials that are not the original brick.

While the new visitor center may be appropriate to the aesthetics of a new facility location in Norway, perhaps a better model would be one that is in keeping with the aesthetics of the historic setting and the local area. An example might be the Atlantic Salmon Federation Headquarters in maritime Canada. While it is an old building headquarters, kept up with donations, it is closer to the vernacular of a "typical Maine maritime" structure than what is currently proposed. But one doesn't have to look to the Canadian Maritimes.

There are no shortage of examples of beautiful headquarters and conference center buildings in Maine, both historic and new. These buildings speak with a structural envelope, window placement and siding features that are closer to what the typical resident or visitor expects.

These new buildings are designed to stand in cold damp or sometimes hot and sunny a coastal environment. They use shingles made of Hardiboard, windows that are efficient, and a mix of local stone facing, big timbers and brick. Designed to blend with, rather than jar the sensibilities of the local residents and visitors who come to visit Maine expecting and hoping to view and experience Maine the way life should... and can be.

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Interior Shot of the Atlantic Salmon Headquarters conference room, lots of native wood and historic canoe. Outside shingles, stone facing, a trout stream running through the site that part of the facility is built over.

FROM THE SMRT REPORT:

"Chapter 315 defines Scenic Resource as "Public natural resources or public lands visited by the general public, in part for the use, observation, enjoyment, and appreciation of natural or cultural visual qualities. The attributes, characteristics, and features of the landscape of a scenic resource provide varying responses from, and varying degrees of benefits to humans."

My understanding is that the above Chapter 313 Scenic Resource issues will come before the Board of Environmental Protection to be considered and ruled on. And that those meetings are set to begin no earlier than November of this year, is this the Planning Boards understanding as well and is this correct?

FROM THE SMRT REPORT:

" it will be effectively screened over time as proposed vegetative screening matures."

QUESTION:

What is that timeframe when not just the "designated viewing areas" but also the "public viewing areas"?

As best can be determined it is the end of Phase 2 plus the years for growth of the vegetation. Since the entire schedule for beginning construction on the site should be pushed until after the Board of Environmental Protection has concluded its hearings and released its findings

QUESTION:

What is the revised Phase 2 schedule for the Belfast facility?

The Belfast Planning Board is being asked to meet a schedule that at present is unclear due to the BEP's start of hearings and deliberations. It is being driven by Nordic's desire to go out and raise more equity funding. But nothing prevents Nordic from doing that right now. The Phase 2 of the Fredrickstadt facility is what will be used to judge how well or not NAF A/S and therefore Nordic Inc. may be able to meet if it can show that its plan to take a disparate facilities and operations and incorporate it all into a single site.

COMMENTS FROM HOLLY FAUBEL & DAVID SPRAGUE**Belfast, Maine 7/26/19 BPB Review #3****Rev 0.**

4.3 The Board will consider if Nordic Aquafarms can satisfy requirements regarding 'Buffers', including buffer yard(c) areas, screening and landscaping, particularly reference Attachment 28 in the application.

4.3.3 Public Hearing on Buffers

The driveways around the buildings seem to be so tight at the corners as to make it difficult for large semi-trucks or emergency vehicles such as fire trucks to navigate around the buildings. Based on feedback from Wayne Marshall that won't be scheduled for review until sometime in October. Have these cornering areas driveways been proven to accommodate large trucks and emergency vehicles? Likewise should turning areas for trucks and emergency vehicles been included as they do not seem to be shown. Given that this plant is to be operational 24/7 what areas are being set aside for snow removal and the operation of plowing vehicles and salting/sanding? The answer seems to be no or it hasn't been considered .

Therefore the buffers yards, screening and landscaping may not be representative.

ANOTHER QUESTION TBD:

There are no buildings that are indicated on the plan for any interim storage of fish food, or transfer areas for remains from the processing plant, both fish waste and processing waste. Yet this facility is supposed to operate during snow storms or ice storms that could continue for some number of days before immediate resupply or removal of refuse material would need to be accommodated. These requirements also be addressed and the plans resubmitted for public review before as the existing buffer yards areas and site vegetation would be impacted.

I have attached presentations that are instructive, one from IAA regarding the construction of a site in Finmark for raising smolt and growing out salmon. One is from Aquamaof, another RAS provider, and one from VEOLIA. I would be happy to review that with you in detail. As it shows a number of things which could help the board gain a better understanding of what exactly is shown on the Belfast Site Plan and what currently isn't shown, but is important for you to be able to assess its viability:.

IAA

<http://www.tidescanada.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/D-2-8IvarWarrerHansenanD-JensOleOlesenChallengesinConstructionand-OperationatExtremelyRemoteRASLocations.pdf>

AQUAMAOF

https://aquamaof.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/AQM_company_profile_web2.pdf

VEOLIA

<http://www.veoliawatertech.com/markets/food-beverage/aquaculture/#c104bAnRJ1>

5

COMMENTS FROM HOLLY FAUBEL & DAVID SPRAGUE**Belfast, Maine 7/26/19 BPB Review #3****Rev 0.**

4.4 The Board will consider if Nordic Aquafarms can satisfy requirements in Chapter 90, Site Plan, regarding undue adverse impact on archaeological and historic sites, particularly reference Attachment 32 in the application.

"In summary, the proposed development will not adversely affect any historic sites, historic structures or archaeological sites."

I am not an archeologist, but I studied archeology at classes audited at Princeton University, and I for several months with George Stewart, Archeologist working National Geographic and consulting to the Peabody Museum in Boston worked on a Mayan site in the Yucatan.

Together with Mr. Stewart, whose son David Stewart had broken the code to allow the reading of Mayan glyphs at age 10, our team were worked on an interactive video mapping project at Palenque. That was back in the mid 1980's but it was an intensive program and through it I learned much about how archaeologists work on complex sites which have multiple layers.

When stone structures may be present now technologies like ground penetrating radar can be used. But on this site, most of the thousands of year old artifacts would consist of bone, or wood, or skin. So some test pits were dug, but even 29 test pits might not yield the full picture. For that more intensive digging and surveying would be required. I have not yet had a chance to review what the requirements are under State of Maine for any ongoing site inspection or what the procedures are should artifacts be discovered.

In the early 2000's I had a chance to work with David Moses Bridges and Steve Cayard.

In an interview last year with Maine Public Broadcasting, Bridges said he studied naval architecture at a boat school in Eastport, and took a class with a self-taught birch bark canoe maker, Steve Cayard. It was during this process, and through his recollections of Gabriel, that he began to understand the connection between the canoe and the forest.

I worked with David Moses Bridges and Steve Cayard that week in that class and it taught me many things about the Passamaquoddy, Maliseet, Mic-Mac and Penobscot peoples and nations.

6



Two Peskotomuhkati men in a birch bark canoe.

Passamaquoddy men in a canoe

The name "Passamaquoddy" is an anglicization of the Passamaquoddy word *peskotomuhkati*, the prenoun form (prenouns being a linguistic feature of Algonquian languages)

This is a dictionary of the Passamaquoddy language translated to English.

<https://pmportal.org/browse-dictionary>

David Moses Bridges, a maker of traditional birch bark canoes and a Passamaquoddy culture keeper, died January 20 (201) at his home on the banks of Passamaquoddy Bay on the Pleasant Point Indian Reservation.

"David was an inspiration to many, especially young male Wabanaki artists," Secord told the *Portland Press Herald*. "He will always be remembered among the brightest stars of our Wabanaki culture today. The Passamaquoddies have a song, and some of the words are, 'We are the stars who sing, we sing with our light.' David now sings with his light."

Bridges' great-grandfather, Sylvester Gabriel, was an accomplished Passamaquoddy canoe maker who passed away when Bridges was 10. Bridges inherited Gabriel's tools and, when he returned to Sipayik in his 30s to learn basket-making from his grandmother, Beatrice Soctomah, he immersed himself in mastering his great-grandfather's trade.

In an interview last year with Maine Public Broadcasting, Bridges said he studied naval architecture at a boat school in Eastport, and took a class with a self-taught birch bark canoe maker, Steve Cayard. It was during this process, and through his recollections of Gabriel, that he began to understand the connection between the canoe and the forest.

The Passagaswakeag name is of local Native American origin and is believed to mean "a sturgeon's place" or "a place for spearing sturgeon by torchlight."

A Passamaquoddy, Bridges made canoes from birch bark and spruce roots, and was an award-winning basketmaker. His canoes, baskets and other works are in

8

museums across Maine and around the country, including the Abbe Museum in Bar Harbor, where Bridges was a board member.

The Maine Arts Commission named him a Traditional Arts Fellow, the state's highest honor in craft. In 2006, the First People's Fund gave him its Community Spirit Award, a national honor in recognition of his work as an activist and traditional artist.



David Moses Bridges (Courtesy Darel Bridges) *This article is more than 1 year old.*

"I've known the canoe since it was still on the trees," David Moses Bridges said about his life's work."



David Moses Bridges, left, with Lars Knakkegaard, standing in front of one of David's hand-crafted canoes. (Courtesy of Knakkegaard) Denmark

Using the tools of his Passamaquoddy Native American great-grandfather, and the techniques of his ancestors, it took David a year to assemble each full-size birch bark canoe in his Bar Harbor, Maine, workshop.

David dug spruce roots and scaled forest birches, peeling them in such a way that life underneath could continue. He carried the wood home on his shoulders and, from hull to pegs, crafted everything by hand. The boats he built were works of art hung in water.

Lars Knakkegaard met David as a 14-year-old boy enamored of a charismatic summer camp counselor. Wandering through a crafts fair years later, he noticed a sign for a birch bark canoe demonstration. The artisan was familiar to Lars' past self.

"I went over and stood and observed him as he was doing his demonstration," Lars remembered. "And he looked over at me, and immediately he said, 'Lars Knakkegaard!' We hadn't seen each other for 17 years, and he just looked over, and he recognized me right away without me saying anything. I was totally blown away."

Their roads crossed many times after that, sometimes by intention, sometimes by magical happenstance.

"He was a teacher, in a lot of ways," said Lars, "not just in his craft, but in the way he lived. He just lived the life that he wanted to live, and that he felt connected him with his ancestors."



David Moses Bridges (Courtesy of Kim and Wayne Brooks)

Sinus cancer did not stop David — when he was able — from crafting canoes or weaving intricate birch bark baskets. When his cancer was no longer treatable in Boston or Portland, he returned to the Reservation. It was his wish to die there.

“Tradition is that they light a fire when somebody dies, and they keep that fire going until the person’s buried,” Lars said. “So they had this fire going in January, and it was very stormy and windy and rainy, and they kept this

fire going. People would go over and maybe throw some sage in the fire, or just stand and think about David.”

At his burial, a ranger from the National Park Service stood by in full uniform, like a representative of the forests he'd known so well and the waters he'd loved so much.

David Moses Gabriel would be here today he could helping the relevant agencies of the State of Maine understand that the importance and relevance of this particular site. But David, has walked on, it will be to others certainly more qualified than I, to make that case. And I urge them to do so, on behalf of my old freind.