

NOTE TO PLANNING BOARD
LIST OF PERSONS WHO OFFERED PUBLIC (ORAL) COMMENT AT THE 1/8/20
HEARING

6:15 open public hearing

4.1.1 **Presentation to Board by 'Parties in Interest'.**

Dave Losee- Upstream Watch - started the hearing with introducing Upstream Watch's first speaker. A visual presentation was given.

- **First Speaker – John Krueger presented to the board.**

John Krueger spoke about the quality of the site, how it wasn't a good location. There are issues with lack of deep ocean currents in Penobscot Bay, the volume of soil that needs to be removed. Continued the presentation by speaking about choosing a Brownfield site instead of a Greenfield and Nordic not having Right Title and Interest. John went on to speak about changes to the application and concerns about the technology and technical capability. Wants to make sure there are adequate Performance Bonds.

- **Second Speaker: Jim Merkel**

Jim Merkel spoke about the impact the project will have on carbon emissions and comparing the project to Maine's total emissions. Went on to speak about the Governor's commitment to climate change and Belfast's commitment to the Paris Climate agreement. Jim continued by speaking about Norway's climate commitment and how the project isn't climate neutral. Concerns that RAS identified as Carbon intensive. Carbon Emissions – Findings 550,000 metric tons of carbon emissions. 4-6 % of Maine's total emissions. Speaks about Belfast's commitment to Paris Climate Agreement. No study of local of wild fish. Outlined some recommendations including; To demonstrate Carbon Neutrality using solar and wind for embedded and operational. Applicant be required to find Brownfield's site.

- **Third Speaker: Susie O'Keefe**

Susie O'Keefe spoke about Natural resources and the "law" continued to Belfast's code with quoting sec. 90-42 aesthetic, cultural and natural values. Continued with natural values and Nordics consultant's professional opinion on the site not being unique from an ecological standpoint.

Spoke about Normandeau's past work and how it can't be trusted.

Speaks to the impacts to Penobscot Bay and impacts to animals – questions the impact of virus on wild salmon and nearby rivers.

Talks about the comeback of Atlantic salmon in the Penobscot River.

Has concern over cultural quality of remaining strip of land. Spoke about this land becoming vulnerable to ticks and others.

- **Fourth Speaker: Mike Lannan:**

Speaks to changes made to Nordic application and having a hard time keeping up with changes.

Speaks about size of development example 800,000 square feet of industrial space and compares wastewater treatment for Nordic's operation to Maine's largest cities.

David Losee, spoke about not liking having time limits.

- End of presentation for Upstream Watch

- **Jeffrey Mabee - Abutter-** speaks to Title right and interest.

Spoke to not knowing about right to land and how they own the land.

Continued on the suitability of chosen site and impacts on the bay.

Put the land in a conservation easement. Spoke about denying due process by denying Right, Title and Interest hearing.

- **Kim Ervin Tucker** – Legal Counsel for Mr. Mabee and Maine lobster Council

Spoke about Maine law – hearing on impact of land is a right and due process issue.

Spoke about mercury, submerge land lease, and how the installation of the pipe into the Bay will stir up mercury. Spoke about methane pockmarks and how dredging will impact lobstering because of the presence of mercury.

Continued talking about Title Right and Interest, stated client owns land.

Asking for condition placed on permit to hold off on construction until lawsuit is completed.

- **Ellie Daniels - Searsmont Resident and Abutter to project**

Speaks about Title, right, and interest and ordinance hasn't been followed.

Chapter 90 site plan: Issues over wetland, wildlife, clear cutting of forest, and earth moving.

Nordic lawsuit over Frederikstad facility.

Speaking to soils of the site and clays soils not suitable for site. Water extraction for site isn't suitable, goes on to speak about impact on city water.

Questions who will have to pay for Talbot well to be brought online.

Maine will see a 40% drop in water table levels due to climate change

Spoke to technical and financial capacity – examples are changes to permit like pipe length routing of route one.

Concluded on process of Planning Board, respects the work of the board on the permit.

Has issue with Legal council's information for Board members not to go to BEP's meetings.

4.1.2 Public Hearing comments from general public.

- **Michael Reed, speaking for wife Lane Fisher -**
Spoke before City Council changed zoning.
Questions about diesel impact.
Also spoke to climate change and impact Nordic will have on this issue. To take down mature forest is wrong.
- **Joanne Moesswilde - Belfast Resident-** Concern about forest turning into industrial site. Is still concern about Nordic proposal. Future is challenging with Climate change and Nordic should be on old industrial sites.
Asked about what happened with height restriction.
Concerns of Right, Title, and Interest.
Speaking for other people. (a written piece was read)
- **Devin Moors - Belfast Resident:** Just moved to Belfast 6 months ago. Speaks about climate change and how Nordic will only make this worse. Say no to Industrial projects. Support small farms, restore agriculture.
- **Sid Block - Northport Resident:** Understand work of board. Applications need to be complete and legal. Explained how changes continue to happen to application. Continued to talk about impacts on environment of proposed plan. Brought up past example of the chicken industry. Recommended to table Nordic's request.
- **Connie Hatch - Belfast Resident:** Feels strongly about impact on the environment and Nordic's impact on the environment is unacceptable. Believes Belfast and Midcoast can be a model for sustainable food supply.
- **Bethany Algrove - Lincolnville Resident:** Has concern about any industry that will take our water and any company will pollute the bay. States project will be one of the reasons why they might choose to leave the state of Maine.
- **Deborah Capwell - Belfast Resident:** Expressed concern on impact to traffic. Impact considerable – lives on route one near site. Pollution from traffic will affect area. Looking

at 5 years of traffic to move soil and material. Then it will be daily traffic for operations. Goes on to talk about impact project will have on the tourist industry.

- **Diane Braybrook - Belfast Resident for 14 years:** Purpose, Board is allowing people to state their concerns over the whole project and if they comply with city code. Stated presented data has already been presented in past meeting. Stated that she is President of Fish are OK and that the majority of residents are ok with fish farm. Wants to present information in support of project. Spoke of citizens who would feel persecuted if state their support of Nordic.
- **Steve Breyers - Waldo Resident-** Belfast business owner - Concerns about Nordic about extractivism – one of only taking- makes connection to Nordic, deforestation, infrastructure, land use, ownership. Wants board to deny permits and focus on small business and industry
- **George Auguiar - Belfast Resident:** Spoke about size of fish tanks 150,000 tons of water. To circulate water take 13 megawatts an hour. 9.9 megawatts of electricity will use enough electricity of 13,000 homes. Goes on about carbon foot print of project and comparison to Mainers use. What are
- **Meredith Breskin - Swanville Resident:** Speaking about traffic, and look a common sense. Developer will need to remove 14 cubic feet. Stresses need to deny permit. Ask board to rely on common sense.
- **Linda Silva O'Connor- Belfast Resident:** Speaks to 100 acre parcel in industrial park that is a better site than the one next to the little river. The polluted water can't be used by fish. Dump 7 million gallons a day into Pen Bay. Math 7 million gallon will fill Yankee stadium every 7 days and empire state building monthly continues about climate change.
- **Lawrence Riechard - Belfast Resident:** speaking about topic he brought to BEP. Length of pipe has changed several times over time. Discharge pipe 1 mile from shore according to video. Continues about efficient source of sustainability. Continues about Nordic lying about fish escaping.
- **David Warf - Belfast Resident:** "Take a moment to express opposition to Nordic Concerned citizen, tech unproven and impact on the bay is substantial. 3 the company's action with changes to the plan is ridiculous and negligence for the board to be reviewing this plan
- **Debra Smith - Belfast Resident:** concern over scale of the project in relation to Belfast and adjoining areas. Understands city welcomes tax and job opportunities, project is for short term gains. 30-year life span, compares it to shopping malls.

- **Holly Flaubel - Belfast Resident:** Looking at the project from is this best for Belfast and how do they fit in with the industry. Reading everything, need to consider past experience, financial and technical capability. Its an R& D. Filtration for water is being redesigned. If you can't get source of fresh water, how are you going to do that with 3. System can't shut down. 1 company in Florida growing salmon – Atlantic Safire. Has concern over the small number of tanks as a biological environment. Can you grow fish reasonably well with the right size tank.
- **Jason Ron - Lincolnville Resident:** Fighting against company from year and a half. Point out foolishness of fossil fuel intensive industry

Public hearing closed at 8:40 P.M.

**NORDIC AQUAFARMS PUBLIC HEARINGS - JANUARY 8 & 15, 2020
COMPREHENSIVE LIST OF PUBLIC COMMENT SUBMITTED
IN WRITING OR VIA EMAIL**

Public Comment Submitted for January 8, 2020 Public Hearing

- 1) Cynthia Anderson - Belfast - 1/8
- 2) Meredith Bruskin - Swanville - 1/8
- 3) Peter Wilkinson - Belfast - 1/8
- 4) John and Lucy Pincince - Belfast property owner, Lincolnville Resident - 1/8
- 5) Larry Theye - 1/7 (Party in Interest)
- 6) Nancy Durand Lanson - Monroe - 12/31
- 7) Jim Merkel - Belfast - 1/7
- 8) Mike Lannan - Belfast - 1/2 and 12/31 (On Behalf of Upstream Watch)
- 9) Upstream Watch - (Mike Lannan)
- 10) Natalie Charles - Belfast - 1/7
- 11) Sid Block - Northport - 1/7
- 12) Erica Schlueter - Belfast - 1/8
- 13) Kathryn Shagas - Belfast - 1/8
- 14) Anne Saggese - Belfast (included multiple submissions from other parties)(On Behalf of Fish Are Okay) - 1/8

Public Comment Submitted for January 15, 2020 Public Hearing

- 15) Rich Nichols - Belfast Resident - 1/10
- 16) Rick Bernasconi - 1/10
- 17) Paula Dougherty - Morrill Resident - 1/10
- 18) Anne Saggese - Belfast Resident - 1/10
- 19) Susan Dexter - Belfast Resident - 1/10
- 20) Erica Schlueter - Belfast Resident - 1/10
- 21) Raymelle Moody-Guthrie - Local Resident - Belfast Business owner - 1/13
- 22) Seth Thayer- Belfast property owner - 1/13
- 23) Mike Lannan - 1/13 (Upstream Watch, Party in Interest)
- 24) Roberto Struba - Belfast Resident - 1/13
- 25) Eric Rector - Monroe Resident - 1/13
- 26) Stalla Stanley - Belfast Resident - 1/13
- 27) John Mank - Belfast Resident - 1/13
- 28) Kenneth Gordon - Belfast Resident - 1/13
- 29) Joel Lee - Belfast Resident 1/13
- 30) Erica Schlueter - Belfast Resident - 1/13
- 31) Kathleen and Rich Coleman - Northport Residents - 1/13
- 32) Todd Hall - Belfast and Northport property owner - 1/13

- 33) Sharon Goguen - Belfast Resident - 1/13
- 34) Greg and Paula Smith - Belfast Resident - 1/13
- 35) Harold Richardson - Belfast Resident - 1/13
- 36) Syrena Gatewood and Rick Gatewood - Belfast Residents - 1/13
- 37) Patricia Lojek - Belfast Resident - 1/13
- 38) Roberta Goff- Belfast Resident - 1/13
- 39) Amy Grant, Upstream Watch - 1/14
- 40) David Stickler, Belfast - 1/14
- 41) Al Scovern, 108 Congress St, Belfast - 1/14
- 42) Karen Estey, 16 Pierce St, Belfast - 1/14
- 43) Trudy Miller, Northport (Belfast property owner) - 1/14
- 44) Marje Stickler, 32 Bowling Green Lane - 1/14
- 45) Erica Schlueter, (Additional Comment & Questions to Earlier Comment) - 1/14
- 46) Nancy Hinckley, North Ocean St, Belfast & Northport property owner - 1/14
- 47) Mandy Everett, 199 High St, Belfast - 1/14
- 48) Wendy Kasten, Belfast - 1/14
- 49) Elizabeth Sterner, 5 Union St - 1/14
- 50) Lisa Gates, Waldo Avenue - 1/14
- 51) Chris Urick, 44 Robbins Rd, Belfast - 1/14
- 52) Judy Rohweder, Clinton Avenue, Northport - 1/15
- 53) Bob Fargay, Northport - 1/15
- 54) Rick Davis, 5 Park St, Belfast - 1/15
- 55) Patty Pendergast, 78 Gordon Hill Rd, Thorndike - 1/15
- 56) Corliss Davis, 5 Park St, Belfast - 1/15
- 57) Allison Beard, Church St, Belfast - 1/15
- 58) Gef Fimlin, 52 Perkins Rd, Belfast - 1/15
- 59) Kerry Studwell, 12 Primrose St, Belfast - 1/14
- 60) Sara and Arthur Hayes, 35 Church St, Belfast - 1/15
- 61) Scootch Pankonin, Head of Tide, Belfast - 1/15
- 62) Deborah Smith, Belfast - 1/15
- 63) Natalie Charles, Belfast - 1/15
- 64) Roy Rodgers, Belfast - 1/15
- 65) M.J. Crowe, Vine St, Belfast - 1/15
- 66) Eileen Wolper, East Waldo Road, Belfast - 1/15
- 67) Martha Reeves, CPA, Upstream Watch - 1/15
- 68) Emily Horton, 87 Congress St, Belfast - 1/15
- 69) Dennis Urick, Robbins Road, Belfast - 1/15
- 70) Letter from Sebastian Belle, Director, Maine Aquaculture Association - 1/15
- 71) Michael Reid - Herrick Rd, Belfast - 1/15

Re: Business. ...

Wayne Marshall <wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org>

Fri 1/10/2020 2:43 PM

To: rdnichols6833 <rdnichols6833@gmail.com>

Mr. Nichols:

I have received your email and will provide such to the Belfast Planning Board for their consideration. Your comment will be included as part of the formal record for Board's current review of the Nordic Aquafarms project.

While your comment makes a reference to the current Nordic Aquafarms project review, I also sense that your comment may be related to the recent thread on the If You Love Belfast Facebook site regarding larger retail stores. I will simply note that since January 2008 Belfast's zoning ordinances have allowed an interested applicant to submit a proposal to develop a larger retail store (e.g. Walmart) on the same property that Tractor Supply will soon be developing (this spring). However, despite significant efforts by the property owner (Bahre family) to pursue Walmart, the company has expressed little interest in locating in Belfast. The main reasons for this appear to be Walmart's current approach to the development/expansion of new stores (do not appear to be targeting rural areas in the US), the size of the Belfast retail market (about 17,000), and the fact that persons who live in the Belfast retail market have general access to Walmart stores in other relatively nearby communities (Thomaston, Augusta, Waterville, Ellsworth, Brewer and Bangor).

Wayne

Wayne Marshall, Director
Code and Planning
City of Belfast
131 Church St
Belfast, ME 04915
(207) 338-1417 x 125
wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org

From: rdnichols6833 <rdnichols6833@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 10, 2020 9:01 AM
To: Wayne Marshall <wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org>
Subject: Business. ...

Goodmorning,my name is Rich,I grew up in Belfast,been here for 45 yrs,we raised birds for penobscot poultry back in the days on rte 52 where the ball fields are now. The reason for me contacting you is because I feel that this town either needs to be pro business or anti business,we cannot portray that we are when we make it so difficult for a company that is interested in coming here,ex, Tractor Supply,Nordic Aquafarms...etc..not to mention Wal mart when they tried to get in here.People in this town go to BangoRockland,Thomaston to go to these stores,including myself! C mon,let's make it easier for these businesses to come to our town Belfast enough is enough! With one of the highest rates of food insecurities, and some ridiculous property taxes something has to change!!!! Thank you for your time.

Sincerely

Sent from my U.S.Cellular® Smartphone

Rich Nichols

Rdnichols6833@gmail.com

Re: New thought

Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Fri 1/10/2020 2:28 PM

To: Rick <vtrick@hotmail.com>

Rick

Thank you for providing me your address.

Wayne

From: Rick <vtrick@hotmail.com>

Sent: Friday, January 10, 2020 1:53 PM

To: Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Subject: Re: New thought

My address is 46 Battery Road thanks

Sent from my iPad

On Jan 10, 2020, at 1:18 PM, Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org> wrote:

Mr. Bernasconi

I have received your email to the Planning Board. I appreciate you submitting a comment. I do, however, need to know your address for me to include your comment in the formal record that the Board will be considering. I kindly ask that you provide me your address.

Many thanks.

Wayne

From: Rick <vtrick@hotmail.com>

Sent: Friday, January 10, 2020 10:37 AM

To: Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Subject: New thought

Dear board members,

While there are many things about Nordic farms proposal that are troublesome to me, one thing that stands out is their usage of a natural resource here in this area pertaining to freshwater. I've tried to make many of the meetings and listen to some justification as to why we seem to have an abundance of fresh water.

I would like to propose something to you to consider. It seems that some individuals in Belfast feel as though an additional amount of money coming from the sale of our water to Nordic farms will provide some extra income.

If it is true that we have an additional amount of freshwater available why don't we consider selling that water to communities who are in need of water. The impact would be very low and we can control how much water we send or actually maybe even give to communities or individuals in need. How about we approach this aspect of this proposal in a very positive way.

Just giving you another thought to consider as you ponder the application for Noric Farms.

Thank you Rick Bernasconi 691-3710

Sent from my iPad

Re: Nordic Aquaculture Proposal

Wayne Marshall <wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org>

Fri 1/10/2020 1:11 PM

To: Michael Hurley <mike@pilut.com>; paulahaha@yahoo.com <paulahaha@yahoo.com>

Cc: Eric Sanders <mayor@cityofbelfast.org>

Dear Ms. Dougherty

I will submit the email that you sent to the Mayor and Councilors to the Belfast Planning Board, the Board that is actively considering and which ultimately will be acting on the Nordic application. Your letter will become part of the formal record of the Board's proceedings. That said, the Board does not read any of the letters that are submitted as public comment at a meeting, we simply acknowledge the letters that were submitted.

Wayne

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wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org

From: Mike Hurley <mike@pilut.com>**Sent:** Friday, January 10, 2020 12:24 PM**To:** paulahaha@yahoo.com <paulahaha@yahoo.com>**Cc:** Wayne Marshall <wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org>; Eric Sanders <mayor@cityofbelfast.org>**Subject:** RE: Nordic Aquaculture Proposal

Hi Paula... all this is in front of the planning board and state permitting boards for now. I am sure this will be passed along to the planning board. We do not read letters into the record. If you have someone who'd like to read your letters at the meeting please have them attend and do so. Say hello to India for me. Thanks/ Mike

Michael D. Hurley
Belfast City Council
171 High Street
Suite Two
Belfast, Maine 04915
207-338-1975 PH
207-338-2951 FX
207-323-0881 CELL

mike@pilut.com<https://www.facebook.com/michael.d.hurley.31> personal<https://www.facebook.com/Mike-Hurley-on-the-Belfast-City-Council-160361539236/> CITY COUNCIL<http://cityofbelfast.org/index.shtm> city web site<http://belfastmike.wordpress.com/> personal blog

From: Paula Dougherty [mailto:paulahaha@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, January 10, 2020 11:39 AM
To: mayor@cityofbelfast.org
Cc: Ward2 Councilor; Ward3 Councilor; Ward4 Councilor; Ward5 Councilor; Wayne Marshall; Ward1 Councilor
Subject: Nordic Aquaculture Proposal

Dear Mayor and Councilors of Belfast, Maine:

Firstly, Please post this letter in your log to be read at the next meeting Jan. 15th, and in your records. Thank you.

I am writing to you for the second time re the importance of putting Belfast's water quality #1 regarding the Salmon Farm consideration.

I will keep this letter rather brief. Hopefully, your minds and hearts are still open.

As I write, I am in Southern India. No matter what town or city I have been in for the last 6 weeks, I have not been able to drink the local water. No other person can either to my knowledge. Neither could I in 2015 while here. The quality is poor; we must drink bottled water at all times. Why? Pollution, of course. I ask...Do you want to speed up this process for Belfast? Technology cannot truly amend polluted water for drinking.

Money and businesses will come and go, but the opportunity to keep the water quality-safe and pure will be gone forever with tons of salmon-dropping residue in The Bay...no matter how much Nordic tries to cleanse the toxins. Waldo County waters, unfortunately, are already one of the highest in the state for measured fecal contamination (See the current, independent report I attached to my former letter that had been entered into the record and forwarded to you all.)

Perhaps, Belfast hasn't yet learned from the results of all the prior poultry farm dumpages? I am hoping that is not the case. It is up to you, Board.

The overall need for bottled drinking water is around the corner. We are terribly spoiled in this nation in particular in this regard, especially in Maine. It will be necessary sooner than you think.

Therefore, please help by voting down the salmon farm. Besides it being a risky venture, it is too large for the area. In your hearts, you probably know these facts. Norway is a good place for Nordic to remain.

Thank you.
Best regards,

Paula D.
Morrill, Maine
Invested in the Future for our Children

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

Re: request for the Planning Board

Wayne Marshall <wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org>

Fri 1/10/2020 12:55 PM

To: Anne Saggese <sweethenrys@gmail.com>

Cc: William S. Kelly <bkelly11@bluestreakme.com>; Erica Nealley <planningandcodes@cityofbelfast.org>; Jon Boynton <jboynton@cityofbelfast.org>; Declan O'Connor <decoslbath@gmail.com>

Hello Anne

I emailed your request to the Board and asked that they respond. I have now heard back from a majority of the Board (4 members) who supported your request. Thus, the Board will grant you 15 minutes to make a presentation at the January 15 meeting that is a continuation of the January 8 hearing.

A couple of comments:

1) The Board is granting this request with the understanding that you will be speaking on behalf of the Fish Are Okay and folks who you are representing, such as the 7 persons who submitted affidavits to you. As such, we are accepting your comment as a consolidation of others who may want of offer comment from the Fish Are Okay. In short, we are assuming that you will communicate with others in the organization to let them know that you will be making the sole presentation on behalf of the organization and on behalf of them.

2) You should be aware that we will be providing other Parties in Interest (not the general public) an opportunity to address the Board after your presentation and the Nordic presentation. In short, others may comment on what you have said without you having another opportunity to offer rebuttal comment.

I will email you an agenda by Monday. The agenda will specifically identify that you will be offering comment to the Board.

Let me know if any questions.

Wayne

Wayne Marshall, Director
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From: Anne Saggese <sweethenrys@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 10, 2020 9:46 AM
To: Wayne Marshall <wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org>
Subject: request for the Planning Board

Dear members of the Belfast Planning Board,

I am writing to express my concern over the unusual step of allowing Upstream Watch to show their 40-minute video at the last minute without sufficient time for either the applicant or the public to have time to digest and, if warranted, respond to the claims made within it. It had the effect of being the "last official word" on this matter and that deeply worries me because I contend it presented a rather large number of grossly misleading and/ or erroneous claims.

If Belfast is going to allow such last-minute actions, I find it only fair that an equal body also be permitted to present a similar case that seeks to prove the falsity of those claims that fall under the Planning Board's purvey.

The Fish Are Okay, an incorporated non-profit founded to watch the processing of Nordic's applications and help the public understand what it all means is requesting a 15 minute opportunity at the next appropriate meeting of the Board to present a rebuttal to this video.

We offer the following terms and are happy to incorporate any additional terms you might suggest or require:

-No more than 15 minutes

-1 presenter (myself)

-The only material we present will be responses to direct assertions made within the UW video of 1/08/20 Planning Board meeting and with a 15-minute time limit, it will by necessity likely be less than 10 points made.

-There will be no attempts to defend the "science parts" - that's on Nordic to prove.

-Our goal is to show how we see what Nordic Aquafarms as a real thing will affect the Belfast community as it pertains to those interests that fall under the purview of the Planning Board.

After nearly two years of watching all of this closely, there's a large number of people in this area that believe this is not remotely the doom&gloom scenario the dissenters have painted for us. That, indeed, Nordic will be a positive addition to the community on many fronts and we'd appreciate a chance to present that picture to the Board, and we believe the public also could use a different angle from which to see this thing that they've been led to believe is so evil.

Thank you,

Anne Saggese
treasurer, The Fish Are Okay

Anne K. Saggese

sweethenrys@gmail.com

207-322-0651

also

info@belfastfarmersmarket.org

servicing Belfast since 1980

we won AGAIN, cuz we're the Best!

Waldo County Best of the Best Best Farmers' Market 2019!

also

Top 50 Farmers' Markets in the US by Cooking Light Magazine

Top Ten Farmers' Markets in New England by Yankee Magazine

Re: request for the Planning Board - Nordic Review

Wayne Marshall <wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org>

Fri 1/10/2020 12:36 PM

To: Declan O'Connor <decoslbath@gmail.com>; Geoffrey Gilchrist <geoffrey.gilchrist@zoho.com>; David Bond <bondcoappr@gmail.com>; Wayne Corey <coreywayne88@gmail.com>; K. Daisy Beal <daisyk.beal@gmail.com>; H C Townsend <htownsend1112@gmail.com>

Cc: William S. Kelly <bkelly11@bluestreakme.com>; Jon Boynton <jboynton@cityofbelfast.org>; Erica Nealley <planningandcodes@cityofbelfast.org>

Planning Board

I have now heard back from 4 of the Board members; Dec, Hugh, Daisy and David. All supported granting the request for 15 minutes for a presentation. As such, I will be letting Ann Sagesse know that she will have 15 minutes.

Many thanks to all of you for responding so quickly.

Wayne

Wayne Marshall, Director

Code and Planning

City of Belfast

131 Church St

Belfast, ME 04915

(207) 338-1417 x 125

wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org

From: Wayne Marshall <wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org>**Sent:** Friday, January 10, 2020 10:47 AM

To: Declan O'Connor <decoslbath@gmail.com>; Geoffrey Gilchrist <geoffrey.gilchrist@zoho.com>; David Bond <bondcoappr@gmail.com>; Wayne Corey <coreywayne88@gmail.com>; K. Daisy Beal <daisyk.beal@gmail.com>; H C Townsend <htownsend1112@gmail.com>

Cc: William S. Kelly <bkelly11@bluestreakme.com>; Jon Boynton <jboynton@cityofbelfast.org>; Erica Nealley <planningandcodes@cityofbelfast.org>

Subject: Fw: request for the Planning Board - Nordic Review

To Planning Board

ACTION REQUESTED.

I am seeking a response from Board members regarding the following request from Anne Saggese, The Fish Are Okay. Do you support or do you not support granting Ms. Saggese 15 minutes at the January 15 Board meeting to make a presentation on behalf of the Fish Are Okay?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

I am forwarding you this request from Anne Saggese, The Fish Are Okay, that I received less than an hour ago. Ms. Saggese is requesting 15 minutes at the next (January 15) Planning Board meeting to make a presentation on behalf of the Fish Are Okay that will include a continuation of the January 8 public hearing on the overall impact of the Nordic project. I stated that I would forward this request to you to decide if you want to grant the request.

I also conferred with Bill Kelly regarding this email before emailing you. Our position is that it is reasonable to grant this request for the following reasons:

- 1) The Fish Are Okay is an organized non-profit. Their membership consists of persons who could have readily qualified for Party-in-Interest status. I refer you to the 7 affidavits submitted in the written testimony from Anne Saggese that was provided to the Board for the January 8 hearing; 4 persons who live or own property on Herrick Road, 1 on Perkins Road, and 2 on Route 1.
- 2) Ms. Saggese will be speaking as a single representative on behalf of the group rather than having a large number of individual members of the group making individual comments. This is consistent with the Board direction to have groups consolidate their testimony.
- 3) Bill also noted that allowing this testimony would be consistent with how the Court's often have looked on proper conduct of a municipal fact gathering proceeding.
- 4) We also are comfortable in supporting this request while denying requests that may be submitted by other individuals, again noting the number of persons who could be directly affected by this project who have signed affidavits and provided such to the Fish Are Okay.

Further, the lay-out of the agenda that I am preparing for the next meeting will included providing Upstream Watch and the other Parties in Interest an opportunity to provide follow-up comment after Nordic representatives further address the Board at the continuation of the January 8 hearing. In short, Upstream Watch or other Parties in Interest will have an opportunity to respond to any comment offered by Nordic or by the Fish Are Okay.

Let me know if any questions.

Wayne

Wayne Marshall, Director
Code and Planning
City of Belfast
131 Church St
Belfast, ME 04915
(207) 338-1417 x 125
wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org

From: Anne Saggese <sweethenrys@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 10, 2020 9:46 AM
To: Wayne Marshall <wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org>
Subject: request for the Planning Board

Dear members of the Belfast Planning Board,

I am writing to express my concern over the unusual step of allowing Upstream Watch to show their 40-minute video at the last minute without sufficient time for either the applicant or the public to digest and, if warranted, respond to the claims made within it. It had the effect of being the "last official word" on this matter and that deeply worries me because I contend it presented a rather large number of grossly misleading and/ or erroneous claims.

If Belfast is going to allow such last-minute actions, I find it only fair that an equal body also be permitted to present a similar case that seeks to prove the falsity of those claims that fall under the Planning Board's purvey.

The Fish Are Okay, an incorporated non-profit founded to watch the processing of Nordic's applications and help the public understand what it all means is requesting a 15 minute opportunity at the next appropriate meeting of the Board to present a rebuttal to this video.

We offer the following terms and are happy to incorporate any additional terms you might suggest or require:

-No more than 15 minutes

-1 presenter (myself)

-The only material we present will be responses to direct assertions made within the UW video of 1/08/20 Planning Board meeting and with a 15-minute time limit, it will by necessity likely be less than 10 points made.

-There will be no attempts to defend the "science parts" - that's on Nordic to prove.

-Our goal is to show how we see what Nordic Aquafarms as a real thing will affect the Belfast community as it pertains to those interests that fall under the purview of the Planning Board.

After nearly two years of watching all of this closely, there's a large number of people in this area that believe this is not remotely the doom&gloom scenario the dissenters have painted for us. That, indeed, Nordic will be a positive addition to the community on many fronts and we'd appreciate a chance to present that picture to the Board, and we believe the public also could use a different angle from which to see this thing that they've been led to believe is so evil.

Thank you,

Anne Saggese
treasurer, The Fish Are Okay

Anne K. Saggese

sweethenrys@gmail.com

207-322-0651

also

info@belfastfarmersmarket.org

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also

Top 50 Farmers' Markets in the US by Cooking Light Magazine

Top Ten Farmers' Markets in New England by Yankee Magazine

Re: Comment on NAF

Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Thu 1/9/2020 11:04 AM

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

Ms. Dexter.

I was already at the Board meeting when your comment was received. I will be providing your written comment to the Board and it will be part of the official record for last night's public hearing.

Wayne

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

Sent: Wednesday, January 8, 2020 5:40 PM

To: Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Subject: Comment on NAF

Dear Planning Board-

I realize this is coming after the deadline....I had intended to attend the meeting but am not well and don't want to spread illness.

So my comment is....if the city allows NAF to build this unnecessary and destructive facility in our town, I will ask (start a petition, if necessary) demanding that Belfast officially pull out of the "We're In" movement and the Covenant of Mayors, both of which obligate the city to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with the Paris Accords. This factory farm would hugely increase Belfast's climate warming emissions for the sole purpose of profit. In other words, allowing this nature pillaging industry a foothold in Belfast would be admitting that the Council doesn't care about the climate crisis or our pledge to find local solutions to our contribution to the problem. The "Climate Crisis Committee" is a waste of sincere citizen's efforts when the town clearly doesn't intend to reduce emissions. I do not want to be a citizen of such a hypocritical city. So, I would insist that Belfast openly declare itself a "Business as Usual" City....honestly state the truth...that profits, investors, and wealthy customers all take priority over the local environment and the planet's future.

Thank you for your time and work. Hope you do the right thing by the city, the planet, and any descendants you hope will survive the current crisis.

Susan Dexter
Belfast

"Somebody has to do something, and it's just incredibly pathetic that it has to be us." -- Jerry Garcia.

Re: Comments for planning board meeting 1/8/20

Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Thu 1/9/2020 11:02 AM

To: schlueter.eric@gmail.com <schlueter.eric@gmail.com>

Erica

The Planning Board makes the final decision on all 5 permit applications submitted by Nordic Aquafarms. The City Council does not have any role regarding the current permit applications.

An aggrieved party - someone who is a Party-in-Interest, does have the right to appeal the Planning Board decisions to the Belfast Zoning Board of Appeals. If an appeal is filed, the Zoning Board of Appeals reviews the record of the decision by the Planning Board and determines if the Planning Board did or did not correctly interpret and apply City Ordinances.

Hope that this helps.

Wayne

From: schlueter.eric@gmail.com <schlueter.eric@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, January 9, 2020 10:34 AM

To: Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Subject: Re: Comments for planning board meeting 1/8/20

Hi Wayne,

I'm still a bit confused, so once the Planning Board makes the decision on NAF permits what does the City Council do, if anything, with what the Planning Board decides? Is there a vote by the Council to accept or decline the Planning Boards decision(s)?

As I'm typing this out I guess the question is; who has the final say in the City of Belfast on whether the NAF facility gets built or not, once NAF has jumped through all the "hoops", the Planning Board? City Council? Some other entity?

Is it too late for me to send in comments on the project as a whole? I thought last nights meeting was on traffic (I can't figure out why I thought that, too much information swarming around but it appears I wasn't the only one...) I was trying to submit comments relevant to the meetings topic.

Thank you,

Erica

On Jan 8, 2020, at 1:29 PM, Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org> wrote:

Hello Erica

I have received your email and will provide such to the Board for tonight's meeting. I am emailing such to them in the next 15 minutes.

With respect to the question you asked in the P.S. section of your email, the Belfast Planning Board has the authority to make the decision on all 5 Nordic permits that the Board is now reviewing. The City Council does not have any role in the review of the Planning Board decisions. Hope that this information helps. I will make note of the above in my opening comments to the public tonight.

Wayne

From: schlueter.eric@gmail.com <schlueter.eric@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, January 8, 2020 12:59 PM

To: Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Subject: Comments for planning board meeting 1/8/20

Dear members of the Planning Board,

I understand the number of trucks removing soil from the proposed site of the fish farm, if Nordic Aquafarms (NAF) permits get approved, would be a lot more and for a longer period than the soil removal for the work done at the Belfast air port last year. I live on the road, Lower Congress, the dump trucks were driving on to take the soil from the air port to wherever it was going. The trucks started early and went until about 4 and sometimes on Saturday. I had to talk with the air port manager, Thomas Kitteridge, about one truck in particular which was braking loudly, Mr. Kitteridge said the trucks shouldn't be using the loud brakes and he would address the issue and as far as I can tell he did because eventually the loud braking stopped. That was one truck in about 5 or 6 (?) how many trucks, not truck loads, would need to be monitored on their etiquette? These trucks made it feel less safe to check my mail box, I also run and walk on the road and I normally don't have to jump out of the way of several dump trucks, the trucks I usually see belong to the Faulkinghams on Woods road who haul gravel and excavation equipment. They are my neighbors and wave to me and give me room, the air port truck drivers did not. I knew there was an end to this trucking which made it only somewhat tolerable.

I realize rout 1 already has truck traffic but I'm guessing the people who live near the Water District office know the flow of traffic and safer times to check mail. If the fish farm gets the go ahead during the 3 plus years (?) of construction it sounds like the flow of trucks will be constant. I can't even imagine what that will be like with the addition of Summer traffic, and might it deter people?

Entering and exiting the Little River vet can be a challenge now, it's just over the Northport border on rout 1, how might the truck traffic effect access to and/or even impact their business/income? And that of other existing frequently used business near the proposed site?

Another traffic concern is if the facility is built that in addition to the coming and goings of trucks hauling fish product, feed and solid waste etc, it's my understanding NAF plans to have an info center for tourists? Like the Little River vet the entrance to the proposed fish farm site is on a curve and more traffic trying to pull in and out of near that location I imagine could cause problems. Should NAF traffic requirements take preference over that of existing homes and business that will be majorly disrupted? Too bad I couldn't have invited you all over when the trucks were hauling dirt from the air port, a picture is worth 1,000 words.

Thank you to all of you for your time and being open minded to all the information being presented to you.

Erica Schlueter

Belfast

PS Hi Wayne, I am hearing conflicting information not just about NAF but also what the Planning Boards role is in the final decision on NAF. Does the Planning Board make recommendations to the City Council and the Council votes and with that vote makes the final say? Or does the Planning Board make the finale decision on NAF? I realize there are many other factors at play if I am over simplifying this please clarify. Thank you!

Re: Nordic Aquafarm

Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Mon 1/13/2020 2:52 PM

To: Raymelle MOODY-GUTHRIE <rvmguthrie@gmail.com>

Dear Ms. Mood-Guthrie

I have received your comment and will provide such to the Planning Board for their upcoming January 15 public hearing.

Wayne

From: Raymelle MOODY-GUTHRIE <rvmguthrie@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, January 13, 2020 2:48 PM

To: Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Subject: Nordic Aquafarm

Good Afternoon,

I am a local resident, I was born and raised here in Waldo County. I am 40 years old, a "young" person by local standards. I also own and operate a business in downtown Belfast.

I am AGAINST the Nordic Fish Farm. My reasoning is this, I believe we should be investing money in preserving green strips not building giant factory farms on them. I think that this kind of money would be better spent researching and implementing systems that would attempt to reverse environmental issues preventing these fish from thriving in their natural habitat. Once those avenues have been exhausted if it is found that farms are the way of the future, I also believe we should be building such farms in the ocean or existing waterways so they are in a natural environment.

Thank you for taking the time to consider our opinions.

Raymelle Moody-Guthrie

207-322-2353

--

Raymelle Moody-Guthrie 207-322-2353 rvmguthrie@gmail.com

Re: Nordic Aquafarms

Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Mon 1/13/2020 2:49 PM

To: Seth Thayer <sethathayerjr@gmail.com>

Seth

I have received your comment and will provide such to the Board for their upcoming January 15 meeting.

Wayne

From: Seth Thayer <sethathayerjr@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, January 13, 2020 1:41 PM

To: Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Subject: Nordic Aquafarms

Greetings Belfast Planning Board: I am writing to express my support for Nordic Aquafarms and their plan to build a facility here in Belfast. The business will provide jobs, limited tax relief, and future food products. As a historian, I have read 17th and 18th century accounts of fishing in New England and the Gulf of Maine. Period accounts tell of huge schools of Cod roiling the surface of the waters, and such abundance and plenty from the seas that fed our ancestors. Those fish have been in decline ever since. With overfishing and the Climate Crisis upon us, we will see either different kinds of fish off our shores as well as less fish all around.

When the sea stops producing food for our population, where will we turn?? Belfast could be at the forefront of the land based fish farm movement. Every thing is farmed in our society... meats, vegetables..why not fish??

Nordic has been an incredible corporate partner in our community since arriving and I am sure they will support local causes once they get underway. It is an exciting opportunity for Belfast and the surrounding communities.

Thanks,

Seth Thayer

Seth A. Thayer Jr.
American Arts Consulting, LLC
UNME, LLC
44 Cliff Road
Northport, ME 04849
207 323-8383
sethathayerjr@gmail.com
www.theoceanhousebelfast.com

Please note my new email address:
sethathayerjr@gmail.com

RE: NAF letter

Mike Lannan <mlannan@techenv.com>

Mon 1/13/2020 2:42 PM

To: Wayne Marshall <wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org>

Thank you.

-Mike

From: Wayne Marshall [mailto:wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org]

Sent: Monday, January 13, 2020 2:41 PM

To: Mike Lannan <mlannan@techenv.com>

Subject: Re: NAF letter

Mike

I have received your letter and will provide such to the Board for their upcoming meeting on January 15.

Wayne

Wayne Marshall, Director

Code and Planning

City of Belfast

131 Church St

Belfast, ME 04915

(207) 338-1417 x 125

wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org

From: Mike Lannan <mlannan@techenv.com>

Sent: Monday, January 13, 2020 1:46 PM

To: John Spritz <jspritz@maine.rr.com>; bookkeeper@northportmaine.org <bookkeeper@northportmaine.org>;

Wayne Marshall <wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org>

Cc: Gordon Fuller <harbormaster@northportmaine.org>; Victoria Matthews <vlmatt00@gmail.com>

Subject: NAF letter

Dear Belfast Planning Board, Northport Village Corporation Overseers, Northport Select Board, Northport Planning Board, and Harbormaster:

Please see my attached letter. Last week, I started to present a summation of this letter to the Belfast Planning Board meeting, but the allotted time for Upstream Watch had ended and I was cut off. While the time had expired, and the Planning Board was within its right to stop testimony, it was unfortunate, as I was presenting the crux of the focus of the agenda, which was to explain the interrelationship of the permits, how the proponent's conditional permitting approach (i.e. an approach of "tell us your concerns and we will incorporate the concern as a condition in our design, but not provide a firm solution") and how a simple new piece of information such as the size of the trucks used for hauling offered off the cuff at a meeting to address a concern about traffic has a ripple effect through their assumptions for a facility proposed with huge design, infrastructure, and operational demands.

I presented a summation of this letter at the NVC overseers meeting yesterday, Sunday. And I am going to offer to do the same to Northport Planning Board tomorrow. I will not be at the Northport Select Board meeting this evening, but Victoria Matthews will, and can relay questions or concerns, if voiced. I urge the Select Board to

attend the Planning Board meeting tomorrow if possible, or I could discuss this letter at a future Select Board meeting, if desired.

Thank you.
-Mike Lannan

Michael T. Lannan, P.E.
President

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January 8, 2020

Dear Belfast Planning Board, Northport Village Corporation Overseers, Northport Select Board, and Northport and Belfast Residents:

Hello. My name is Michael Lannan. I am President of Tech Environmental, which is a consulting firm that specializes in helping facilities, neighbors of facilities, and regulators navigate the permitting process with respect to environmental concerns, and with a special emphasis on nuisance potential. We have an office on Front Street in Belfast, an office in Waitsfield, Vermont, and an office in Waltham, Massachusetts.

I am also a resident of Northport, a homeowner in Bayside Village, an Overseer for the Northport Village Corporation (NVC), a boater on the Penobscot Bay, a decent curler in Belfast, a not so good golfer in Northport, a trustee of the NVC Utility Committee, the Chair of the NVC Infrastructure Committee, and a Maine registered Professional Engineer specializing in Environmental Engineering. I am speaking to you today as a representative of Upstream Watch. Upstream Watch's goal from day one has been about the science, and the potential economic, energy, and environmental risks, as compared to the potential benefits.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our thoughts on the permitting process to date for the proposed Nordic Aquafarms (NAF) Recirculating Aquaculture System (RAS). As we all know, the Planning Board has clearly spent quite a bit of their personal time on this application and they should be commended for their service to the City, and the mid-coast area that is potentially affected by this proposal. Before I provide additional comments on Upstream Watch's behalf, it is important to remind everyone that I personally, my firm Tech Environmental, Upstream Watch, and the NVC have taken no stand endorsing or opposing this project.

As many of you know, Nordic Aquafarms has permits pending before both the City of Belfast's Planning Board and the Maine Board of Environmental Protection. I have attended, not all, but a majority of these meetings in person. I have listened to the various agents of the proponent speak, I have scanned, or read in detail, every permit submission they have provided, and I have watched them operate throughout the process.

While the proponent might feel otherwise, this permitting process for a project of this size and complexity, and for the infrastructure proposed, and the way it was proposed, is moving at a face pace. I, and my staff, have literally read or scanned through every permit submission, DEP requests for information (RFIs), and responses to RFIs. This exercise was necessary, since I could not simply read the permit applications. Nordic's original permit applications submitted in May of 2019 to DEP and the City of Belfast have never been formally updated. On the DEP website there are multiple responses to comments posted, included the extremely large documents with stormwater submittal changes. Only the proposed stormwater changes are available on the City's site, so it is unclear what parts of the application and responses that Nordic has made, are actually pending for the City and whether the

applications pending at DEP and at the City are consistent. For a project of this size and complexity, it is very unusual and uncommon, for the proponent to not keep their permits up to date. This lack of basic permitting protocol can be seen a reflection of the either the Technical Ability of the applicant, or the degree to which the proponent is willing to work with the city and its neighbors.

Many think of the permitting process simply as a “hurdle to overcome”, but in my nearly three decades assisting, developing, evaluating and/or reviewing hundreds to thousands of projects, it is actually so much more. Ultimately, it is a reflection of the proponent, the project, the area’s desire for the project, the financial, energy, and environmental benefits and risks. Eventually, every project comes down to the “three-legged” stool of economics, energy, and the environment.

While in the past I have provided specific testimony, on detailed environmental issues and environmental rules or laws, this letter prepared for submission at tonight’s Planning Board meeting on January 8, 2020 is focused on how this all does, or does not, fit together, as requested by the Planning Board. The hope as presented at the last meeting by the City, but not mentioned formally in the agenda, is that this project will shift from specific topics of concern to the permit as a whole. Part of this proposed shift may or may not include restricting public comment moving forward.

Again, as we all know, the Planning Board has clearly spent quite a bit of their time on this application and it is understandable that the Planning Board may like to move forward towards closure. But at this juncture the only way to move forward is to deny the application(s) because they are simply insufficient, contradictory, and inadequate to meet the required “burden of proof” with respect to the three-legged stool.

It does not seem possible that this process can shift from individual topics, as it is still simply unclear for the Planning Board to know what individual topics are being proposed, and therefore, what to possibly deliberate. And since the topics are all directly, indirectly, or inversely related, there is a multilayer web of uncertainty as to what is being proposed.

If we just use the construction air emissions as an example. Nothing has been provided to date with respect to construction air emissions, yet over 200,000+ yards of soil will now be removed along with forest, brush, stumps, rock, and other items, and a substantial base of gravel, stable soil, or gravel will need to be provided. None of this concern is in current application pending. This change in site suitability has the potential for significant nuisance and respirable particulate emissions from the truck traffic, equipment operations, exposed areas, diesel emissions from trucks and non-road earth moving equipment, the act itself of earth moving, grading, scooping, dumping, and hauling, the hauling and diesel emissions of the replacement fill, the building materials, concrete, driveways, by-pass road, and on, and on.

Again, using the unsuitable soils example, the interrelated aspect is highlighted at a Planning Board meeting over 125 days ago where Ellie Daniels, a Person of Interest and an abutter, (and not by the proponent by the way), informed the Planning Board of the vast added quantities of unstable soil that would need to be removed.

Ms. Daniels’ calculations used a 10-cubic yard dump truck. That is the standard size of a three or four axle dump truck. Obviously, if larger trucks are used, there will be less truck trips, so it is possible to reduce the number of trip ends by using 24-cubic yard tractor trailer truck as Ed Cotter suggested would

likely be used at the meeting instead. At first glance, it sounds like the potential traffic and air emission impacts from trucking this new concern could be cut in half, right? Wrong. First and foremost, it is likely that many size trucks will be used to keep to their original schedule, as they have not formally altered it as a result of this unstable soil determination. And cement does not generally come in these larger trucks, so there will be 10-yard cement trucks no matter what, but if we simply explore the potential collateral impact strictly from using 24-yard trucks instead of 10-yard trucks, the only possible conclusion is that it is impossible to know whether this is an added benefit or an added impact, because:

1. A larger truck means less trips for the same material, but it also means more respirable particulate from truck wells as the potential respirable emissions are related to the total weight of the truck over the area of impact.
2. Larger trucks are harder and slower to maneuver, and as a result must wait significantly longer to make turns at intersections like the left turn on to Route 3 from Route 1. Although the formal trip ends are less, the overall traffic impact may actually be more.
3. Additionally, larger trucks will require significantly different turning, idling, and loading patterns. They will likely be on-site much longer and the viability of an 80,000 square foot active area, with the proposed schedule comes into question.
4. Then there are differences in weight, and potential impact to the longevity of the roadways. If the unstable soil is saturated, a 24-yard total truck weight should exceed the recommended weight limits. While the City may elect to provide a waiver for the overweight limit, it must consider the potential to shortening of the road lifespan doing so.
5. Lastly, there was discussion of backfilling gravel delivery trucks with the unstable soil. While this is likely possible to some extent, it becomes less ideal if larger trucks are used. The 80,000 square foot staging area will not allow for as much flexibility if larger loads are coming and going. Again, all of these parameters fit together; one impacts the other.

The real problem here for the Planning Board with respect to the example above, is knowing: what is proposed now for hauling? Is it formally the original numbers in Table 18-1? After all that table has never been formally updated. Is it the hauling scenario Ellie Daniels presented, and Ed Cotter acknowledged "that is sounds about right" with 10-yard trucks, or the possible 24-yard trucks Mr. Cotter mentioned? How much stable backfill material is now needed? Will it be gravel? Will it be soil? Will it be cement? Will it be crushed bedrock?

Again, another proponent meeting response suggested that blasting would be minimized because some of the bedrock can be removed with an excavator, but some will need a hoe-ram. A hoe-ram was not included in the generic construction equipment suggested, yet it is one of the loudest possible pieces of equipment. The proponent mentioned that the bedrock that can be removed by a backhoe or hoe-ram will be will be crushed and reused on-site to limit traffic. Okay, but the details of this process, or how it would work has never been discussed in the application, on-site aggregate processing operations is another significant new process that will create more noise and air emissions, and staging.

There were also discussions at a meeting of a cement plant on-site to limit traffic impacts, yet a cement plant comes with its own set of potential impacts, needs, and concerns. Again, none of this is discussed in the applications(s).

And lastly, the proponent has elected to permit a 2-Phase construction project, yet there is absolutely no discussion or analysis of the potential traffic, noise, air emissions, odors, discharge impacts, etc. during the overlap of Phase 1 Operations and Phase 2 construction.

There is not a single topic that has been addressed in its entirety and to completion. Many responses from the proponent to questions from the Planning Board, Parties of Interest, and the public, have been couched with statements about how the details will be determined after the BEP hearings. That approach is simply not fair to the Planning Board or the public. Essentially, what that response is really saying is that the proponent is willing to waste the time of the Planning Board in this process to get input to items for use at BEP that they claim they vetted when they filled out their applications and informed the City and DEP that their application was complete.

Please note that agents of the proponent often use the acceptance of the application as administratively complete to suggest that the proposed project permit application is complete. Those are two completely different things. The first threshold, administratively complete, is simply a check to see if the permit has all the components. That does not mean that the permit is complete to the level of detail for approval. If it were, then there would be no need for the actual review process. When the proponent stands up at a Planning Board meeting and says, “that air, odor, noise, wastewater, ground water, surface water, city, wetlands, etc. question will need to be addressed at the BEP hearing”, what they are really saying is that we submitted the bare minimum, or close to it, to meet the administratively complete threshold to start the review process. And, we will work out the details after the permits are issued, unless we are forced to do so by a Board, BEP, or the public beforehand. The Planning Board and Belfast and Northport residents can simply review the video of the previous meetings to see these deferral comments occurring steadily.

As mentioned earlier, one can learn a lot from the way a proponent approaches the permitting process. Unfortunately, as the process unfolds, this proponent has done nothing but add concern, instead of addressing concern. Although NAF touts an “open-door policy” in meetings and in its advertisements, the proponent has repeatedly refused our requests for the back-up material to any of their very vague studies. This is not an unusual request, but is standard practice in permitting, and actually required as part of the DEP rules.

More importantly, any company that claims to have an “open-door policy” should want to provide their back-up information to demonstrate that they took a conservative approach to compliance, regardless of whether it is formally required, as it is in this case. If they plan to be a good neighbor during construction, operations, and maintenance, they should want to address concerns now. Anyone that leans on lawyers to argue against the applicability of requests to provide required information, should be questioned. Furthermore, this proponent has refused to answer many of the DEP’s formal request for information directly. Again, I do not need to get into a detailed demonstration of how or why here, as the RFIs, and the RFI responses stand alone, and are all readily available on the DEP website.

In contrast to the recent objection that NAF’s lawyers just filed that requested that all Upstream Watch’s questions and concerns be stricken from the record because of a few inconsistent pagination concerns, I will use our firm as an example to demonstrate how a firm should work directly with a municipality or regulatory authority as part of the process. For smaller projects, Tech may initially consider a “less is more” approach to permitting, and initially simply provide the results and the assumptions, and possibly not the calculations or modeling input and output files. Tech

would then provide them at a later date if requested. Tech does not refuse these requests because we are eager to work with the regulatory agency, and we want to put public concerns to rest. We know we did it right, and we are happy to share, if it helps provide a basis for the approval.

For larger projects, such as this one, we would always provide the calculations in either a qualitative or quantitative manner, depending on which would be more helpful. We would either include the modeling files, if we knew they were required, or if not at least offer to provide them. We would always include a detailed evaluation of how a subconsultant's work fits into the project. Simply saying "see the appended report" does not provided the Planning Board, regulators, or the public with the context necessary to accept a report or analysis as pertinent to establishing the burden of proof, especially a report with no input file, output file, equipment list, or equipment data included. Again, there are many examples in the application, so only one will be included here to illustrate the concern. Below is the entire analysis of how the noise report, provided by a subconsultant (Acentech) to a subconsultant (Gridworks Energy Consulting, Inc), is relevant to this project:

"30.0 NOISE

Gridworks Energy Consulting LLC was retained by Nordic to prepare a full noise study presenting the potential noise-related impacts from construction and operation of the development. This Construction, Operation, and Maintenance Noise Impact Assessment has been included as Appendix 30-A. According to the assessment, sounds associated with construction, operation or maintenance of the Project will be modest and in compliance with federal, state and local noise level requirements."

While it is okay to append a report to add data to defend or backup one's argument for burden of proof, the applicant must still demonstrate site specific applicability and requirement. Please note that this statement and the appended report discusses construction noise, but the proponent would rather argue that construction noise is exempt that simply address the reality of it. Again, that action speaks loudly.

The fact that this proponent has continued to refuse to provide the wastewater, oxygen generation, disinfection, water, fish module equipment air emissions, capacities, sound data, is a huge concern. The question is simply: Why? It is not because of propriety concerns. Tech works with many companies that have very strict confidentiality agreements. There are plenty of ways to provide the basic equipment information required for permitting without breaking these agreements.

Furthermore, it is not because they do not have the funding to do it. At the very first Planning Board meeting in the boat house, the proponent discussed the many millions of dollars spent on permitting and design. It was presented during the Financial Ability topic presentation by the proponent. Unfortunately, if they have the money and pumps, fans, blowers, oxygen generation equipment, etc. are common and not proprietary then, the remaining logical answers are:

1. The initial studies were only performed at the cursory level and may not be complete,
2. The initial studies may not be representative anymore,
3. The studies made some less than conservative assumptions,
4. The studies may not hold up to scrutiny with respect to the analysis being reasonable worst-case, and/or demonstrating compliance.

Results in a report may still seem okay even if any of the items above are a concern, if the amount of information presented is minimized. For example, at Tech, when we review sound studies for a municipality, county, or a state agency, we have coined a term we call the “marshmallow factor”. This term is used generically to describe unconservative or unrepresentative assumptions that may be used for a project. In this specific case it refers to the sound reflectivity factor in the model for structures and ground surfaces. While the results of the model run may show compliance, did the proponent assume a reasonable reflectivity or did they assume the building and ground was made of a spongy, absorptive, marshmallow-like substance? If they were not conservative, it can only be known with the modeling input, output, and site-specific data assumptions.

Generally speaking, there are two ways to permit a facility (1) by providing the proper studies and justification so that specific criteria can be written in as thresholds for compliance, or (2) by providing open ended conditions that will allow a facility to learn as the go, make improvements, and refine the process in an iterative manner. The proponent, through their own volition, has proposed an incredibly large facility on this site, in one permitting exercise, with two separate phases of construction and start-up days. For a project of this magnitude, the second approach is simply not feasible.

While the site is vast, the proposed use will disturb and fill nearly every acre of the site up to, or near, the required property line buffer, or shoreland buffer. When completed, and fully operation, it has proposed to harvest enough salmon to supply 7% of the US salmon demand (or twice the demand of all of New England), from one location, in our neighborhood.

Some suggest that it could be an economic windfall for the area, or some suggest that it could be a complete environmental disaster. What is more likely is that it if were built and operated as the applications and proponents wishes suggest, it would start out somewhere in between on the “sunny” day as presented in the applications. The problem the proponent has is that it must satisfy the burden of proof that it can be in compliance each and every day, not just on days where the wastewater plant is operating at 99% removal, their discharge in the bay is free of antibiotics, metals, and their plume is moving towards the “open ocean” as they describe it, the fish are completely healthy, sufficient power is present, there is adequate groundwater available, the feed is ideal, their product is being harvested and butchered properly, the product is being shipped as planned, there is sufficient heat available, there is sufficient heat being removed, moisture is under control, odor is being controlled, noise is limited, all the mechanical and SCADA systems are functioning, oxygen is being provided as planned, their wastes are being removed in a timely manner, etc. While the proponent discusses a normal day, there have been no assurances or demonstrations that it will not become a complete disaster on a less than ideal day. We call this stress testing a facility. There has been minimal to no stress testing results reported in the application. That fact alone, must result in a denial, unless the permit is resubmitted with stress tests.

This was plainly clear with respect to air quality. Tall stacks may not be necessary on a daily basis, but they are necessary when we are “socked-in” with fog (i.e. on a day or evening where the weather has created an inversion). This is why, not just the sunny day, but all the days over a period of five years must be assessed during any EPA approved air dispersion study assessment. Tech has been working with DEP on the recent dispersion modeling exercises and has identified some additional air quality concerns that will be presented once we have finalized them.

Unfortunately, the proponent has not provided sufficient information to justify the financial, energy, and environmental benefits, and to address the risks. It may be hard to fathom how to assess benefits and risks from a facility that could produce 7% of the US Salmon. So, to get an idea, we compared it to the sizing simple societal utility needs, and the typical public scrutiny necessary for just one of these items.

As individual consumers, we tend to think of infrastructure and utility averaging periods in months and years, not in minutes or days, as the proponent’s application uses. Usage in cubic yards per day or gallons per minutes can be harder for a consumer appreciate, since no one has their waste picked up daily, and no one pays their water and wastewater bills on a minute basis. When I work with the Utility or Infrastructure Committees, we review usage and needs on a monthly, quarterly, or annual basis. As a consumer I think in monthly and annual billing usage and costs, and may analyze average daily usage to explore trends, but individual daily usage is simply not that relevant. Individual daily usage is important for a single user that has incredible demands.

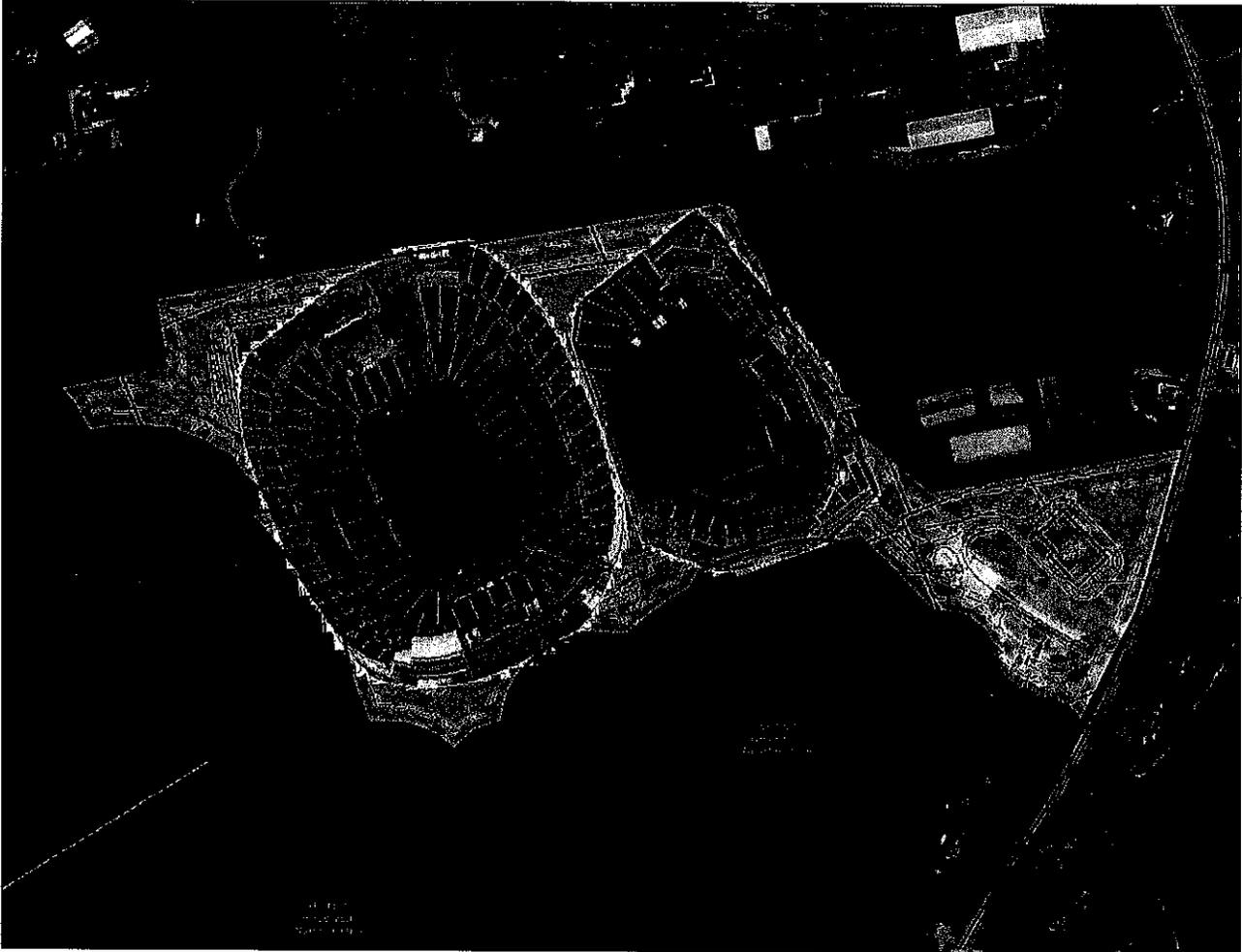
The table below illustrates the voluminous demands of this facility in simple daily and yearly time periods, and in a comparison to potential population basis usage. For people per household the national average of 2.6 people was used.

<u>Infrastructure Need</u>	<u>Daily Usage/Production</u>	<u>Annual Usage/Production</u>	<u>Population Served</u>
Wastewater	7,700,000 gallons	2,800,000,000 gallons	66,000 people *
Water	1,700,000 gallons	630,000,000 gallons	32,000 people **
Power Plant	330,000 kilowatts	123,000,000 kilowatts***	48,000 people ****
Solid Waste	110,000 pounds *****	180,000,000 pounds	25,000 people
Fish Product	200,000 pounds	73,000,000 pounds *****	30,000,000 people
Gross income	\$550,000 *****	\$200,000,000 *****	6,500 people(income)

- * Maine code 10-144 CMR Ch. 243 Section 1001.1.1
- ** <https://www.csgwest.org/policy/WesternWaterUsage.aspx>
- *** Actual Usage proposed is approximately one-tenth of this potential based upon a fuel restriction
- **** <https://www.electricchoice.com/blog/electricity-on-average-do-homes/>
- ***** <https://archive.epa.gov/epawaste/nonhaz/municipal/web/html/>
 Table 18-1 volumetric operation waste (i.e. not including construction waste) rates x density
https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-04/documents/volume_to_weight_conversion_factors_memorandum_04192016_508fnl.pdf &
<https://www.epa.gov/facts-and-figures-about-materials-waste-and-recycling/national-overview-facts-and-figures-materials>
- ***** <https://www.seafoodnutrition.org/seafood-101/news/news-update-u-s-per-capita-seafood-consumption-up-in-2017/>
- ***** Global Price of \$6.05/kg as of 11/2019, <https://www.tridge.com/intelligences/atlantic-salmon>
<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/ME/HSG010218>

Why is the previous table important? Because each one of the items alone should require a substantial permitting and vetting process. Simply stating that the process units being proposed in typical “modules” or are “state-of-the-art” would not be sufficient for permitting for a wastewater treatment plant, a water treatment plant, a food processing facility, a solid waste transfer station, or a power plant. Why should it be sufficient for a facility that is going to provide all five of these together on one site? The simple answer is that it is not.

With three decades of experience designing and permitting all types of facilities, I thought I understood the size of the facility until I went to the formal DEP site walk, and looked at what I thought was the Building 1 corners, but then learned that visible markers were for only one third of the building corners. The other two thirds of the proposed Building 1 were deep into the woods. Only then did I truly realize the size of a facility that could fit both Gillette Stadium and Fenway Park within its footprint.



It actually makes sense that a facility this size needs massive infrastructure. We continue to provide permitting and design services for the wastewater collection and treatment to the Kraft Group for Gillette Stadium and for Patriot Place. The packaged wastewater treatment plant for the Patriots, the hotels, the restaurants, the stores, and the future residential development planned pales in comparison to this one.

The infrastructure NAF is proposing is akin to the infrastructure needed for a city or town of at least 25,000 to 66,000 residents. The population of Belfast and Northport combined are 8,300 people. The population of the four biggest cities in Maine are below with a comparison to the proposed NAF infrastructure.

<u>City</u>	<u>City Population *</u>	<u>Infrastructure Proposed</u>	<u>Comparable Population Served</u>
Portland	66,417 people	NAF Wastewater Plant	66,000 people
Lewiston	35,944 people	NAF Power Plant	48,000 people
Bangor	31,997 people	NAF Water Plant	32,000 people
South Portland	25,606 people	NAF Solid Waste	25,000 people

* https://www.maine-demographics.com/cities_by_population

So here we have a proponent that is provided ALL the infrastructure of a large city in Maine, yet requesting that it be provided conditional permits. It has provided no information for its sound sources but readily admits that here are 180 sound sources present, but that is okay because they will be addressed via a conditional permit. Unfortunately, if they are out of compliance, who is going to start at the beginning and identify the 180 sources to find the problem? that could take weeks to do. A conditional permit would not be acceptable for any of the cities above, and it should not be here as well.

The proponent claims that the aquaculture facility must be permitted in one step, yet it does not present anything about the overlapping phases of construction and operations. This would not be acceptable for any of the cities listed above, and it should not be here as well.

The number one factor affecting wastewater loading and solid waste is the fish feed. Residual fish feed will pass through the tank and fish waste discharged reflect fish feed. The proponent claims that the industry is changing so rapidly that it must not be limited to one feed. If the feed is changing so rapidly, why wouldn't the proponent suggest that the Phase 2 design needs might be different as well? A permit that does not identify one of its largest potential contributions to its waste would not be acceptable for any of the cities above, and it should not be here as well.

The drain on local infrastructure resources, and the impact to nearby residents will be real. A commitment to this project, means limited options for other projects, and if this project is not as promised, or has a serious mortality event of literally hundreds of millions of pounds of live fish, it could have a serious and permanent detrimental effect on the area (land and sea). The proponent simply has not demonstrated that its economic, energy, and environmental benefits out way its risks, or justify its predominately conditional permitting approach. And unfortunately The proponent has shifted from its "open door policy" to dissemination of missing design information to lawyers fighting the applicability or technicalities of timeline of for valid comments and concerns that are still being submitted, instead of simply addressing them as any firm claiming to be a future good neighbor would do. As a result, the risks for this project are simply too high to approve and let Nordic Aquafarms design and "tweak" the project after the fact.

Thank you for your time.
Sincerely,

TECH ENVIRONMENTAL, INC.



Michael T. Lannan, P.E.
President

Re: My suuport.

Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Mon 1/13/2020 12:48 PM

To: Roberto Struba <psiduceuscomp@gmail.com>

Ms. Struba

I have received your email and will provide such to the Planning Board for their upcoming January 15 hearing.

Wayne

From: Roberto Struba <psiduceuscomp@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, January 13, 2020 12:46 PM

To: Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Subject: My suuport.

I support the fish farm. RJS, 34 Race Street, Belfast.

Re: Public Comment on Nordic Aquaculture Proposal

Wayne Marshall <wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org>

Mon 1/13/2020 9:57 AM

To: Eric Rector <erector@tilth.com>

Mr. Rector.

I have received your comment and will provide such to the Planning Board for their upcoming meeting on January 15.

Wayne

Wayne Marshall, Director
Code and Planning
City of Belfast
131 Church St
Belfast, ME 04915
(207) 338-1417 x 125
wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org

From: Eric Rector <erector@tilth.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 12, 2020 6:11 PM
To: Wayne Marshall <wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org>
Subject: Public Comment on Nordic Aquaculture Proposal

To whom it may concern:

I'm a Waldo County resident, but not a Belfast resident. However I would like to add my voice in support of the effort to bring the Nordic Aquaculture facility to Belfast, Maine.

--Eric Rector
Monroe, Maine

Public Comments on the Nordic Aquaculture Belfast facility proposal
Eric Rector, Monroe, Maine
FINAL DRAFT--020113

My name is Eric Rector, I've lived in Monroe, Maine since 1993, and support the City of Belfast in working with Nordic Aquaculture to establish a fish farming facility in Belfast. I believe, with the appropriate oversight in place, that this will be a positive development for the City, as well as for our national food supply.

I feel like I have a unique perspective on this effort: I have been an organic homestead farmer since moving to Maine in 1990; I have been a licensed commercial cheese and yogurt maker selling my products at the Belfast Farmers Market and the Belfast Coop (for the most part) since 2006; I graduated from Duke University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Zoology after having spent a full semester working at the Duke Marine Lab in Beaufort, NC writing a thesis on the effects of pesticide run-off on crustaceans in a saltwater estuary; I served on the MOFGA board for 10 years, serving two of those years as President; I worked for Ducktrap River of Maine and Atlantic Salmon of Maine at a time when they managed pens of commercial salmon off the coast of Maine, and processed that farmed salmon at their facility in Machiasport, Maine.

I believe that organic farming is the only sustainable model for growing food for the long-term benefit of humans on Earth, especially in a time of climate change. I use only certified organic milk in the cheese and yogurt that I make. That said I don't believe that every certified organic farm is necessarily a steward of their environment. Beyond a certain scale farming of any kind will negatively impact the environment in which it is located. Any farm can be well run in a way that maximizes functional sustainability, or poorly run in a way that creates environmental degradation on that farm, as well as far beyond that farm.

It's also true that any farm of any size created on land that has not been actively farmed for a few years, even if organically managed, completely alters the landscape and environment in the process of turning its geology and water flow to the production of food. Therefore at least 99% of the food we eat comes from an altered environment.

Humans have farmed food and raised livestock for at least 12,000 years because it is more efficient than depending on wild harvest exclusively. Just as it takes over 10 pounds of fish to add 1 pound to a wild salmon, while it takes only 3 pounds of feed to add 1 pound to a farmed salmon, wild harvest of our food demands far more energy to collect the same amount of calories as farm work. Wild harvest is not without environmental impact either – just look at our commercial fishing history!

Raising fish for human consumption in land-based pens has also been done for many thousands of years, beginning in China. In 2016 an FAO study showed that aquaculture seafood production nearly equaled wild capture seafood harvest, and projected that it aquaculture would surpass wild harvest soon after (<http://www.fao.org/3/ca0191en/ca0191en.pdf>). It's only recently that the technology and experience

has reached a level where salmon and its cousins (trout and char, etc.) can be raised profitably and sustainably in tanks on land as opposed to in pens in the wild.

I'm not a Hydro-Geologist, but some of my best friends are. Seriously. Though I can't speak as an expert to the issue of the stress on Belfast's water supply that the Nordic Aquaculture facility would cause, I know that the Belfast City government takes this issue seriously and will do everything possible to make sure that any new business does not threaten the Belfast water supply. I also know that Belfast used to have two commercial chicken processing plants, a sardine cannery, potato processing plant, and a large scale grain mill all at the same time. Today only the potato processing plant remains. I also know that the most recent National Climate Assessment (<https://nca2018.globalchange.gov/chapter/18/>) forecasts that the Northeastern US will become a WETTER climate, not a more arid climate as our greenhouse gases continue to mount. A wetter climate comes with its own challenges, but a lack of aquifer recharge is not one of them.

Re: Support for Nordic Aqua farm Proposal

Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Mon 1/13/2020 11:12 AM

To: Stalla Stanley <mainestan@hotmail.com>

Dear Ms. Stanley

I have received your comment and will provide such to the Planning Board for their upcoming January 15 public hearing.

Wayne

From: Stalla Stanley <mainestan@hotmail.com>

Sent: Monday, January 13, 2020 8:25 AM

To: Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Subject: Support for Nordic Aqua farm Proposal

Greetings,

My name is Stanley Stalla, and I'm a resident of Belfast. I would like you to know that the Nordic Aqua Farm proposal has my strong support. Though not a technical expert in land-based aqua farming, I have read much of the proposal and listened to the public discussion. First and foremost, I believe that Nordic has done an excellent job being transparent about the proposed project, about addressing citizen concerns in a timely and technical matter (often drawing on preeminent experts), and about being flexible and willing to adjust its approaches to incorporate citizens' points of view. Secondly, I believe that the proposed project will provide tremendous economic benefit to our town and its residents, both through generating employment opportunities and by broadening and deepening the tax base, thereby strengthening our municipal budget resources for important infrastructure upgrades and new undertakings that will benefit everyone. Lastly, I believe that Nordic's proposal addresses the broad range of environmental aspects (for example, water extraction, effluent treatment and dispersal, protection (separation) of wild salmon and farmed salmon populations, to name a few). I'm confident that Nordic will become a good citizen of our community, providing jobs at an eco-friendly installation that supports a sustainable option for healthy protein consumption, locally, state-wide, and beyond.

For these reasons, I congratulate Nordic on its proposal and on the professional, open way it has complied with local and state regulations and procedures.

Thank you, Belfast Planning Board, for your professionalism in complying with these procedures and regulations, and for your fair consideration of the Nordic proposal.

Sincerely,

Stanley A Stalla

3 Green St
Belfast

Re: Nordic Fish Farm

Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Mon 1/13/2020 10:54 AM

To: John Mank <jmank27@gmail.com>

Mr. Manik

I have received your comment and will provide such to the Planning Board for their upcoming January 15 public hearing.

Wayne

From: John Mank <jmank27@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, January 12, 2020 12:44 PM

To: Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Subject: Nordic Fish Farm

I've lived in Belfast all of my life, seventy years. Seen good times and bad as far as the quality of water in the bay and employment in this city goes. I've followed this issue very closely from it's start. The people from Nordic seem very sincere when talking about the effects this project will have on the environment and on our community. They have provided a great deal of very good information on the project to the public, the city of Belfast, and all state and federal agencies involved. I have not seen any reliable and factual information provided by the small number of people opposed to this project that would cause me to change my support. Seems to me they just don't want any large business moving to this area. Good jobs and tax revenue are a very important thing for any community!

Thank you

John Mank

Re: Nordic Aquafarms Letter of Support

Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Mon 1/13/2020 10:56 AM

To: kgordons@earthlink.net <kgordons@earthlink.net>

Mr. Gordon

I have received your comment and will provide such to the Planning Board for their upcoming January 15 public hearing.

Wayne

From: kgordons@earthlink.net <kgordons@earthlink.net>

Sent: Sunday, January 12, 2020 12:48 PM

To: Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Subject: Nordic Aquafarms Letter of Support

I would like to present my support for the Nordic Aquafarms project to the Belfast Planning Board. In my professional career, I have had considerable experience with discharge permitting. I am very confident that the many agencies including DEP, EPA, Army Corps, Fish & Wildlife, Marine Resources, etc. have the talent and ability to conduct the assessment of the project. I have dealt with similar agencies. I can assure that they are very thorough and extremely diligent in looking at all impacts such a project might have. It appears to me that the facility is located adjacent to another manufacturing facility and this is an appropriate use of the property. There are many folks in Belfast that are on very limited incomes and will benefit from some relief on taxes. Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Kenneth Gordon, P.O. Box 3, Belfast

Re: Letter to Planning Board in Support of Nordic Aquafarms

Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Mon 1/13/2020 10:59 AM

To: Joel Lee <joellee182@gmail.com>

Dear Mr. Lee

I have received the letter that you submitted via email and will provide such to the Planning Board for their upcoming January 15 public hearing.

Wayne

From: Joel Lee <joellee182@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, January 12, 2020 1:27 PM

To: Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Subject: Letter to Planning Board in Support of Nordic Aquafarms

Please forward this public comment letter to the Planning Board.

Thank you very much,
Joel Lee

Joel Lee
87 Union St.
Belfast, Maine 04915

JANUARY 12, 2020

Belfast Planning Board
City of Belfast
Belfast, Maine 04915

To the Planning Board:

Thank you for your efforts in evaluating the Nordic Aquafarms proposal for our town. I am writing in strong support for the project.

If the plan passes the State environmental review process and comes to our town, we can expect more economic opportunity for many residents in the form of direct jobs as well as the cascading effects of the additional local income that flow to other businesses and residents in the area. The increase in Belfast's taxable valuation and the additional Business Equipment Tax Exemption (BETE) reimbursement from the State will benefit all property owners and may also be used to build a fund to aid in the development of affordable housing in Belfast. Good jobs and affordable housing are the two most important needs of our neighbors who are less well-off here in Belfast.

Indoor aquaculture is designed to capitalize on Maine's coastal advantages with much less environmental impact than aquaculture in the bay. If our professionals at the DEP consider the impact of Nordic Aquafarms acceptable, so do I. Maine has some of the strictest environmental regulations in the country – and rightly so.

Belfast's quality of life and character is something very important to me. It's why I live here and travel an hour to get to work. The location of the facility will have minimal impact and will not even be seen by the vast majority of Belfast residents. The Nordic Aquafarms project appears to be a net positive for Belfast and I strongly support it.

Thank you,

Joel Lee

Re: Comments for planning board meeting 1/8/20

Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Mon 1/13/2020 11:16 AM

To: schlueter.eric@gmail.com <schlueter.eric@gmail.com>

Erica.

The role of the Planning Board is to determine if a project complies with City Ordinance requirements, subject to Conditions of Approval that the Planning Board would establish. As such, if the Board finds that a project complies with City requirements, I would expect that the Planning Board would chose to grant the respective permit. Conversely, if the Board finds that a project does not comply with City requirements, I would expect that the Planning Board would deny the respective permit.

Wayne

From: schlueter.eric@gmail.com <schlueter.eric@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, January 13, 2020 10:37 AM

To: Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Subject: Re: Comments for planning board meeting 1/8/20

Hello Wayne,

I hope you had a relaxing weekend.

It seems the permits have to meet technical guidelines/certain criteria. If the Planning Board decides NAF has met the criteria for the permits can they still decide to not grant the permits?

I appreciate all the time you are taking to help me understand this!

Thank you,

Erica

Re: We support

Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Mon 1/13/2020 11:00 AM

To: kathleen coleman <kathleenclmn@yahoo.com>

Kathleen and Rich Coleman

I have received your email and will provide such to the Planning Board for their upcoming January 15 public hearing.

Wayne

From: kathleen coleman <kathleenclmn@yahoo.com>

Sent: Sunday, January 12, 2020 2:41 PM

To: Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Subject: We support

We would like it known that we support Nordic aquafarm coming to Belfast.
We think they will be a great asset to the community

Kathleen and Rich Coleman
230 upper bluff rd
Northport

Sent from my iPad

Re: Nordic

Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Mon 1/13/2020 11:02 AM

To: Todd Hall <toddwhall1@icloud.com>

Mr. Hall

I have received the comment that you submitted via email and will provide such to the Planning Board for their upcoming January 15 public hearing.

Wayne

From: Todd Hall <toddwhall1@icloud.com>

Sent: Sunday, January 12, 2020 2:41 PM

To: Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Subject: Nordic

Planning Board

City of Belfast

I own property in both Belfast and in Northport. I want to voice my overwhelming support for Nordic's proposed RAS Aquafarm in Belfast.

I have read numerous reports and publications published in the US and abroad and find well documented conclusions that RAS is the future of sustainable fish farming. It would be an advantage for Belfast to be home to this operation.

- The impact to the environment has shown to be well researched and is minimal and the operation will be well regulated by the state.
- For Belfast this brings immediate and long term economic value around Nordic's operation and the adjacent businesses and start ups in the area; impacting employment, tax base and a positive business reputation for the city.

I am dismayed by the ferocious NIMBY noise, most notable are the abutting landowners that had full transparency in the permitted land use zoning and their vicious and unfounded attacks that have been nothing but self serving.

The benefit to Belfast, Waldo County and the state as a whole are huge. I hope the board will approve the applications and let this project move forward.

Todd W. Hall

Sent from my iPhone

Re: Nordic

Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Mon 1/13/2020 11:03 AM

To: Sharon Goguen <sgoguen@roadrunner.com>

Dear Ms. Goguen

I have received your comment and will provide such to the Planning Board for their upcoming January 15 public hearing.

Wayne

From: Sharon Goguen <sgoguen@roadrunner.com>

Sent: Sunday, January 12, 2020 4:11 PM

To: Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Subject: Nordic

I support the Nordic Salmon project.

Sharon Goguen
100 Miler St.
Belfast

Sent from my iPhone

Re: Nordic

Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Mon 1/13/2020 11:04 AM

To: psmith836@yahoo.com <psmith836@yahoo.com>

Greg and Paula Smith

I have received your comment and will provide such to the Planning Board for their upcoming January 15 public hearing.

Wayne

From: paula smith <psmith836@yahoo.com>

Sent: Sunday, January 12, 2020 4:55 PM

To: Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Subject: Nordic

We are in support of the fish farm and believe it is good for the community

Greg and Paula Smith

54 salmond St

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

Re: Nordic input

Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Mon 1/13/2020 11:06 AM

To: marci@tds.net <marci@tds.net>

Mr. Richardson

I have received your comment and will provide such to the Planning Board for their upcoming January 15 public hearing.

Wayne

From: marci@tds.net <marci@tds.net>

Sent: Sunday, January 12, 2020 6:18 PM

To: Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Subject: Nordic input

Dear City Officials and Planning Board,

I am a full time resident of Belfast residing at 39 Union Street. I am strongly in favor of approving Nordics application. Most of what I have heard in opposition to Nordic is either untrue or not pertinent to your part of the evaluation. I believe they are a great company and will be a good fit for mid-coast Maine.

Sincerely,

Harold(Hal)Richardson

Re: Nordic Aquafarm support

Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Mon 1/13/2020 11:08 AM

To: Syrena Gatewood <ganerys56@gmail.com>

Thank you for responding so quickly.

Wayne

From: Syrena Gatewood <ganerys56@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, January 13, 2020 11:07 AM

To: Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Subject: Re: Nordic Aquafarm support

6 Hassell Drive
Belfast ME 04915

On Mon, Jan 13, 2020, 11:06 Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org> wrote:

Ms. Gatewood

The Planning Board requires that all persons who offer comment to the Board identify their address. I kindly ask that you provide me your address.

Many thanks.

Wayne

From: Syrena Gatewood <ganerys56@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, January 12, 2020 5:14 PM

To: Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Subject: Nordic Aquafarm support

Dear City Councilors,

My husband, Rick Gatewood and I support the Nordic Aquafarm project. It will bring skilled jobs, tax revenues, and a clean, quiet industry to Belfast. Any small impact it might have on our environment is far outweighed by the mission of providing land based salmon, a much needed protein source, for humanity. Please do not be swayed by the very vocal naysayers that have been present throughout this process.

Thank you,
Syrena Gatewood

Re: The Fish Are OK!

Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Mon 1/13/2020 11:10 AM

To: PATRICIA LOJEK <lojek6@aol.com>

Dear Ms. Lojek

I have received your comment and will provide such to the Planning Board for their upcoming January 15 public hearing.

Wayne

From: PATRICIA LOJEK <lojek6@aol.com>

Sent: Monday, January 13, 2020 10:40 AM

To: Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Subject: The Fish Are OK!

Hello!

I'm Patricia Lojek, and I'm a resident of Belfast. It is important for you to know that I am IN FAVOR of the Nordic Aqua Farm proposal.

Nordic has done an excellent job bringing to us, the proposed project, all the while answering the concerns of the public, sometimes many times over. They have opened their doors, welcoming anyone into the their offices to answer questions, when they can't attend the public meetings. They've addressed abutter's water concerns and even pledged that should anything changed with their wells, that they would correct it. This proposed project will provide tremendous economic benefit to our town and its residents, both with employment and the tax base. Nordic's proposal addresses the broad range of environmental aspects, water extraction, effluent treatment and protection of wild salmon and farmed salmon. Nordic has already shown the City of Belfast and it's citizens, that they are good citizens, even bringing environmental education in to our school systems.

Thank you, BPB for your tireless hours on this project.

Patricia Lojek
3 Green Street
Belfast, Maine

Re: Nordic

Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Mon 1/13/2020 11:11 AM

To: ragoff <ragoff@myfairpoint.net>

Dear Ms. Goff

Thank you for responding so quickly. I will provide your comment to the Planning Board.

Wayne

From: ragoff <ragoff@myfairpoint.net>

Sent: Monday, January 13, 2020 11:08 AM

To: Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Subject: Re: Nordic

35 Ocean St. Belfast. Thank you.

----- Original message -----

From: Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Date: 1/13/20 10:57 AM (GMT-05:00)

To: ragoff <ragoff@myfairpoint.net>

Subject: Re: Nordic

Ms. Goff

I kindly ask that you provide me your address. The Planning Board requires that all parties who submit comment identify their address.

Many thanks.

Wayne

From: ragoff <ragoff@myfairpoint.net>

Sent: Sunday, January 12, 2020 12:49 PM

To: Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Subject: Nordic

I support Nordic Aqua Salmon Farm coming to Belfast. It will be great for our town. Don't pass up this opportunity. Thank you, Roberta Goff

Re: Traffic testimony on Wednesday

Wayne Marshall <wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org>

Tue 1/14/2020 9:56 AM

To: Amy Grant <agrant7108@gmail.com>

Amy

I will ensure that the Board is aware that Mike Lannan will be providing testimony on behalf of Upstream Watch on the issue of traffic.

I also will submit your request to the Board regarding reversing the order of the agenda. That said, continuing with the hearing that was closed at the end of the meeting seems appropriate.

Lastly, a friendly reminder that the Planning Board/Department would like to obtain pdf versions of the power point presentations offered by Upstream Watch at the January 8 public hearing.

Wayne

Wayne Marshall, Director
Code and Planning
City of Belfast
131 Church St
Belfast, ME 04915
(207) 338-1417 x 125
wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org

From: Amy Grant <agrant7108@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2020 9:48 AM
To: Wayne Marshall <wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org>
Subject: Traffic testimony on Wednesday

Good morning Wayne,

First of all, thank you for providing the comments as they are arriving. We appreciate that. Secondly, as you know, Mike Lannan is prepared to offer testimony on Traffic. We understand why you flipped the agenda last week but we are respectfully requesting that you put Traffic first this week. Correct me if I'm wrong, but in order for the public to comment on the entirety of the application all topics need to have been heard by the public. I know of several folks from Islesboro who made a point of being at the last hearing in order to hear traffic. If this week goes the direction of last week, if they decide to make the effort to attend again, they should get the courtesy of hearing traffic testimony first.

Thanks for your consideration,

Amy Grant
Upstream Watch

Re: Nordic Aquafarms

Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Tue 1/14/2020 12:56 PM

To: David Stickler <dbstick41@gmail.com>

Mr. Stickler

I have received your comment and will provide such to the Planning Board for their upcoming January 15 public hearing.

Wayne

From: David Stickler <dbstick41@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2020 12:52 PM

To: Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Subject: Nordic Aquafarms

I am fully supportive of the salmon farm proposed by Nordic Aquafarms. They are offering a very high value food resource at competitive cost, and appear to me to have made every effort to meet all environmental requirements, as well as responding to site issues raised by the public. I am thoroughly annoyed and dismayed by the disinformation, exaggerations, false implications and negative propaganda that this proposal has been subjected to, and I think it important to simply state my support for Nordic. I hope to see a rapid start on construction.

David Stickler

Belfast, ME

Re: Nordic project

Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Tue 1/14/2020 2:22 PM

To: Al Scovern <ascovern@gmail.com>

Mr. Scovern

I have received your comment and will provide such to the Planning Board for their upcoming meeting of January 15.

Wayne

From: Al Scovern <ascovern@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2020 1:23 PM

To: Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Subject: Nordic project

It has come to our attention that those who rose to speak at last Wednesday's public meeting were nearly unanimous in their opposition to the Nordic project. This, I'm afraid, could create the misleading impression that the vast majority of Belfast's citizens are in opposition. I believe it is fair to say that the opposition holds the advantage in a long debate. They profit by anger, which motivates them and gives them staying power, also righteous indignation, and in this case a healthy dose of moral superiority. They also tend to be highly organized. Those in support tend to lose enthusiasm for meetings and sign carrying and demonstration, if they ever had it to begin with. But make no mistake, those who support the Nordic project, ourselves among them, have made their opinions clear in two recent elections that offered a choice between a pro Project and an anti Project candidate. In both cases the pro Project candidate won by a significant margin.

In my view Belfast folks support the Nordic project not because they don't care about the environment but because they've concluded that the project is safe. They've watched the Nordic people answer questions and jump through hoops for two years, and they're comfortable with what they've heard. Many see the project as a perfect fit for Maine and for Belfast because they understand that our oceans are being depleted and our food needs are increasing. The opportunity to be part of cutting edge technology that addresses these issues feels, in fact, environmentally responsible.

Many in opposition have sniffed at the low number of jobs that the factory will create, say 60 to 70. I wish it were 300. But this translates into 60 or 70 families earning a living wage, paying taxes, buying at local businesses. That's hardly insignificant. Many in opposition fear that the project is out of harmony with Belfast (I never know what that means) or will change Belfast in a negative way. If the change they refer to is scientists coming from around the world to study and evaluate the project, well that's a change we welcome. We love Belfast too. We could have moved anywhere in the US and chose this wonderful spot. The fact that Belfast has its feet firmly planted in 1970 is part of its charm. But it can also be a yoke. A reflexive anti-corporate attitude (which I have myself much of the time) in this case could well lead to a missed opportunity and to a future in which Belfast becomes old, stale, and unprepared to adapt.

None of these factors alone are sufficient to support the Nordic project. But taken together (public support, goodness of fit, corporate responsibility and responsiveness, job creation, the importation of vitalizing science and technology, an influx of young people) they provide a compelling basis for

welcoming this project with open arms.

Al Scovern
Diane Follingstad
108 Congress Street

Sent from my iPad

Nordic Project

Karen <karenestey@roadrunner.com>

Tue 1/14/2020 2:04 PM

To: Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Karen Estey

16 Pierce St.

Belfast, Maine 04915

HPN: 207 338-6890

Planning Board

City of Belfast

Public@cityofbelfast.org

Dear Board Members,

As a Maine native and a Belfast resident, I write first to thank you for your hard work and diligence in helping to guide Belfast in deciding about the future direction of our little city.

When we were considering returning "home," after living out of state to make a good living and provide for our children, we sat at Darby's discussing the possibility. I was strongly influenced by the care displayed by the staff towards those of lesser abilities. In many other places some of these people would have been ridiculed but in Belfast they were respected and welcomed into a local restaurant. Right then I decided Belfast would be the place in Maine, my native state, I wanted to live.

I write in strong support of the Nordic project after much reading and research about the project. It would be a safe, low-polluting way to raise a good quality protein unpolluted by the many poisons currently in our ocean. It would also provide several good-paying jobs and help relieve our tax burden.

Many of the current jobs do not pay enough to allow employees to rent even a room in Belfast. My adult daughter lives in our basement for that reason. Many of her coworkers drive rather long distances because of the low salaries and high housing costs.

Unfortunately, many of those opposed to the project seem to feel all corporations are bad and to suffer from a "not in my backyard" mentality that extends to apartment buildings and many other projects. In many cases they seem to have decided first and then looked for old and often-disproven data to argue their point.

I would like to add that most people I know personally support the project but are far less vocal than the opponents.

Thanks for listening.

Respectfully

Karen Emery-Estey

Re: Nordic Aquafarms Application

Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Tue 1/14/2020 2:26 PM

To: Trudy Miller <tmiller@impulse.net>

Dear Ms. Miller:

I have received your comment and will provide such to the Planning Board for their upcoming January 15 public hearing.

Wayne

From: Trudy Miller <tmiller@impulse.net>

Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2020 2:07 PM

To: Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Cc: Trudy Miller <tmiller@impulse.net>

Subject: Nordic Aquafarms Application

Dear Belfast Planning Board,

I am a resident of Bayside/Northport and a property owner in Belfast. I am writing to you in support of the application by Nordic Aquafarms to build a RAS facility in Belfast.

When I first heard of this project - almost two years ago now - I thought that it sounded like a good idea because it will sustainably increase the seafood supply for a growing world population and it will provide a lot of good jobs here which I hope will also attract more young families to our area.

Since then I have learned a great deal more about the Nordic mission and the specifics of the technologies they will use. I have met a number of their employees and seen some of their presentations. My positive feelings about the company have only grown with more familiarity. I have huge respect for their expertise, their ethics and their saint-like patience in the face of seemingly endless opposition based solely on completely unsubstantiated fear mongering and pseudoscience.

I am eager for the day when Nordic will be fully permitted and can start construction. I urge you to approve their application with respect to your areas of purview as part of making that happen.

Thank you -

Trudy Miller
tmiller@impulse.net
805.708.8163

Re: Nordic AquaFarms

Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Tue 1/14/2020 12:42 PM

To: Marjory B Stickler <mbstick40@gmail.com>

Ms. Stickler

I have received your comment and will provide such to the Planning Board for their upcoming January 15 public hearing.

Wayne

From: Marjory B Stickler <mbstick40@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2020 12:36 PM

To: Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Subject: Re: Nordic AquaFarms

Dear Planning Board,

My husband and I have followed and watched with interest the proposals and progress of Nordic AquaFarms. We have stopped by their office several times. It seems a sensible, progressive proposal to provide salmon and take pressure off the oceans. The technology, building proposal, agreements to satisfy questions about water usage, pollution of the bay with chemicals, excess nitrogen seem in line with what is acceptable with boards and environmental oversight.

A most helpful forum was presented by the town manager, water quality person and people knowledgeable about aqua farming. Yes, it is a big project but I think the objections are way out of line with the reality. It seems we would be missing out on something positive if we turn this down.

Thank you for your attention to this.

Marje Stickler, 32 Bowling Green Lane, Belfast

Sent from my iPad

Re: Comments for planning board meeting 1/8/20

Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Tue 1/14/2020 4:21 PM

To: schlueter.eric@gmail.com <schlueter.eric@gmail.com>

Erica

An approved project must comply with Conditions of Approval established by the Board. An applicant who fails to comply with Board Conditions is subject to a Notice of Violation from the Code Enforcement Officer. If the applicant does not voluntarily correct the deficiencies to come into compliance terms of the Notice of Violation, an applicant could be subject to fines and could be ordered to cease operations until the violations are corrected. This is the process that the City uses with all permits. At present, I believe our Code Enforcement Officer is working with property owners on at least 7 Notice of Violations, most of which customarily are resolved through voluntary compliance, although some do go to court for prosecution.

Erica, I do not know how to better answer the question in your second paragraph than how I have answered such to date. If the Board finds that a project meets City requirements, subject to Conditions of Approval that the Board establishes, the Board clearly should vote to approve the project. Frankly, if a project meets the rules, I don't believe the Board would have any grounds to deny the project. And, as I previously noted, if the Board finds that a project does not satisfy City requirements, the Board would vote to deny the project. Similar to above, the Board would not have any grounds to allow a project that does not meet City requirements.

The January 15 public hearings likely will be the last of the hearings that the Board will be conducting in the near-term. There will, however, be at least one future hearing and likely more. That said, the public record remains open at all times for the submission of written/email comment. Thus, as of now, the Board will accept written comment on any issue associated with the 5 permit applications that the Board is reviewing at any point in time after January 15

Hope that this helps.

Wayne

From: schlueter.eric@gmail.com <schlueter.eric@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2020 3:12 PM

To: Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Subject: Re: Comments for planning board meeting 1/8/20

Hi Wayne,

So if the applicants permits complies with City Ordinances requirements would the Conditions of Approval be things the Planning Board decides that if the applicant falls short on those conditions once up and running then fines, or something, would be applied or the facility might have to halt operations until conditions laid down by Planning Board are paid/addressed/fixed?

And just to be sure I understand this, so though unlikely (from what you wrote), if the Planning Board decides permits are in compliance with the City they could still deny the permits?

What is the last day/time people can submit comments to the Planning Board regarding Nordic Aquafarm?

Thank you,

Erica

On Jan 13, 2020, at 11:16 AM, Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org> wrote:

Erica.

The role of the Planning Board is to determine if a project complies with City Ordinance requirements, subject to Conditions of Approval that the Planning Board would establish. As such, if the Board finds that a project complies with City requirements, I would expect that the Planning Board would chose to grant the respective permit. Conversely, if the Board finds that a project does not comply with City requirements, I would expect that the Planning Board would deny the respective permit.

Wayne

From: schlueter.eric@gmail.com <schlueter.eric@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, January 13, 2020 10:37 AM

To: Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Subject: Re: Comments for planning board meeting 1/8/20

Hello Wayne,

I hope you had a relaxing weekend.

It seems the permits have to meet technical guidelines/certain criteria. If the Planning Board decides NAF has met the criteria for the permits can they still decide to not grant the permits?

I appreciate all the time you are taking to help me understand this!

Thank you,

Erica

everything checks out with the permitting can the Planning Board determine based on all the information received and because several things have changed on what NAF originally proposed to do could the Planning board say yep your permits meet Belfast requirements but sorry we don't think the facility is a good fit for Belfast? And NAF would have to leave?

Thank you for your time,

Erica

On Jan 9, 2020, at 11:02 AM, Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org> wrote:

Erica

The Planning Board makes the final decision on all 5 permit applications submitted by Nordic Aquafarms. The City Council does not have any role regarding the current permit applications.

An aggrieved party - someone who is a Party-in-Interest, does have the right to appeal the Planning Board decisions to the Belfast Zoning Board of Appeals. If an appeal is filed, the Zoning Board of Appeals reviews the record of the decision by the Planning Board and determines if the Planning Board did or did not correctly interpret and apply City Ordinances.

Hope that this helps.

Wayne

From: schlueter.eric@gmail.com <schlueter.eric@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, January 9, 2020 10:34 AM

To: Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Subject: Re: Comments for planning board meeting 1/8/20

Hi Wayne,

I'm still a bit confused, so once the Planning Board makes the decision on NAF permits what does the City Council do, if anything, with what the Planning Board decides? Is there a vote by the Council to accept or decline the Planning Boards decision(s)?

As I'm typing this out I guess the question is; who has the final say in the City of Belfast on whether the NAF facility gets built or not, once NAF has jumped through all the "hoops", the Planning Board? City Council? Some other entity?

Is it too late for me to send in comments on the project as a whole? I thought last night's meeting was on traffic (I can't figure out why I thought that, too much information swarming around but it appears I wasn't the only one...) I was trying to submit comments relevant to the meetings topic.

Thank you,

Erica

On Jan 8, 2020, at 1:29 PM, Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org> wrote:

Hello Erica

I have received your email and will provide such to the Board for tonight's meeting. I am emailing such to them in the next 15 minutes.

With respect to the question you asked in the P.S. section of your email, the Belfast Planning Board has the authority to make the decision on all 5 Nordic permits that the Board is now reviewing. The City Council does not have any role in the review of the Planning Board decisions. Hope that this information helps. I will make note of the above in my opening comments to the public tonight.

Wayne

From: schlueter.eric@gmail.com <schlueter.eric@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, January 8, 2020 12:59 PM

To: Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Subject: Comments for planning board meeting 1/8/20

Dear members of the Planning Board,

I understand the number of trucks removing soil from the proposed site of the fish farm, if Nordic Aquafarms (NAF) permits get approved, would be a lot more and for a longer period than the soil removal for the work done at the Belfast air port last year. I live on the road, Lower Congress, the dump trucks were driving on to take the soil from the air port to wherever it was going. The trucks started early and went until about 4 and sometimes on Saturday. I had to talk with the air port manager, Thomas Kitteridge, about one truck in particular which was braking loudly, Mr. Kitteridge said the trucks shouldn't be using the loud brakes and he would address the issue and as far as I can tell he did because eventually the loud braking stopped. That was one truck in about 5 or 6 (?) how many trucks, not truck loads, would need to be monitored on their etiquette? These trucks made it feel less safe to check my mail box, I also run and walk on the road and I normally don't have to jump out of the way of several dump trucks, the trucks I usually see belong to the Faulkinghams on Woods road who haul gravel and excavation equipment. They are my neighbors and wave to me and

and give me room, the air port truck drivers did not. I knew there was an end to this trucking which made it only somewhat tolerable.

I realize rout 1 already has truck traffic but I'm guessing the people who live near the Water District office know the flow of traffic and safer times to check mail. If the fish farm gets the go ahead during the 3 plus years (?) of construction it sounds like the flow of trucks will be constant. I can't even imagine what that will be like with the addition of Summer traffic, and might it deter people?

Entering and exiting the Little River vet can be a challenge now, it's just over the Northport border on rout 1, how might the truck traffic effect access to and/or even impact their business/income? And that of other existing frequently used business near the proposed site?

Another traffic concern is if the facility is built that in addition to the coming and goings of trucks hauling fish product, feed and solid waste etc, it's my understanding NAF plans to have an info center for tourists? Like the Little River vet the entrance to the proposed fish farm site is on a curve and more traffic trying to pull in and out of near that location I imagine could cause problems. Should NAF traffic requirements take preference over that of existing homes and business that will be majorly disrupted? Too bad I couldn't have invited you all over when the trucks were hauling dirt from the air port, a picture is worth 1,000 words.

Thank you to all of you for your time and being open minded to all the information being presented to you.

Erica Schlueter
Belfast

PS Hi Wayne, I am hearing conflicting information not just about NAF but also what the Planning Boards role is in the final decision on NAF. Does the Planning Board make recommendations to the City Council and the Council votes and with that vote makes the final say? Or does the Planning Board make the finale decision on NAF? I realize there are many other factors at play if I am over simplifying this please clarify. Thank you!

Re: Support of Nordic Aquafarms

Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Tue 1/14/2020 3:34 PM

To: Nancy Hinckley <nancyehinckley@gmail.com>

Nancy

I will pass on this additional comment.

Wayne

From: Nancy Hinckley <nancyehinckley@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2020 2:57 PM

To: Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Subject: Re: Support of Nordic Aquafarms

Hi Wayne, It occurred to me to add that in addition to Belfast I am ALSO a Northport taxpayer having just recently purchased property there.

Nancy Hinckley

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 14, 2020, at 8:08 AM, Nancy Hinckley <nancyehinckley@gmail.com> wrote:

Thank you, Wayne.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 14, 2020, at 6:47 AM, Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org> wrote:

Ms. Hinckley:

I have received your comment and will be providing such to the Planning Board for their upcoming January 15 public hearing.

Wayne

From: Nancy Hinckley <nancyehinckley@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, January 13, 2020 8:25 PM

To: Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Subject: Support of Nordic Aquafarms

Dear Belfast Planning Board,

I am a Belfast taxpayer and love this city. I support Nordic Aquafarms for these reasons:

- The City urgently needs to broaden our tax base. I fear many people simply do not understand this.
- Land based aquaculture is a way to sustain food supply to humans. It's going to be a major new industry in Maine, and Belfast can either benefit economically from this or let other towns prosper while we retract economically.
- There is a lot of emotion and misinformation being systematically advanced by opposers, and the planning board should be looking only at evidence-based data - and finding the ways to move forward, not backward.
- I believe that many citizens who support Nordic were lulled - perhaps inadvertently- into believing some statements that were made during the November election timeframe - that the decisions re Nordic were in State (DEP etc) hands at this point and out of the hands of Belfast City Government. If you are not hearing from more supporters at this point, this may be why. Meanwhile the opposition simply seems more organized. It concerns me that the Planning Board would see this as representative of the population. This would be an extremely subjective basis for any decisions. I hope I don't even need to say this.
- If we want Belfast to prosper we need to get out of our own way and fast track these opportunities. Nordic, Tractor Supply, Paul Naron... small, medium and large businesses. I feel like we are scaring these investors away. We need to show that we are business- and development-friendly. And not afraid to call out the opposition on their misinformation.

I vote we move forward. Change is inevitable and we can engineer it in a positive way, or decide to do nothing and allow our infrastructure to crumble. The irony is that those who "want Belfast to stay the same" seem to be under the impression that will happen without continued economic investment. it won't.

Best regards,
Nancy Hinckley

North Ocean St property owner

Sent from my iPhone

Re: Public Comments - Jan 15th NAF

Wayne Marshall <wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org>

Tue 1/14/2020 4:14 PM

To: Mandy M Everett <MMEverett@rockportmaine.gov>

Mandy

I have received your comment and will provide such to the Planning Board in advance of their January 15 hearing.

Wayne

Wayne Marshall, Director
Code and Planning
City of Belfast
131 Church St
Belfast, ME 04915
(207) 338-1417 x 125
wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org

From: Mandy M Everett <MMEverett@rockportmaine.gov>**Sent:** Tuesday, January 14, 2020 2:42 PM**To:** Wayne Marshall <wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org>**Subject:** Public Comments - Jan 15th NAF

Dear Belfast Planning Board,

I am a Belfast resident who grew up oceanside in Rockland and have witnessed many changes to our local working waterfronts over the years. My brother continues to commercial fish to this day, however, imagine my surprise when I learned the reality of the future of our Lobstering industry and that my own son would have next to no chance to carry on a family business that is four generations strong for us. Changes are both currently happening and needed. This continues to become more and more apparent in my lifetime. The way we manage our fisheries needs a radical change in order to ensure the future to our way of life here on the coast, and I believe that aquaculture is at the leading forefront of this symbiotic balance of allowing wildlife restoration while growing and maintaining sustainable food sources. We have come to learn how to farm cattle, vegetables, soy, corn, and other crops with stewardship of the earth in our hearts. Why can't the same be done with fish? I believe that Nordic is showing us how.

Belfast is lucky to have been chosen to the home to one of the most sustainable and technology-forward aquaculture companies in the world. Our tradition of making a living on and by the sea, along with Maine's drive to modernize and become an attractive place to live, work, and to raise children is just good synergy. Developments such as Nordic will ensure that our children do not have to leave the mid-coast in search of a viable professional future. Everything that we do as humans impacts our environment, but Nordic continues to bring top engineering and scientific minds in not only the country, but the world, to ensure best practices for sustainable construction and top-notch environmental stewardship with their proposal. Their open-door policy and willingness to go above and beyond during multiple years of public hearings illustrates their commitment to these standards.

I have attended almost every NAF planning board hearing and it's clear that Nordic is doing everything possible to not only meet but to exceed local ordinance standards which is in the true spirit of the Planning Board's mission to determine based on the facts presented. I hope that moving forward we see the Planning Board's finding of facts be just that, data-based determinations as to Nordic's place in Belfast as set by the standards put forth in the city's land use regulations, and not based on emotion and fact-less based fears of reopening place-based wounds of the past. The future of our community needs this, and our children need this.

Thank you for your time.

All the best,

Mandy Marriner Everett

199 High Street

Belfast Maine

Re: Nordic Farms

Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Tue 1/14/2020 9:49 AM

To: w c kasten <wckasten@icloud.com>

Ms. Kasten

I have received your comment and will be providing such to the Planning Board for their upcoming January 15 public hearing.

Wayne

From: w c kasten <wckasten@icloud.com>

Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2020 9:00 AM

To: Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Subject: Nordic Farms

Dear Planning Board,

I support the Nordic Farms proposed venture. My only concern is whether or not any antibiotics may be used and discharged. Overall, I see this company as diligent and trustworthy and I support moving forward.

Wendy C Kasten, Belfast

Sent from my iPad

Re: Nordic Aquafarm Project

Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Tue 1/14/2020 9:43 AM

To: Elizabeth sterner <britgirl626@gmail.com>

Ms. Sterner:

I have received your email and will provide such to the Planning Board for their meeting of January 15.

Wayne

From: Elizabeth sterner <britgirl626@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, January 13, 2020 5:43 PM

To: Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Subject: Nordic Aquafarm Project

I am a new resident of Belfast. I would like to say that I think the Nordic aquafarm project will be good for the community economically and has long term positive environmental benefits. I support this project moving forward.

Thank you,
Elizabeth Sterner
5 Union St.,
Belfast, ME
717-5 77-8866

Sent from my iPhone

Re: Nordic Farms

Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Tue 1/14/2020 5:17 PM

To: lisa gates <lika_malia@hotmail.com>

Ms. Gates

I have received your comment and will provide such to the Planning Board in advance of their upcoming January 15 public hearing.

Wayne

From: lisa gates <lika_malia@hotmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2020 4:46 PM

To: Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Subject: Nordic Farms

Hello, my name is Lisa Gates and I have been a resident of Belfast since 2005. I am a retired social worker who had the good fortune to land in Belfast when I was hired by Sweetser. I have also worked for Maine Mental Health and the Homeless Coalition.

I purchased and renovated a derelict house on Waldo Ave where I live and provide 2 affordable apartments. I am very invested in this community and am proud of how our little city has welcomed and cared for its citizens.

I have been following NAF since attending their initial presentations. I was not opposed in the beginning based on their professed regard for the environment, the abutting properties and residents. I mourned the loss of a favorite hiking trail, worried about the effluent and its effects on our fragile bay and the effect on the water table if we experienced a drought, but tried to keep an open mind about the prospect of jobs, having "clean" industry, and tax benefits.

However, as the process has moved forward I have become more and more concerned that we have been duped by yet another company that has only its own interests at heart. I am very distressed by what I have heard at recent hearings and greatly appreciate the efforts of Upstream Watch other organizations that are shining a light on the very real threat to the environment and livability of our beautiful little city. I fear we will lose what so many have worked for: the positive impact from the turn toward renewable energy, a vibrant and lively downtown and large employers that have utilized buildings that already exist (Athena Heath, On Process) or areas that are appropriate for the industry (Front Street boatyard).

I see no benefit from allowing Nordic Aqua Farms to build their facility here and am heartsick at the thought of the destruction of our forest, pollution and acidification of our bay and increased carbon emissions. If we are to save our planet we need to be vigilant in our own back yard where we have the most to lose.

I understand that the Planning Board has a specific role in the process but I hope you will hold NAF to the highest standards. I don't believe they are honorable in their intent and we citizens require and deserve your diligence in protecting Belfast.

Thank you for your efforts.

Lisa Gates

Sent from my iPad

Re: Support for NAF

Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Tue 1/14/2020 5:20 PM

To: Chris U. <chrisurick@gmail.com>

Dear Ms. Urick.

I have received your comment and will provide such to the Planning Board in advance of their upcoming January 15 public hearing.

Wayne

From: Chris U. <chrisurick@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2020 5:09 PM

To: Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Subject: Support for NAF

I am writing to you in support of the Nordic Aquaculture Farm proposal. I am part of the "silent majority", and I say this based on the last two elections which firmly depicted the desire of the majority of residents by selecting candidates in favor of the project. As in many instances, it is often those who shout the loudest who are heard, and I am discouraged that the voices of a small minority are drowning out the majority. Most of all, I hope that the Planning Board recognizes this.

We have been property owners in Belfast since 1988 and have lived here since 1994. We have seen city officials struggle with many a proposal, but, in my opinion, the outcome has always been beneficial. Belfast has prospered and thrived thanks to MBNA and the many gifts they bestowed on the city. What a wonderful thing Front Street Shipyard is! A working shipyard right on the waterfront. Belfast and Waldo County cannot survive on being a tourist destination with nice art galleries. We need infrastructure and livable incomes for our residents. Even though Nordic will "only" be hiring 60 or 70 people, those people will earn decent wages which will make living in this ever more expensive area affordable. We also need tax income to take pressure off homeowners who are seeing their taxes increase yearly. Nordic Farms would be another reason for us to be proud of our city. Belfast, Maine will be home to an international company on the cutting edge of aquaculture, providing much needed food for an ever increasing global need.

I believe that Nordic Aquaculture Farms have been honest and forthright, they have dotted every "I" and crossed every "t". I resoundingly vote for adding Nordic Aquaculture Farms to our list of local businesses.

Christine Urick

44 Robbins Road, Belfast

Re: Nordic Aquafarms

Wayne Marshall <wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org>

Wed 1/15/2020 12:20 PM

To: Judy Rohweder <judy.rohweder@gmail.com>

Ms. Rohweder

I have received your comment and will provide such to the Planning Board for this evening's public hearing.

Wayne

Wayne Marshall, Director
Code and Planning
City of Belfast
131 Church St
Belfast, ME 04915
(207) 338-1417 x 125
wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org

From: Judy Rohweder <judy.rohweder@gmail.com>**Sent:** Wednesday, January 15, 2020 12:16 PM**To:** Wayne Marshall <wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org>**Subject:** Nordic Aquafarms

Dear people,

I am praying that you reject this proposal from Nordic Aquafarms. It would be a dangerous, even fatal, addition to Penobscot Bay. Please help Maine stay viable in this beleaguered world of pollution and not add Nordic's effluent to the troubles of the world.

--Judy Rohweder
45 Clinton Ave.
Northport, Maine 04849

Re: Tonights planning meeting

Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Wed 1/15/2020 10:38 AM

To: Bob's Gmail <bobfargey@gmail.com>

Mr. Fargay

I have received the comment that you submitted via email and will provide such to the Board for tonight's Planning Board meeting.

Wayne

From: Bob's Gmail <bobfargey@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, January 15, 2020 10:13 AM

To: Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Subject: Tonights planning meeting

Dear Planning Board,

Regarding your meeting about Nordic Aquafarms project tonight, as a business owner in Belfast and a resident of Bayside I am in favor of you approving Nordic's plans for their fish farm. I think it would benefit the community and help feed our growing world.

Thank you for your time. Bob Fargey Northport bobfargey@gmail.com

Re: Planning Board hearing

Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Wed 1/15/2020 9:47 AM

To: Rick Davis <rdphase4@gmail.com>

Dear Mr. Davis

I have received your comment and will provide such to the Planning Board in advance of tonight's public hearing.

Wayne

From: Rick Davis <rdphase4@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, January 15, 2020 9:43 AM

To: Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Subject: Planning Board hearing

I will not be at the Planning Board hearing on the Nordic Aquafarms proposal, but I am attaching my testimony to this email.

--

Rick Davis
5 Park Street
Belfast

Letter to Belfast Planning Board
January 15, 2020

Dear Members of the Belfast Planning Board:

The saying, "The squeaky wheel gets the grease," may be trite, but it often mirrors reality. The City of Belfast has had a contingent of squeaky wheels for two years, ever since the Nordic Aquafarms proposal was announced.

The opponents of the project have used a number of tactics to try to create an aura of a mass movement in opposition to the Nordic Aquafarms. They have dominated the pages of the *Republican Journal* with at least one often-hysterical letter denouncing various aspects of the project with hyperbolic language and scary sounding statistics every week. They have created organizations named Local Citizens for Smart Growth, Upstream Watch, and the Friends of the Harriet L. Hartley Conservancy Area to promote the idea of widespread organized support for their cause. They have initiated well-publicized lawsuits in hopes of at least delaying the project. They have appeared in many public meetings at which everyone attending had to run a gauntlet of supporters holding signs. They have staged protest demonstrations at the corner of Main and High Streets. They have been visible, and they have been squeaky.

But those wheels are not nearly as numerous as they might appear to be. The letters to the editor consistently come from the same handful of people. Three prominent opposition leaders ran for City Council in 2018; all three lost. In 2019, a political newcomer defeated an opponent who ran a well-organized campaign based on concrete policy proposals. Her public opposition to the Nordic Aquafarm proposal was not necessarily the reason for her loss, but it clearly did not propel her to victory.

Like most communities, Belfast has a silent majority of folks who go about their daily lives keeping busy doing what they need to do to get by, often with little regard to politics and local controversies. I believe we need a diverse economic base, not one that is dependent on any single employer or industry. The Nordic Aquafarms proposal would create a valuable addition to the business community that is already here. The economic benefits of increased property taxes and increased employment opportunities would benefit the entire community. Furthermore, it represents one potential solution to the problem of feeding the world more efficiently. The science tells us so. I support this project and hope that it is able to go forward as quickly as possible. Many of my acquaintances and neighbors agree. I believe that Belfast is filled with many people who are at least open to the idea, many more than the vocal minority that forms the opposition.

As I understand it, the role of the Planning Board is to determine whether the project meets the city's Building Code. I trust that the Planning Board will not be persuaded by a small number of squeaky wheels but will stick firmly to its responsibilities. This project would be a great asset to our community and should go forward without any more unnecessary delays.

Rick Davis
5 Park Street
Belfast ME 04915

Re: NAF Salmon Farm - Support it

Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Wed 1/15/2020 9:44 AM

To: Patty Pendergast <winterwren@earthlink.net>

Ms. Pendergast

I have received your comment and will provide such to the Board in advance of tonight's public hearing.

Wayne

From: Patty Pendergast <winterwren@earthlink.net>

Sent: Wednesday, January 15, 2020 7:19 AM

To: Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Subject: NAF Salmon Farm - Support it

First off I want to thank you all for the work you are doing. I sit on a Planning Board in Thorndike, and spent a decade on a planning board in an ecologically significant region (estuary region of the Connecticut River). You are doing hard, but good work.

Just chiming in from a regional perspective. Belfast is growing and becoming the bellweather for the county. You are an economic engine, providing jobs for many who live outside of the city limits.

The NAF project, while controversial, is critical to the whole county. Waldo County in from the coast is traditionally agriculture/natural resource based. In the past Belfast processed a lot of chickens from these farms. As our climate changes, the need for food to support regional populations will become more and more critical. Waldo County can benefit from the jobs and the innovative example of NAF over time. Companies coming in to the county like NAF will set standards other companies for skilled workers with living wages producing food for a greater population.

While there is a lot of smoke and mirrors from the naysayers about this 'issue du jour' NAF has done a credible job refuting most all of their accusations. That the goal posts keep moving is indicative of the success of NAF efforts.

When Bank of America and Athena were coming to town, there were plenty who didn't want evil corporations in here. Well those corporations transformed the town from chicken processing to this hipster/retiree/tourist mecca we have today - some would say not all for the good, but most of the naysayers fall in to that 'not in my backyard' sector. Ecologically speaking, NAF has done their diligence and it will be up to the state and local ordinances to monitor their actions. This bay faces challenges from human activity - the range of poorly maintained septic systems to tourism pressures, car traffic (petroleum leakage) runoff from farming activities inland and a host of other issues.

We can keep the character of Belfast alive, and protect the ecological balances to the best of our ability through the planning process. We should encourage businesses like this that strive to come in line to town, county and state standards. Belfast will change and your work will help keep it viable, a working town with living wages (retail doesn't do that now).

I commend Erik Heim and NAF for putting up with a long onerous process - it proves their good intentions. Also remember that the naysayers in this town ran for office in a couple of wards and were soundly trounced. While you will hear a lot from a small group, the whole of the town supports this project...and many of us in outlying towns as well.

Many thanks for your consideration,

Patty Pendergast
78 Gordon Hill Road
Thorndike, Maine 04986 207-568-4068 days, 207-568-2010 evenings

Re: Nordic Aquafarms

Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Wed 1/15/2020 9:33 AM

To: Corliss Davis <cdavis5468@roadrunner.com>

Dear Ms. Davis

I have received your comment and will provide such to the Planning Board in advance of tonight's public hearing.

Wayne

From: Corliss Davis <cdavis5468@roadrunner.com>

Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2020 6:54 PM

To: Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Subject: Nordic Aquafarms

As a 10-year resident of Belfast, I am concerned that the Planning Board has been hearing almost exclusively from opponents of the Nordic Aquafarms project at recent meetings. I personally believe that aquaculture is and will be playing a major role in our state's adaptation to climate change and a new world economy. I also feel great sympathy for our City Council as they work to maintain infrastructure and services in a time of loud complaints about local taxes. I am open to developments such as land-based aquaculture as long as it is carefully regulated and held to high science-based standards. Nordic has impressed me at the public meetings I have attended as being a very responsible company and I expect the various state and local agencies reviewing their permit applications to expect best practices from them. I hope that the Planning Board will focus on this and not be distracted by hysterical opponents of this project.

Thank you,
Corliss Davis
5 Park St.
Belfast ME 04915

Corliss C. Davis

"If we are wise, we realize that we are but one drop in the great river we call life and that it has been a miracle and a privilege to be alive." - - Mary Pipher

"We have made at least a start on discovering the meaning of human life when we plant shade trees under which we know full well we will never sit." - - Elton Trueblood

"The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well." - - Ralph Waldo Emerson

Re: Nordic Aquafarms ~

Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Wed 1/15/2020 9:36 AM

To: Allison Beards <windymount101@gmail.com>

Allison

I have received your comment and will be providing such to the Planning Board in advance of tonight's public hearing.

Wayne

From: Allison Beards <windymount101@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2020 8:03 PM

To: Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Subject: Nordic Aquafarms ~

Dear Belfast Planning Department and Board,

I have watched all of the meetings pertaining to Nordic Aquafarms. Thank you for the time and dedication you have given to hearing the merits of this project for Belfast. I believe Nordic Aquafarms proposal represents the new direction in sustainable aquaculture for the United States. It is our future. Belfast is fortunate to have this outstanding company with such highly developed environmental ethics chose us and wish to become an important supportive part of our community. I thank you all for having the courage to embrace the future Nordic Aquafarms offers. In doing so you are leading Belfast, the State of Maine and our great Country toward a more sustainable future that we and the generations who follow will benefit from in more ways than we can currently imagine.

Best,

Allison Beards

Re: Comments on Nordic Aquafarms for Planning Board

Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Wed 1/15/2020 9:41 AM

To: Gef Flimlin <flimlin@scarletmail.rutgers.edu>

Hello Gef

I have received your comment and will provide such to the Planning Board in advance of tonight's public hearing.

Wayne

From: Gef Flimlin <flimlin@scarletmail.rutgers.edu>

Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2020 10:16 PM

To: Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Subject: Comments on Nordic Aquafarms for Planning Board

Dear Members of the Planning Board,

I have recently retired as Professor Emeritus from Rutgers University, the State University of New Jersey. I have been involved with commercial fisheries and aquaculture for about 40 years. I served as a Marine Extension Agent for the Rutgers Cooperative Extension. That position is very much like the County Agricultural Agent who works with farmers, but I worked with commercial fishermen and aquaculturists.

I served on the Technical Advisory Committee for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Northeast Regional Aquaculture Center on and off for about 18 years, ending as the Chair of that committee. I was on the Executive Committee, as well as Vice President, of the National Shellfisheries Association. I was on the Board and served as the President of the U.S. Aquaculture Society. That position also put me on the Executive Board of the World Aquaculture Society. I was on the International Conference for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES) Aquaculture Work Group, working with scientists and regulators from Canada and the European Union on aquaculture research priorities. I was the founder of the New Jersey Aquaculture Association and co-founder of the East Coast Shellfish Growers' Association. So, I know a little about aquaculture.

Over the past two years my wife and I have become fulltime residents of Belfast. It was during this time that we learned the home we were building on property we purchased many years ago was to have a new neighbor -- Nordic's proposed salmon farm, firmly abutting the entire length of our new homesite. The irony and humor in this situation were not lost upon friends, family and my professional peers from around the world.

We've laughed along with them, although to be honest, this wasn't the best news I've had since my retirement from Rutgers. And in the meantime, it became apparent that the political

dynamics within our new neighborhood in Belfast were destined to complicate this news even further. We learned that two neighbors are the founders respectively of Local Citizens for SMART Growth: Salmon Farm, a nonprofit organization for the purpose of opposing the Nordic project, as well as Upstream Watch, another nonprofit that shares this same goal of delaying the process in hopes that Nordic will walk away through consistent legal challenges. Nonetheless, it is my wife and I who will likely be the most extensively impacted by Nordic's construction and operations. A 40-foot wooded buffer strip is all that separates our property from the building that will house Nordic's core production activities.

So we are right there. And after 40 years of promoting aquaculture, I really can't be the "Not In My Backyard" guy.

I contacted Erik Heim at Nordic about 10 days after the announcement was made about the possibility of the fish farm being built at this site. I told him who I was, what I did, and that if he failed it would not only be bad for his company, but for aquaculture in general, so he better get it right. He certainly concurred. Since then I have met with him and his engineer many times. I've asked questions about the facility and how things would work. They have been straightforward with their answers. Aside from these newly developing relationships with Nordic's folks, I count 4 aquaculture engineers as friends of long standing. Two literally "wrote the book" on Recirculating Aquaculture Systems, and I've not hesitated over the past two years to contact them and others for insight into Nordic's design plans.

Professional curiosity alone would have driven me to investigate Nordic's plans for design and operations, but this wasn't all that I had in mind. My wife and I were also in the process of getting to know our new neighbors, some of whom think the Nordic facility will be a great asset to Belfast, and others who appear to be prepared to go to any extreme to prevent the fish farm from being built. In my mind, all opinions are fair until facts and/or actual experience proves them wrong. I felt I had the training and experience to sort out at least some of these issues in advance of the deadline for making decisions. If nothing else, my wife and I needed to be satisfied that we'd examined all the angles.

So what better place to start than asking Nordic about our property, our needs, our expectations?

I'm satisfied that Nordic intends to be a good neighbor. I'm satisfied that Nordic's design concepts and its operational plans are leading toward an environmentally sound operation that achieves sustainability in producing a high quality product. At the core of my satisfaction, however, is the confidence I have in Maine's Board of Environmental Protection and its staff to thoroughly evaluate Nordic's applications and to monitor ongoing performance toward achieving these goals.

As this process proceeded, I found the thoughts of both Citizens for Smart Growth and Upstream Watch concerning the ability for the state and federal agencies to get everything right was quite naive. I have worked with County, State, and Federal Agencies for 40 years and there are some things that I have learned. First, these agencies will accept zero risk. They never want to have lawyers beating down their doors because they overlooked something.

This brings them to a second place. Agencies will always fall on the conservative side of any issue rather than on the other. I have worked with applicants over the years who were fuming about all of the information that was required to get a permit to do something. But people who have not gone through these processes have no idea of the intense labor that state agencies must go through to grant a permit. I have constantly heard from those in opposition to this project that Nordic Aquafarms will kill or pollute the bay. What they don't understand is that Nordic cannot get a discharge permit if the effluent exceeds 20% of the assimilative capacity of the receiving waters. That kind of diligence is essential for the maintenance of the bay for decades to come, and it will be the State and Federal government that will demand Nordic's adherence to these parameters. The bottom line is that I find it disturbing and somewhat demeaning to the people in the agencies that those in opposition to this land-based fish farm have so little trust in the people whose mandate it is to keep the bay viable.

My wife and I are convinced that Nordic Aquafarm will be a good neighbor, produce good food, and not destroy the bay. We totally support the construction of this facility which will create jobs, provide economic development, purchase a significant amount of fresh water which will help the Belfast Water District, and provide very significant property taxes to help out the City of Belfast.

Thank you for reading my note, I hope it will be helpful in the Planning Board's deliberations.

Sincerely,

Gef and Larissa Flimlin

--

Gef Flimlin

Professor Emeritus
Commercial Fisheries and Aquaculture
Rutgers Cooperative Extension
Past President, US Aquaculture Society
52 Perkins Road
Belfast Maine 04915
Cell 609-892-4585
"We are all One."

Re: Nordic Aquafarm

Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Tue 1/14/2020 6:46 PM

To: Kerry Studwell <kstudwell@gmail.com>

Mr. Studwell

I have received your comment and will provide such to the Planning Board in advance of the January 15 public hearing.

Wayne

From: Kerry Studwell <kstudwell@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2020 6:41 PM

To: Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Subject: Nordic Aquafarm

Dear Sirs:

I am writing this note in advance of tomorrow's meeting as I would like my comments to become part of the public record.

When I first learned of the Nordic project, I was intrigued. I was taken in by the idea of a clean, sustainable business for Belfast. As time went on, and I learned more details of the project, my intrigue lessened.

Now is the time, as Wayne Marshall said at last week's meeting, to look at the project in its entirety. With details of 63 foot tall stacks, diesel generators, effluent piped directly into the bay, a need for water from the reservoir and wells, and property disputes, I do not see this project as valuable or viable for the city of Belfast. Any potential redeemable qualities of this project (maybe 60 jobs) are dwarfed by the irreparable harm that will be done to the landscape, environment, the tourism industry, and the city itself with the likely exodus from Belfast of those with the means to leave. Therefore, I am decidedly against this project.

I understand that the sole responsibility for approval or disapproval of this project rests with you, the Planning Board, and that you are undoubtedly under immense pressure. I hope that you can find the strength to come to the right and just decision for the citizens of Belfast and decide not issue permits for this project.

Kind regards,
Kerry M Studwell
12 Primrose St.
Belfast

Re: Nordic

Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Wed 1/15/2020 2:51 PM

To: Sara & Art <sahayes@gwi.net>

Sara and Arthur

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

Wayne

From: Sara & Art <sahayes@gwi.net>

Sent: Wednesday, January 15, 2020 2:28 PM

To: Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Subject: Nordic

We are fully supportive of the Nordic Aqua Farms project.

Sara and Arthur Hayes

35 Church Street, Belfast

Re: Nordics Aquafarms Project

Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Wed 1/15/2020 2:53 PM

To: Scootch Pankonin <scootchp@gmail.com>

Hello Scootch

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

Wayne

From: Scootch Pankonin <scootchp@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, January 15, 2020 2:29 PM

To: Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Subject: Nordics Aquafarms Project

TO: Belfast Planning Board

FROM: Scootch Pankonin, 4 West Waldo Road, Belfast

DATE: 15 January 2020

Over the past year I've had the opportunity to read all of the documents submitted (pro and con) to your Board as well as to the Maine Board of Environmental Protection in consideration of the Nordic Aquaculture applications. Our community depends upon your Board and the BEP to make informed decisions based on the science, engineering and laws these documents address -- training and experience most of us don't have.

But digging deep into the details in this ongoing public debate qualifies the rest of us to express fairly well-informed opinions. My confidence in Nordic's staff and project details has grown steadily over the past year. I trust them. In the face of fairly ugly opposition, I'm also impressed that Nordic's people have nonetheless put themselves out into the public as supporters and volunteers in a wide range of civic activities. They've been equally fair and open in their dealings with abutting property owners who have chosen communication over protests and mud-slinging.

The salmon farm promises to fit well with Belfast's goals for a stable diverse economy. The new jobs Nordic is creating will support working families with a wide range of skills, education and experience. Having lived through much of the "gentrification" of the St. George peninsula over the past 30 years, I'd be very sorry to see Belfast morph into costly vacation homes with streets flooded by summer-only residents and masses of tourists. We're a "real town" right now. Let's not lose our grip on a future that offers our families real jobs and a reliable tax base.

It's my hope that the Planning Board will find itself able to conclude -- based upon science, engineering and the law -- that Nordic is a good fit in our community and a good steward in managing in an environmentally responsible manner.

Thank you,

Scotch Pankonin

Re: Public comment re: Nordic Aquafarms proposal

Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Wed 1/15/2020 2:55 PM

To: Deb Smith <luna4tuna@gmail.com>

Ms. Simth

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

Wayne

From: Deb Smith <luna4tuna@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, January 15, 2020 2:48 PM

To: Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>; Wayne Marshall <wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org>

Subject: Public comment re: Nordic Aquafarms proposal

Please consider the following submission for public comment, regarding the Nordic Aquafarms application:

To the Planning Board,

One of my greatest objections to the Nordic Aquafarms proposal for Belfast is the *enormous* scope of this project – but *particularly* in this specific, proposed location, as the Little River watershed and estuary is a key and pristine habitat, linking woodland to ocean.

The thought that the total buildout for the project is 35 acres, something like 13 football fields, in this context, boggles my mind. Even allowing for setbacks for paths, the project will affect and displace so much important wildlife.

It is a gross misuse of pristine natural features.

Once built, then what happens – in future decades? Given the limited use and lifespan of the project, it would be a sorry trade-off. (I think of vacant shopping malls...)

Once despoiled, that land is gone *forever* – and for such short-term gain!

Additionally, I have grave concerns about the potential for injurious treatment of the Penobscot Bay. The water between the mainland and Islesboro isn't deepwater and doesn't move that much. Not nearly enough research has been done to demonstrate that this is a safe project for our bay.

Deborah Smith

Belfast ME

Re: message for the Planning Board

Wayne Marshall <wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org>

Wed 1/15/2020 2:59 PM

To: Natalie c <mallard1843@gmail.com>

Natalie

I have received your comment and will provide such to the Planning Board.

Wayne

Wayne Marshall, Director
Code and Planning
City of Belfast
131 Church St
Belfast, ME 04915
(207) 338-1417 x 125
wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org

From: Natalie c <mallard1843@gmail.com>**Sent:** Wednesday, January 15, 2020 2:57 PM**To:** Wayne Marshall <wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org>; Wayne Marshall <wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org>**Subject:** message for the Planning Board

Thank you, Wayne.

Dear Planning Board:

More than enough extremely valid concerns about virtually every aspect of Nordic's proposed Belfast mega-project have been expressed. I believe is **way too risky** for Belfast.

Sincerely,

Natalie Charles

Belfast

Re: Planning Board meeting public comments

Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Wed 1/15/2020 3:02 PM

To: Roy Rodgers <rare532000@me.com>

Hello Roy

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

Wayne

From: Roy Rodgers <rare532000@me.com>

Sent: Wednesday, January 15, 2020 2:55 PM

To: Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Subject: Planning Board meeting public comments

My name is Roy Rodgers, I am unable to come to the board meeting tonight. This is the first time I've spoken regarding the fish farm.

I was born and raised in Maine and I have lived in Waldo County and Belfast for 44 yrs. I've seen a lot of change, most all of it positive in my mind, However I am concerned about this project promoted by Nordic. All the arguments against the project have been made and I believe they are valid.

My question is, what's in it for Belfast? Lower taxes has been suggested. Taxes have never gone down as result of any development here in Belfast. Job creation has been promoted I believe anyone that want to work in our community has a job or there are opportunities already available.

I believe this project is all about corporate profits and they will profit from the resources of our area. The air, the water, the sea and a beautiful piece of property will be taken from us for their profit and benefit. We do not do this in our community.

I want to go on record as an opponent of this project for the above reasons.

Sincerely, Roy Rodgers

Re: Letter to Belfast Planning Board against NAF

Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Wed 1/15/2020 3:03 PM

To: Mj Viano Crowe <maximittgreta@icloud.com>

Hello MJ

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

Wayne

From: Mj Viano Crowe <maximittgreta@icloud.com>

Sent: Wednesday, January 15, 2020 2:59 PM

To: Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Cc: Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Subject: Letter to Belfast Planning Board against NAF

January 15, 2020

Belfast Planning Board
Belfast, Maine 04915

Dear Members of the Belfast Planning Board,

Like many local residents, I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed construction and operation of the enormous and resource-draining factory fish farm being promoted by Nordic Aquafarms, its various agents and supporters.

I have been following this project since it was first revealed (after much secret, behind closed doors negotiating) to the public almost two years ago. I didn't like the way this idea was sprung on us then, and I don't like the way it seems to be pushed and praised in spite of an abundance of opposition and actual legal and scientific evidence that show it is not a worthwhile project for Belfast.

There are better and far less energy-intensive, resource extracting ways to feed the masses than this, and better uses for the precious Little River reservoir and woods that will benefit us in ways that the NAF project never could.

I urge you to reject this proposal. Thank you.

Maryjean Viano Crowe
Belfast, Maine

Re: Nordic, citizen input

Wayne Marshall <wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org>

Wed 1/15/2020 1:57 PM

To: Eileen Wolper <pebshep@gmail.com>

Ms. Wolper:

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

Wayne

Wayne Marshall, Director
Code and Planning
City of Belfast
131 Church St
Belfast, ME 04915
(207) 338-1417 x 125
wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org

From: Eileen Wolper <pebshep@gmail.com>**Sent:** Wednesday, January 15, 2020 1:53 PM**To:** Wayne Marshall <wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org>**Subject:** Nordic, citizen input

I oppose Nordic Fish Factory/Slaughter house for many reasons, but the issues surrounding Water are my highest concern. The decrepit dams will not allow use of river water on a reliable basis (indeed, the river was deemed unsuitably polluted at first). The threat of salt intrusion and well limitations on their proposed site will mean future insistence of the Belfast Water District to supply Nordic in order to protect their investment and profitability. This "business" relies on profit driven extraction of a resource, our public trust, ground water. The need for bringing the Talbot well online, because of this company, is a burden on taxpayers and ratepayers both. The prudent thing to do is reject opening the door to such excess, especially when other methods to grow fish would utilize less.

Sincerely,

Eileen Wolper
Belfast

To the Belfast Planning Board

My name is Martha Reeve. I am a retired Certified Public Accountant. I had a practice on Front Street in Belfast from 2002 to 2010, and previously worked for Adams & Valley CPAs in Bangor. I am the treasurer of Upstream Watch, but I want to be clear that I am submitting this independently.

The financial capacity of Nordic Aquafarms, Inc., and Nordic Aquafarms AS is of paramount importance to Belfast and the surrounding area. Inability to complete the project or unforeseen accidents, environmental or other, could cost Belfast dearly, and compromise the environmental integrity and quality of life in the region.

I would like to comment on the materials that Nordic supplied to the DEP in section 03 – Financial Capacity in their SLODA (Site Location of Development) permit application, dated 5/19/2019, and testimony submitted by Brenda Chandler, dated 12/20/2019.

Many of the financial assessments and projections provided by Nordic quote Carnegie Bank and Pareto Bank as authorities. As disclosed in the second paragraph of Appendix 3-B of SLODA section 03 (an endorsement from the two banks), these banks have managed equity placements for Nordic in the past. While, as they note, this would have afforded them insight into Nordic's financial situation, it also implies that they would benefit from additional business with Nordic if permits are granted.

Furthermore, one of Nordic's primary shareholders has a substantial business relationship with Pareto Bank that is not disclosed in these documents. Petter W. Borg was a founder and past CEO of a Pareto Group subsidiary, and currently serves as chairman of Pareto Forsikringsmegling (Insurance Brokerage, according to Google Translate) and as chairman of the nomination committee of Pareto Bank, ASA.¹

As a former CPA, I am dismayed to realize that the only firms that have supplied information about Nordic's ongoing financial capacity are not financially independent of Nordic, creating a conflict of interest. This may seem like professional nit-picking, but independence and objectivity are primary tenets of ethics for both the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the International Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (and many other organizations) for good reason; they are essential to provide a mindset that guarantees unbiased thought and reporting. In the absence of independence, the relationship between the preparer and the client should be clearly disclosed. I consider the complete lack of disclosure of Mr. Borg's relationship to Pareto Bank to be unprofessional and discourteous to you, the third-party user.

Please remember as you review these financial submissions that the firms providing assessments of Nordic Aquafarms both have financial ties to Nordic, a notable conflict of interest since they would benefit financially from the permitting of this project. This fact is especially salient since disclosure of the relationships has not been given due respect and transparency.

1. https://www.ferd.no/en/about_ferd/board_and_administration/board_of_directors. Ferd Board of Directors. There is no date on this website. The information might be out-of-date, but recent severance of these ties would not prevent lack of independence.

I also urge you to read and consider the significance of the footnotes and disclosures that have been provided, especially the "endorsement" letter from Carnegie and Pareto Banks:

This note has been prepared by Carnegie and Pareto for the sole use by the recipient in the view of providing comfort regarding the company's ability to secure financing for the expansion plan in Belfast, Maine. This note contains only a preliminary discussion of the project and necessitates further investigation. The information herein is based on public available information and information from NAF. Although the information is believed to be accurate, no representation or warranty is made by Carnegie or Pareto regarding the accuracy and completeness of the information, estimates, statements and assumptions contained herein and no liability of any form relating to the contents of this document shall be assumed by Carnegie or Pareto.

The red highlights are mine. It appears that the banks did no independent research or assurance, but primarily "endorsed" the information they were given by Nordic. They do not assume any responsibility for the accuracy of the document and encourage further investigation.

On to the nuts and bolts.

Nordic proposes three types of financing for this project; equity, debt, and cash flow from operations. It is notable that Nordic plans to be funding construction of a large facility in California concurrently with the Belfast project.

Equity: Nordic's ability to access private equity is extensively discussed in the application materials, including a list of shareholders who appear to be well recognized in Norway. Nordic has provided a properly-prepared, independent report to document their history of raising capital by issuing securities. Presumably, with all documented shareholders but one residing in Norway, most profits resulting from this project will be enjoyed across the Atlantic. BDO Bank documents the raising of over \$63 million via stock issues through 2018 to fund all of Nordic's ventures.

Equity is projected to provide 40% of the building costs of the project (Brenda Chandler testimony), approximately \$200 million.

Debt: Access to funds through debt is minimally verified and appears to rely on a Danish government funding scheme that is unfamiliar to me. Application materials simply include an unsupported statement in several documents (SLODA section 3 text and appendix 3-A, and Brenda Chardler testimony) that Nordic is "in dialog" with unnamed Norwegian and US banks, and implies that the banks have expressed "interest."

The only documentation provided for borrowing capacity is a "letter of interest" from EKF noting the scope of their business and that "Nordic Aquafarms DK ApS" falls within their purview. They will not analyze the project until a formal request is made. I am not familiar with EKF or its methodology, but it appears to offer loan guarantees to assure investors that they will receive compensation for products exported from Denmark even if the recipient is unable to or refuses to pay. I believe this service would make financing of certain loans for equipment produced in Denmark for the Maine facility more attractive to potential lenders, but would not be an actual source of funds. Without an adequate

explanation of how EKF operates and how it fits into Nordic's financing plans, it is impossible to evaluate its potential to enhance overall funding for this project.

Nordic has supplied little insight into the availability, cost, or role of debt funding. Who are perspective lenders with documented interest and capacity? What is the structure of the debt component, such as specific purpose within the overall funding scheme, potential collateral and proposed timing? What is the role of EKF? No local builder would lay a house foundation with this level of loan disclosure, and I consider it inadequate to demonstrate the feasibility of a \$500 million project.

Debt is projected to provide 50% of the building costs of the project (Brenda Chandler testimony), approximately \$250 million.

Cash Flow: Cash flow is cited in the SLODA application and prefiled testimony as a source of funds for construction costs, but there is virtually no documentation of projected cash flow from operations, and indeed no indication that this business venture has the potential to be profitable. With no projected financial statements provided, cash flow is left unaddressed. There is no attempt to demonstrate that positive cash flow from phase 1 will be available to fund phase 2.

Cash Flow is projected to provide 10% of the building costs of the project (Brenda Chandler testimony), approximately \$50 million.

Long-Term profitability and funding of early operations are also important:

Profitability: Although an enterprise can generate positive cash flow temporarily while operating at a loss, available cash flow for project funding implies profitability. Operating profit is also key to long-term viability and responsible management of the facility.

The only allusion to potential profitability is in the letter from Carnegie and Pareto Banks, Appendix 3-B, primarily in the form of two charts that were apparently prepared by the banks. Virtually no explanation is provided of the data in these charts. What salmon populations and business models are included in "Atlantic Salmon, Price, Cost & Profitability?" There is no indication whether wild caught salmon are included, or what countries are included in the analysis. There are currently no profitable salmon-producing RAF operations in the world, so this data does not appear relevant to Nordic's proposed facility. The chart "Composition of Production Cost" includes no description of the fish-raising practices that generated this data, but, with the lack of operational RAS salmon-raising facilities, it is probably not particularly applicable. No guidance is provided on how to interpret these charts, or how they relate to the current project. Given the lack of supporting information, the charts are meaningless with respect to Nordic's potential profitability.

The only information I have been able to locate that reflects the financial standing of Nordic Aquafarms AS is from the web site www.proff.no that is noted in prefiled direct testimony, Nordic Exhibit 2, as a source of shareholder information. This appears to be an independent Scandinavian reporting service. According to this site, the 2018 operating "result" of Nordic Aquafarms AS (with 8 employees) was a loss

of "10,533 'NOK." I am unsure of the significance of the apostrophe before Norwegian Krone, but would guess that it might signify thousands. This would translate to a loss of over \$1,180,000 (according to an internet currency converter provided by Google using data from Morningstar).

The Nordic facility that bears most similarity to the Belfast project is Fredrikstad Seafoods, an RAS facility in Denmark that began construction in 2017. According to the web site www.proff.no, the 2018 operating "result" of Fredrikstad Seafoods AS (with 12 employees) was a loss of 9,960 'NOK, which, given the above assumptions would translate to a loss of over \$1,120,000.

Nordic has supplied no documentation indicating that the Belfast facility might generate a profit, and certainly no support for availability of cash flow from phase one to fund the construction of phase 2.

Early Operations: Working capital to operate the plant before generating marketable product will come from "a credit facility" according to prefiled testimony, Nordic Exhibit 2. There is no description of this arrangement. What is the source of funds? What function does the facility serve and what is its business structure? The pre-production phase is not included in the chart of estimated development costs, and no estimate of this additional cost is provided.

The City of Belfast commissioned Deloitte AS to assess the viability of Nordic Aquafarm's proposed facility. Their July, 2018, report states "we believe that Nordic Aquafarms should be able to get financing for their initiatives given that they are able to present a good and realistic business case to their potential investors." Belfast has thus been advised that Nordic must meet this primary standard to establish confidence that their project will attract investors and be able to meet its financial responsibilities.

It is inherently difficult to assess the financial and business capability of a foreign company operating in a different language, under unfamiliar finance and accounting rules and customs, on a far larger scale than most of us are accustomed to. The materials provided by Nordic lack transparency, lack independent oversight, and include no financial projections. Please consider carefully whether this level of financial and business information supplied by Nordic is commensurate with the responsibility and risk of sanctioning a \$500 million biological production facility in our community.



Re: Public Comment on Nordic Aquafarms Permit Application

Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Wed 1/15/2020 1:02 PM

To: Emily Horton <emily.k.horton@gmail.com>

Ms. Horton

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

Wayne

From: Emily Horton <emily.k.horton@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, January 15, 2020 12:54 PM

To: Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Subject: RE: Public Comment on Nordic Aquafarms Permit Application

January 15th, 2020

City of Belfast Planning Board

Code and Planning Department

131 Church Street, Belfast ME 04915

RE: Public Comment on Nordic Aquafarms Permit Application

Dear Belfast Planning Board Committee Members,

My name is Emily Horton and I live at 87 Congress Street in Belfast, Maine. I am writing to urge you to grant Nordic Aquafarms their five municipal permits.

Although some beyond Belfast's borders do not approve of the federal, state and municipal permitting procedures, these systems are in place to provide strict and careful oversight of development. These are rules that all must follow. I respect and believe in this system and trust that Nordic Aquafarms has gone well beyond and above what has been asked of them.

Additionally, Nordic Aquafarms has given Belfast and the greater community multiple public hearings and informational sessions beyond what was required of them, and in my opinion, because they are committed to being upfront and honest with our community.

I appreciate the time, attention and energy that each of you have put into the Nordic Aquafarm permitting application process on behalf of the citizens of Belfast. I trust that you can move swiftly in your granting of these necessary permits so that Nordic Aquafarms has the tools they need to invest in our community.

Thank you,

Emily Horton

Re: Nordic Farms

Wayne Marshall <wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org>

Wed 1/15/2020 3:54 PM

To: Erica Nealley <planningandcodes@cityofbelfast.org>; dennisurick@gmail.com <dennisurick@gmail.com>

Hello Dennis

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

Wayne

Wayne Marshall, Director
Code and Planning
City of Belfast
131 Church St
Belfast, ME 04915
(207) 338-1417 x 125
wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org

From: Erica Nealley <planningandcodes@cityofbelfast.org>

Sent: Wednesday, January 15, 2020 3:22 PM

To: Wayne Marshall <wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org>

Subject: Fw: Nordic Farms

From: Dennis Urick <dennisurick@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, January 15, 2020 3:19 PM

To: Erica Nealley <planningandcodes@cityofbelfast.org>

Subject: Nordic Farms

Not in my back yard seems to be the rallying call for the opponents of the Nordic Fish Farm. These are the same people who believe "big" government has all the answers. Well, let the state determine if the farm meets all the legal and environmental requirements and if so, grant permission for the farm to operate.
Dennis Urick, 44 Robbins Road, Belfast, Maine

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THE MAINE AQUACULTURE ASSOCIATION

BOX 148, HALLOWELL, ME., USA, 14347
VOICE: 207 622 0136 FAX: 207 622 0576 E-MAIL sebastian@maineaqu.org

To: Belfast Planning Board

RE: Nordic Aquafarms

Date: January 13, 2020

Founded in 1976, the Maine Aquaculture Association is the oldest state aquaculture association in the United States. Through a 14-point set of environmental guiding principles, cooperative area management agreements, continuous member improvement training and third party audited best management practices MAA and its members are leading the way in the development of new and environmentally sustainable ways to provide America with healthy fresh seafood.

The Maine Aquaculture Association continues today to be the strong link between seafood producers, the communities that host aquaculture businesses, and the state and federal agencies that tightly regulate these commercial activities. MAA holds its position on the cutting edge of worldwide aquaculture development through seats on boards such as the National Oceanography and Atmospheric Administration's Science Advisory Board, the Standards Oversight Committee of the Best Aquaculture Practices certification program, International Salmon Farmers Association, the University of Maine Board of Agriculture, and many other agencies and institutions. In 2000, MAA developed and adopted a comprehensive set of guiding principles for responsible aquaculture based on the United Nations' guidelines for responsible aquaculture development. In 2005 Maine fish farmers were recognized by several environmental advocacy organizations including the Atlantic Salmon Federation, Trout Unlimited and the Conservation Law foundation as some of the most environmentally progressive and strictly regulated fish farmers in the world.

In the same manner that seafood producers in Maine have led the nation, so has the State of Maine in its regulation of the potential marine and land-based impacts of these activities. As early as 1973 the Maine legislature passed the nation's first marine farm leasing statute, which included significant environmental protections -- protections that have constantly expanded in scope and in science- and engineering-based expertise over the past 47 years. Among the many regulatory "firsts" that followed was Maine's national leadership in establishing the first integrated state and federal aquaculture permitting and monitoring process in 1987. Maine was one of the first states to issue a NPDES permit for large scale aquaculture in the US. These "Clean water Act" permits have evolved and been refined to increase their efficacy repeatedly over the last 20 years. Maine was also the first state to implement an aquatic animal health plan under USDA. Maine now has some of the strictest water quality and animal health regulations, monitoring and enforcement systems in the world. The fact that we are regularly visited by environmental groups and government regulators from other states and countries to learn about our management systems indicates the maturity and efficacy of those systems. Maine is a model for the world.

I've highlighted Maine and MAA's "bragging rights" for a reason directly connected to your consideration of Nordic Aquafarms' pending licensing applications, as well as to the concurrent evaluation being conducted by Maine's Board of Environmental Protection. Last week representatives of Upstream Watch appeared before your Board to offer its

opinion that neither the City of Belfast nor the State of Maine has sufficient regulatory standards nor resources to undertake this work at all, let alone responsibly. Having interacted with local and state regulators in Maine for over 30 years I find that assertion astounding. Over my career I have worked in 14 different countries and many states. Much of that work has been building commercial aquaculture facilities and has included permitting and regulatory compliance. While I agree that we could always use more resources, I have always found Maine regulators and planners to be professional, determined and effective in their efforts to protect the environment and allow reasonable development. Unfortunately, these hard-working regulators and planners are not always given the credit they deserve.

Upstream Watch's presentation to your committee was designed to influence public opinion and pressure the planning board into hesitation and/or denial of Nordics project. From the standpoint of a factual discussion of aquaculture, its technology, the environmental impacts (pro and con) of land-based fish farming, and the regulatory framework that surrounds licensing and monitoring these projects Upstream's presentation was inaccurate and misleading. Relying upon their volunteers, Upstream Watch attested to a thorough search of existing literature and laid out extensive claims of bad science and bad behavior on the part of Nordic and its professional consultants. The packaging of this presentation was designed to paint a "worst case scenario" and predicted that an apocalypse would surely follow if Nordic's project is built. While I respect their right to hold and promote this as opinion, I reject many of Upstream Watch's assertions as misleading and in some cases factually incorrect.

At the heart of Upstream Watch's presentation is its relentless effort to convince the citizens of Belfast and surrounding communities that government is incapable of understanding and applying science to regulations that safeguard where they live. To the contrary, MAA will soon celebrate half a century of dealing with the State of Maine's aquaculture regulators. I can assure you that this collection of scientists, engineers, financial analysts and attorneys takes no risks. While cordial, they never entirely trust anybody intending to make a profit off Maine's lands, waters or other natural resources. Maines environmental regulations are some of the strictest in the world and state regulators enforce them with vigor and great professionalism. As members of a municipal planning board you live elbow-to-elbow among the citizens to whom you are responsible I have great faith that you approach any proposed project in much the same way.

The Maine Aquaculture Association strongly supports the process by which your Board and the State regulators are evaluating Nordic's project. The assertion by Upstream Watch that there are no discharge, biosecurity or animal health standards or monitoring is false and misleading. If any member of the public or planning board has questions about Maines regulation of the aquaculture sector, I would encourage you to read the relevant statutes and regulations and talk to existing land-based operators that must comply with these standards and rules. They are rigorous and have proven to effectively protect Maine's wonderful environment and the communities in which these operations exist. Maine has a great deal to be proud of about its protection of the environment and the balance between environmental protection and the responsible development of sustainable businesses that produce high quality products that support and reinforce the Maine brand.

Sincerely,

Sebastian Belle
Executive Director

Re: Michael Reid, comments on NAF proposal

Wayne Marshall <wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org>

Thu 1/16/2020 10:10 AM

To: MICHAEL REID <silver1100s@gwi.net>

Mr. Reid

I have received your comment and will provide such to the Board.

Thanks for converting your letter to a PDF.

Wayne

Wayne Marshall, Director
Code and Planning
City of Belfast
131 Church St
Belfast, ME 04915
(207) 338-1417 x 125
wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org

From: MICHAEL REID <silver1100s@gwi.net>
Sent: Wednesday, January 15, 2020 5:22 PM
To: Wayne Marshall <wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org>
Subject: Re: Michael Reid, comments on NAF proposal

Mr Marshall,

Sorry. Not being much of a computer user, I forgot about the format difficulties Pages causes.

Hope this is better.

Regards,
Michael Reid

Dear Members of the Belfast Planning Board:

Thank you for allowing me to express several concerns about the proposed Nordic factory farm. Building this monstrously large facility would be a terrible mistake for Belfast, especially given the critical importance of reducing carbon emissions. This project would have just the opposite effect: its increase of carbon emissions will make any future steps toward Belfast's becoming carbon neutral an impossible task.

The forest, productive in so many ways as a home to wildlife, sequesters a huge amount of carbon. When the forest and the soil are removed, all that safely stored carbon will be released into the atmosphere. Add to that the exhaust of the forest destruction machines, the trucking in out of thousands of yards of soil moved by thousands of trucks, the machines used to build the buildings and to make and transport the concrete: the amount of fuel used and carbon released amounts to numbers so large that it is difficult to conceive. Contrary to Nordic's original claims that this will be an environmentally sound project, it will be just the opposite. The loss of habitat, the loss of a beautiful forest and its wetlands can never be brought back to life, and the carbon can never be returned to the ground.

All this killing and destruction is for a project that is intended to last only 30 years. What happens then? I believe that Nordic came to the US to build this plant because the environmental regulations here are less strict than in Norway. After Nordic trucks have been pounding our roads with construction vehicles leaving them crumbling and broken, will they be willing to rebuild, to correct the damage?

The Gulf of Maine is already the fastest warming area in the Atlantic Ocean. Nordic will be dumping water several degrees warmer than the Penobscot Bay into the Bay. I fear the warmer waters will wreck the lobster industry. Kids won't be catching mackerel or stripers or other cold water fish from shore as they can now. Much of the Bay is likely to become a dead zone. These dire results are perfectly likely to happen. I do not

believe that our bay, home to its innumerable creatures, should be exposed to so much risk.

I am horrified that NAF will be drawing down the Goose River which is an exceptional, exciting natural area full of turtles, birds and big fish where I often paddle in my kayak. It's a lovely, shallow bit of wild water and almost wilderness. I fear it will be turned from a vibrant area, full of life, into a dying swamp. I hope I am wrong, but NAF has not been forthcoming about many aspects of this project, and I mistrust the company's spokesperson after she lied to me several months ago saying that absolutely no water would be taken from the Goose

I believe this project will ruin Belfast for a short-lived, risky, largely speculative project that benefits one company, not even American, that hires very few local people and that permanently destroys a productive piece of forest, and its wildlife.

Please do not allow these tanks in Belfast. I do not believe that the known destruction plus all the possible risks of accidental exposure from the release of large quantities of antibiotics or fish waste, or to other accidents unforeseen, should permit this project to go forward. I do not believe that stirring up mercury into the bay will benefit anyone, and I do not believe that the tourists will come here to witness unimaginable traffic congestion due to trucks, and gaze lovingly at earthmoving machines.

It makes so much more sense to me to make this area wild again with real salmon navigating their way up undammed rivers to spawn. There are signs that this is beginning. It's something that should be nourished. Everyone knows that a salmon should be taken with a fly on a thin line. To grow them like hydroponic tomatoes is a horrible thing to afflict on a natural wonder.

Sincerely,

Michael Reid
49 Herrick Rd
Belfast, ME 04915

