

**CITY OF BELFAST PLANNING BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2020 5:00 PM
MEETING VIA A ZOOM WEBINAR**

NOTES TO PUBLIC:

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the Planning Board will not physically be meeting in the Council Chambers of Belfast City Hall to conduct the December 20 Board meeting. Thus, the public will have no access to City Hall during the meeting. The Board will be conducting the meeting electronically via a ZOOM webinar, and Board members will be participating in the meeting via ZOOM from their respective homes.

Persons who want to view the meeting can do so on the live stream on the City of Belfast website, cityofbelfast.org, watch it live on BEL-TV, or watch it via ZOOM; see ZOOM information below. A video of the meeting will be posted on the city website a day or two after the meeting is conducted. No public hearings are scheduled for this meeting, thus the Board will not be accepting any public testimony at this meeting.

ZOOM information:

- Zoom webinar information: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kcc1U3Zvkn>
- Webinar ID: 890 4276 6088
- Phone: +1 646 558 8656 or +1 301 715 8592

BOARD AGENDA

1. **Call to Order & Roll Call.** Hugh Townsend, Chair, Declan O'Connor, Secretary, David Bond, Wayne Corey, and Geoff Gilchrist, regular members and Daisy Beal and Steve Ryan, alternate members. Note: Declan O'Connor will chair the meeting discussion on the Nordic Aquafarms application. Steve Ryan has recused himself from participating in the Nordic application.
2. **Adoption of Agenda.**
3. **Development Review –Nordic Aquafarms applications to construct a land-based salmon aquaculture facility near the lower reservoir of the Little River.** (See description of applications at end of agenda).

Board review of final draft language for Findings of Fact and the accompanying Conditions of Approval for the Nordic Permits identified below.

- 3.1 **Significant Groundwater Well Permit.** Board approval of Findings and Conditions. Board reviewed the final draft of the Findings and Conditions for this Permit at its meeting of December 16 and determined that the Findings and Conditions were ready for approval.

- 3.2 Significant Water Intake/Discharge Pipe Permit. Board approval of Findings and Conditions. Board review will focus on the draft Findings. The Board, at its meeting of December 17, reviewed and determined that the draft Conditions were ready for approval.
- 3.3 Final Site Plan Permit. Board approval of Findings and Conditions. Board review will focus on the draft Findings. The Board, over the course of several of its November and December meetings, reviewed and determined that the draft Conditions were ready for approval. The Board notes that it approved Findings of Fact for the Preliminary Site Plan at its meeting of July 15, 2020.
- 3.4 Zoning Use Permit. Board approval of Findings and Conditions. Board review will focus on the draft Findings. The Board, over the course of several of its November and December meetings, reviewed and determined that the draft Conditions were ready for approval.
- 3.5 Other concerns related to the Nordic permit applications.

4. Other Business

5. Adjournment

OVERALL DESCRIPTION OF NORDIC APPLICATIONS

Nordic Aquafarms, Inc. has submitted an application to develop a land-based salmon aquaculture facility on a 56 acre site located on the northwesterly side of Route One near the lower reservoir of the Little River. The applicant proposes to develop the project in two phases over 5 or more years. Total production capacity at build-out is estimated to be 72,732,000 pounds (33,000 metric tons) of salmon per year. Phase 1 involves the construction of about 414,450 square feet of buildings, and Phase 2 involves the construction of about 392,804 square feet of buildings; each phase involves rearing and processing a similar amount of salmon.

The facility would use a Recirculating Aquaculture System (RAS) to process water used in rearing the salmon in land-based tanks. At full build-out, the facility is projected to use up to 1,205 gallons of freshwater per minute (gpm) and about 3,925 gallons of saltwater per minute. The freshwater is proposed to be obtained from three sources: the Belfast Water District (up to 500 gpm), on-site groundwater wells (up to 455 gpm) and the extraction of surficial water from Reservoir 1 on the Little River (up to 250 gpm). Saltwater will be obtained from Belfast Bay via two new off-shore water intake pipes that extend about 6,300 feet from the High Annual Tide into the Bay. The RAS system also involves Nordic Aquafarms treating and regularly discharging the freshwater and saltwater (wastewater/effluent) used to rear salmon back into Belfast Bay via a discharge pipe that extends offshore about 3,400 feet from the High Annual Tide.

The 56 acre site that Nordic Aquafarms, Inc. proposes to develop includes parts of all of the following properties, as such are identified on the City of Belfast Tax Assessor maps:

- Map 29, Lot 39, located at 285 Northport Avenue that is owned by the Belfast Water District (about 29 acres):
- Map 4, Lot 104, located off of Northport Avenue that is owned by Sam Cassida (about 12.5 acres):
- Map 4, Lot 12A, located at 22 Perkins Road that is owned by Goldenrod Properties, LLC; [dba Mathews Brothers] (about 14.5 acres): and
- Map 29, Lot 36, located at 282 Northport Ave, that is owned by Richard Eckrote (easement for construction of water intake/wastewater discharge pipes).

The Planning Board is responsible for the review of the following permit applications:

- Chapter 82, Shoreland. Shoreland Permit for construction of facilities in the Shoreland Zone, including but not limited to the proposed water intake and discharge pipes. Part of project site is in the General Development Shoreland district and the easement area on the Ekrote property is in the Limited Residential Shoreland district.
- Chapter 90, Site Plan. Project requires a Site Plan Permit for a project that may substantially affect the environment. Board is now reviewing the Preliminary Plan application.
- Chapter 102, Zoning. Project requires a Use Permit for a project that qualifies as a Site Plan. Most of project is in the Route One South Business Park zoning district and the Ekrote property easement area is in the Residential II zoning district.
- Chapter 102, Zoning. Project requires a permit for the location and use of Significant Groundwater Wells; reference Article VIII, Division 7.
- Chapter 102, Zoning. Project requires a permit for the location of Significant Water Intake and Significant Water Discharge/Outfall Pipes; reference Article IX, Div 2.

The Planning Board approved the Preliminary Site Plan application for the Nordic project at its meeting of July 15, and is continuing its review of the Final Site Plan application that it initiated at its meeting of September 30, 2020, as well as the four other Nordic permit applications to the City. Questions regarding the Board's review of the Nordic applications should be directed to Wayne Marshall, Project Planner for the Code and Planning Department at wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org, or by calling 338-1417 x 125.