1	TOWN OF SUNAPEE
2	PLANNING BOARD
3	September 14, 2023
4	Chairman White called the meeting to order and conducted a roll call at: 7:02 PM.
5	MEMBERS PRESENT BY VIDEO: Ann Bordeianu
6 7	MEMBERS PRESENT IN THE MEETING ROOM: Gregory Swick, Jeff Claus, Randy Clark, Joseph Butler, Chairman Peter White, Suzanne Gottling, Richard Osborne
8	MEMBERS ABSENT: None
9 10	ALSO PRESENT IN THE MEETING ROOM: Michael Marquise - Town Planner, Allyson Traeger - Land Use and Assessing Coordinator
11	ALSO PRESENT BY VIDEO: None
12	NEW CASES:
13 14 15	CASE # SPR 23-04 PARCEL ID: 0147-0017-0000 SITE PLAN REVIEW OF REMOVAL OF A CURRENT SHED USED TO HOUSE COOLER UNITS TO REBUILD A NEW SPACE TO HOUSE NEW COOLER UNITS AT THE BACK OF THE BUILDING.
16 17	The meeting commenced with the first case, briefly introducing that it entailed a site plan review for the replacement of a shed housing cooling units at Suna Restaurant.
18 19 20	Efforts were made to identify the presenter for this case, but no one appeared to be present although agent Mr. Clayton Davis representing Suna Realty LLC, had a prior communication indicating his intention to attend.
21 22	Considering the absence of the presenter for the first case, it was decided to proceed to the subsequent case.
23 24 25	CASE # SPR 23-05 PARCEL ID: 0232-0023-0000 CHANGE THE CURRENT USE OF THE PROPERTY FROM USE OF RESIDENTIAL TO COMMERCIAL USE, UTILIZING THE EXISTING HOUSE AS OFFICE SPACE FOR UP TO 20 EMPLOYEES AND ESTABLISHING PARKING AREAS.
26 27 28 29	The meeting proceeded to the next case, which involved a proposed change in the property's current use, transitioning from residential to commercial use. The details were outlined, which included the utilization of the existing house as office space for up to 20 employees, along with the establishment of a parking area. The applicants, Jared and Laura Raymond, were represented by agent Jim Bruss.
30 31 32	Chairman Mr. White noted that, in accordance with the standard order of business for site plan reviews, Mr. Marquise would provide an assessment of the application's completeness, addressing any missing information.

33	There was a suggestion by Mr.	Marquise to consider	opening the second case	(next case), as it was
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- 34 intertwined with the first. The Board members acknowledged the interrelated nature of the two cases
- 35 and voiced their perspective on handling them separately due to their distinct lots and activities. Parking
- and personnel movement between lots were identified as key considerations.
- 37 A proposal was made to open the second case for consideration, emphasizing its relationship to the
- 38 first. It was suggested to address the completeness of each case separately due to potential disparities.
- 39 Chairman White sought clarification on whether to discuss the second case first, given its reliance on the
- 40 first.
- 41 Ultimately, it was agreed to open both cases simultaneously and discuss them individually. However, it
- 42 was emphasized that the completeness of each case would be evaluated separately. There was a
- 43 recognition of the complexity of the situation and a request for mutual understanding regarding
- 44 discussions that might involve aspects of both cases.
- 45 The Board proceeded to assess the completeness of case 05. It was confirmed that the application had
- been submitted in advance, fees were paid, and all required notifications and postings were completed.
- 47 Some additional details were requested, including a full perimeter boundary survey, text map and lot
- 48 number, site location map, landscape plan, location of walls, fences, and storage areas, as well as a
- 49 drainage design.
- 50 The discussion shifted towards the completeness of the application. There was a query about whether
- certain requirements applied to both sites, to which it was clarified that, for now, it pertained solely to
- 52 case 05.
- A question was raised about the source of the site plan, and it was confirmed to be from a survey
- 54 conducted on-site. Concerns were raised about accepting the application as complete while still needing
- 55 additional information, particularly regarding drainage. It was noted that while the application was not
- yet complete, there were some documents the applicant could discuss.
- 57 A request for clarification on the location of the map and lot number led to the revelation that it was
- 58 included in the application but not on the plans themselves. Additional materials, such as drainage
- 59 calculations and traffic counts, were brought to the meeting for review. The applicant explained that
- 60 they were working swiftly to meet the requirements and emphasized the simplicity of the landscape
- 61 plan.
- 62 Discussion then centered on the drainage plan, with assurance that it had been prepared and would be
- 63 provided. The Board contemplated whether to proceed with the information at hand or defer the
- discussion until all required documents were available. After some deliberation, it was agreed that the
- 65 available information was sufficient to review the case.
- 66 During the discussion it was clarified that the proposed plan did not involve any additions to the existing
- 67 building. The Board was assured that all requirements had been met, and the receipt of a state permit
- 68 was deemed unnecessary.

70	survey.
71	Seconded by Mr. Swick.
72	The motion passed unanimously.
73 74 75 76	The discussion shifted to the specifics of the proposed plan. The applicant outlined their intention to operate 30 feet by 24 feet facility on two levels, primarily as office space. They emphasized the transition from residential to commercial use and mentioned that they had already applied for a driveway permit.
77 78 79	The applicant mentioned their collaboration with Horizons for future phases and the plan to create a total of 18 parking spaces on the site. Although the math didn't align with the parking regulations, they argued that due to the number of staff, the additional spaces were necessary.
80 81 82	There was a brief clarification regarding the number of employees and the use of the office space. The applicant explained that although they had more than 20 employees, not all of them would be present simultaneously.
83 84	The zoning was confirmed to be commercial mixed use, and no zoning issues were anticipated. The applicant highlighted that the change from a residential house to an office was the primary modification.
85 86 87	The discussion turned to the staggered arrival times of employees, which impacted parking needs. Different divisions within the company arrived at varying times. The landscape manager, for example, used their own vehicle, while crew members would aggregate into a crew vehicle.
88 89 90	It was also asked by the Board for the hours of operation, which were outlined as Monday through Friday, 7 am to 5 pm, with the potential for weekend work. The noise levels were discussed, with the applicant assuring that there would be no loud equipment on the lot.
91 92 93	The Board inquired about the maximum number of employees expected at any given time. The applicant stated that they anticipated a maximum of 18 workstations in the building, which would be the highest number of employees present simultaneously.
94 95 96	Concerns were raised by Mr. Claus about the number of parking spaces shown on the plan, which indicated 17 spaces while the applicant had proposed 18. The discrepancy was attributed to a printing issue, but the applicant assured that they would meet the parking requirements.
97 98	The meeting continued with a discussion on the scale of the plan and the width of the aisle. The applicant provided additional details to address any remaining questions from the Board.
99 00 01	The discussion centered around concerns regarding the parking space parallel to route 103, with a noted distance of 22 feet behind the existing parking spaces. The applicant emphasized the importance of creating off-street parking in case the next application faced delays.

Mr. Claus made a motion to accept the application as complete with the waiver of the boundary

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102 103 104	The applicant confirmed their commitment to proceed with the current plan regardless of the outcome of the next application. They acknowledged the potential for illegal parking on 46 Depot Road if there were delays in approval.
105 106 107	Questions were raised by Mr. Swick about runoff during rainstorms, with the applicant assuring that minimal runoff would occur due to the grade and slope of the site. They emphasized that the existing grade had been stable for a long period.
108 109 110	The discussion shifted to lot coverage percentages, with the applicant stating that they were well below the required percentage, less than 63%. The differences between the presented plan and the one available online were clarified, particularly in relation to the drainage pond and parking spaces.
111 112 113	Concerns were raised about the aisle width, with calculations indicating it fell short of the required 20 feet. The applicant acknowledged the concern and discussed the challenges of maneuvering in tight spaces.
114 115 116	The topic of deliveries, specifically UPS and other trucks, was raised by Chairman White. The applicant confirmed that UPS would make deliveries of office supplies, while other deliveries would be directed elsewhere.
117 118 119 120 121	Questions regarding drainage solutions were addressed, with the applicant explaining the use of an infil drain to manage surface water. Additionally, snow removal plans were discussed, with the applicant indicating that snow would be pushed to the end of the site. The applicant explained that they would likely use snow blowers on both ends of the property to clear the snow. They acknowledged that due to the limited space, they might need to truck out the snow if necessary.
122 123 124	The conversation then shifted to the existing conditions of the parking area. The Board inquired about the condition of the parking area, particularly whether it was gravel with overgrown grass. The applicant clarified that they had removed the grass and laid down Bluestern, creating a more stable surface.
125 126 127 128	Next, concerns were raised by Ms. Bordeianu about the potential increase in traffic resulting from the change in land use. The applicant presented traffic calculations, indicating an estimated increase of approximately 12 trips per hour. The Board expressed concerns about the transition from residential to commercial use and the impact on traffic flow.
129 130 131	The Board also discussed the site's location, noting that it was on the border of mixed-use and rural residential zones. The applicant emphasized that they would be seeking approval from the state for a driveway permit, taking into consideration the traffic flow and safety.
132 133 134	Further discussions delved into lighting plans for the site. The applicant assured that there would be minimal nighttime lighting, limited to two sconces near the front doors. They acknowledged that the current regulations did not require extensive lighting for commercial entities.

135 136 137	Questions were raised about the property line in relation to the state's right-of-way. The applicant clarified that the state's right-of-way would take precedence over the property line, impacting decisions regarding tree removal and property boundaries.
138 139	The meeting continued with a discussion on the landscaping plan. The Board inquired about the description of the landscaping elements, which included evergreen trees and seasonal perennials. The
140 141	applicant confirmed that the landscaping plan was based on a markup of the original plan by civil engineer Anthony Costello.
142 143	Finally, concerns were raised about the width of the parking spaces and aisle. The Board noted that the
144 145	aisle width appeared to be slightly below the required 20 feet, prompting further examination of the site plan. The applicant clarified that they would adjust the scale to ensure compliance with the required dimensions.
146	There was a discussion about the layout of the building, with references to architectural features. It was
147 148 149	pointed out by Mr. Claus a square structure with a distinctive roofline, likely denoting a porch. They also noted a walkway leading to the porch, indicating various elements of the site plan, such as the parking layout and aisle delineation.
150	Concerns were raised about available space, particularly in front of the building. The member expressed
151 152	apprehension about potential limitations due to landscaping considerations. They noted that the planting area might need to be adjusted to ensure sufficient space for maneuvering.
153	The discussion then shifted to the parking lot layout. Mr. Claus also examined the plan and questioned
154 155	the positioning of the north parking lot. It was suggested that the layout might accommodate a future addition to the building, and considerations for double-loading the driveway were discussed.
156	Concerns were raised about the accuracy of the plan, particularly with regards to the parking spaces.
157 158 159	Members noted discrepancies and emphasized the need for precise measurements. The discussion also touched on landscaping, and the importance of adhering to regulations for buffering and visual aesthetics.
160	The Board expressed reservations about potential limitations imposed by the state's right-of-way. They
161	pointed out that certain activities, such as planting or erecting signs, might not be permitted within the
162 163	state's jurisdiction. They also emphasized the need for accurate information to make informed decisions.
164	In the meeting, the Board queried whether the applicant's business was currently operating in the
165	building, to which the applicant confirmed. The Board then inquired about the adequacy of parking for
166 167	the business at present. There was a brief discussion about parking arrangements, with the assurance that all employees parked on-site and not on the road, despite it being a bit tight.
168 169	The Board empathized with the applicant's situation, expressing a desire not to hinder their business operations. However, they emphasized the need for accurate information to make informed decisions.

170 171	The applicant acknowledged the challenges they faced, citing fines they were incurring due to non-compliance. They stressed their efforts to swiftly rectify the situation.
172 173 174 175	Concerns were raised regarding the accuracy of the presented plan, particularly in relation to parking spaces. The Board emphasized the importance of precise measurements for both parking and landscaping elements. They highlighted that the decisions of the board hinged on the accuracy of the information provided.
176 177 178	The discussion shifted towards landscaping and buffering regulations. The Board conveyed a concern that the state might impose restrictions on what could be planted within their right-of-way. There were doubts about the feasibility of certain elements proposed in the plan, given potential state limitations.
179 180 181	The Board acknowledged that the current state of the property, while not ideal, wasn't necessarily less appealing than having cars parked on the front lawn, as might occur in a residential setting. They emphasized the need for accurate plans to proceed.
182 183 184	The applicant's concern about potential interference with their business due to ongoing fines was addressed. The Board clarified that the approval process would not hinder the business itself, but rather address the issue of fines being incurred for non-compliance.
185 186 187	There was a discussion about potential conditions of approval, including the need for accurately dimensioned parking spaces. The Board drew a distinction between this condition and the need for a detailed landscape plan, emphasizing the specific concerns regarding parking and plantings.
188 189 190	In conclusion, the Board stressed the Board's tradition of favoring proposals that align with what is being presented. They acknowledged the applicant's willingness to work towards compliance and reiterated the importance of accurate information for the Board to make informed decisions.
191 192 193	The Board members discussed the addition of parking spaces for Phase Two of the project. There was a clarification that the intention was not to double the parking, but rather to add more spaces. However, there was a noted absence of a plan detailing this additional parking.
194 195 196 197	The relevance of Phase Two was brought into question, with the suggestion that if the applicant wished to pursue it, a new plan would be required. It was pointed out that Phase Two had been presented in the current application, but it was emphasized that this did not imply automatic approval and a separate review process would be necessary.
198 199 200 201	The primary focus was directed towards the new parking proposed along the fence line, considered crucial for approval. Members expressed alignment with earlier suggestion to table the discussion and address Phase Two in conjunction with the other case, to gain a comprehensive understanding of the overall project.
202 203 204	Concerns were raised about potential gaps in the information provided, with the expectation that these would be clarified during the Phase Two review process. The idea of simultaneously handling two cases was discussed, and it was decided to proceed with this approach.

Public input was invited, and a question regarding the proximity of the project to the Sugar River was raised. The response highlighted the distance and the slope away from the river. Questions about the
filtration pond's status in Phase Two were raised, with the understanding that this would be addressed
in any subsequent application.
The discussion was temporarily set aside for further deliberation, and the Board prepared to transition
to the next connected case.
CASE # SPR 23-06 PARCEL ID: 0232-0018-0000 CHANGE CURRENT USE OF PROPERTY FROM USE OF
RESIDENTIAL TO COMMERCIAL USE FOR LANDSCAPING SHOP YARD AND CARPENTRY SHOP. INCLUSIVE OF ONE DWELLING UNIT AND UP TO 20 EMPLOYEES.
The Board proceeded to open the next case, with the proposed change involved shifting the current use
from residential to commercial, encompassing landscaping, a shop, yard, carpentry shop, along with one dwelling unit and a staff of up to 20 employees. The property fell within the mixed-use district.
The completeness of the application was discussed, and Mr. Marquise confirmed that all required
documentation and fees had been submitted, and necessary notifications had been made to abutters as per regulations.
The project was presented in phases, with the focus for the current application being on utilizing existing
buildings and parking areas. Proposed new constructions, including a 60 by 40 shop building and a 26 by
40 hoop house building, were acknowledged but would not be part of this application due to the need for additional wetlands information.
Chairman White raised concerns about potential wetland impacts and whether the information was
essential before proceeding. The existing condition of the property was examined, with attention to recent changes in the driveway area.
Details about septic systems and hardscaping were also discussed. The Board sought clarification on the
extent of parking and potential expansions.
Parking requirements for the application were addressed by the Board, with Mr. Marquise indicating
that this project would generate its own parking needs separate from the other lot under consideration.
Mr. Osborne made a motion to accept the application.
Seconded by Mr. Claus.
The motion passed with four votes in favor (Ms. Gottling, Mr. Osborne, Mr. Claus and Mr. Swick) and three against (Mr. Clark, Mr. Butler and Chairman White).
The meeting proceeded to discuss the merits of the application. The applicant expressed the intention
to seek approval for the existing operations, emphasizing that there was no intention to expand or alter the current use until a comprehensive plan was presented.

238239240	The applicant acknowledged the importance of addressing safety concerns by Mr. Butler, especially in case of emergencies. The Board members raised questions regarding parking capacity, vehicle movement, and the potential impact on traffic flow.
241 242 243	The applicant clarified that the existing parking arrangement could accommodate approximately 10 to 12 vehicles on a daily basis, with variations depending on the nature of the work crews dispatched. It was noted that the busiest time of year saw the highest vehicle usage.
244 245 246	Concerns were raised about the feasibility of the existing parking arrangement and the potential challenges during peak hours. The applicant outlined the procedures in place for vehicle movement and explained that overflow parking would occur on the adjacent street due to space constraints.
247 248	The Board sought clarification on the fines being paid for non-compliance with zoning regulations. The applicant clarified that fines were related to issues with zoning use on both lots.
249 250	The meeting continued with a thorough discussion of the application, addressing various aspects of the proposed operations and parking arrangements.
251 252 253 254	The discussion turned to the unique nature of the buildings in question, with the acknowledgment that they do not directly contribute to the parking calculations. The applicant emphasized the need for sufficient parking space to accommodate equipment, company vehicles, and employees without causing congestion.
255 256 257	The applicant highlighted that their business model differs from traditional office-based operations, as they often have multiple employees sharing a vehicle. This allows for flexible parking arrangements without hindering customer access.
258 259	Concerns were raised by Mr. Claus regarding emergency vehicle access, particularly in the event of a fire. The Board recognized the importance of ensuring clear pathways for emergency response.
260 261 262	The meeting touched on fines incurred for non-compliance with zoning regulations, with the applicant expressing frustration over the financial burden. The Board explored potential avenues for relief, but determined that they did not have the authority to intervene in this matter.
263 264 265	The applicant provided context about their business, emphasizing the significance of proximity to the lake for their operations. They explained that finding suitable locations with access to the lake had been a primary consideration.
266 267 268	The conversation also touched on considerations beyond parking, including the storage of materials. The applicant expressed the desire to eventually have space for landscape materials on the site, though current limitations made this challenging.
269 270	The issue of emergency vehicle access was highlighted as a critical concern during the meeting. An innovative fire-suppression blanket was introduced, capable of containing fires in various scenarios,

271272	including electric vehicle incidents. The blanket, demonstrated to the attendees, garnered interest and was deemed a valuable safety tool.
273	A question was raised regarding the possibility of obtaining relief from fines to facilitate the gathering or
274	necessary information. The fines were stated to amount to \$275 per day per property, according to RSA
275	regulations. It was clarified that the Planning Board lacked authority to grant conditional relief in this
276	regard.
277	The applicant provided insights into their business background, sharing their experience as a former
278	contractor. They discussed the challenges posed by the proximity of their business to the lake and the
279	impact of heavy traffic on the area. The conversation delved into considerations beyond parking,
280	touching on aspects like material storage and servicing at 276 Newberry. It was noted that, while the
281	current focus was on cleaning supplies, there was a desire to eventually incorporate landscape materials
282	storage once space allowed.
283	During the meeting, there was a suggestion to temporarily alleviate parking issues by providing crew
284	leaders with vehicles to take home. The applicant clarified that it would be crew leaders, not
285	superintendents, who would benefit from this arrangement. Questions were raised about the noise
286	generated by the operations, with a focus on blade sharpening, which occurs once a week in the late
287	afternoon.
288	The applicant explained that the house on the property serves as a 24/7 emergency response station,
289	ensuring constant monitoring. They clarified that this person both resides in and monitors the property.
290	The Board inquired about the applicant's long-term plans for the properties, to which they expressed a
291	commitment to stay as long as they own the business.
292	Discussions also touched on snow removal procedures, with the applicant assuring that they have the
293	necessary equipment and sufficient space for snow storage on the flat site. Concerns were raised about
294	screening and the potential impact of tree removal on visibility. The Board suggested addressing this
295	issue in the context of the overall plan.
296	There was deliberation on whether to proceed with one or both properties, considering the fines and
297	the need for additional information. The possibility of seeking relief from the Select Board for fines was
298	discussed, with the suggestion that a letter from the Chair of the Planning Board might be beneficial.
299	The applicant offered to provide additional plans and information in for further consideration. The
300	Board emphasized the importance of having a comprehensive view of the entire business operation.
301	The board emphasized the importance of having a holistic understanding of the business plan and its
302	relation to both sides of the property.
303	It was suggested that a scaled plan, showing different phases, would provide a clearer perspective,
304	avoiding isolated considerations and the members agreed to continue both cases for the next meeting
305	of the Planning Board on October 12 th .

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306	Due to a miscommunication, it was noted that neither of the applicant and representative for the first
307	case of the meeting will be present on today's meeting. This case will also be continued at the next
308	meeting of the Planning Board on October 12 th .
309	The issue of setting deadlines for submissions was raised. The Board acknowledged that in some cases,
310	applicants might not have all the required information. However, there was a consensus that incomplete
311	applications shouldn't be accepted until they meet the established criteria. It was mentioned that only
312	the Planning Board has the authority to deem an application complete.
313	A broader question was raised regarding the consistency of accepting applications. The idea of
314	implementing a checklist for completeness was suggested by Mr. Butler to ensure that all necessary
315	elements are provided. The Board acknowledged that while there are minimum standards, there may be
316	cases where certain requirements, such as a perimeter boundary survey, are not applicable and should
317	be determined on a case-by-case basis.
318	The discussion also touched on the varying levels of regulation in different regions, with the Board
319	members sharing their experiences from different backgrounds. Ultimately, the Board acknowledged
320	the need for a balanced approach in assessing completeness, considering the unique circumstances of
321	each case.
322	Concerns were raised about whether everyone is being treated fairly on the Planning Board, particularly
323	in relation to homeowner businesses versus larger commercial ventures. The Board discussed the
324	intensity of land use and how it influences their decision-making process. There was also a mention of
325	the Zoning Board's rule about introducing new information no less than five days before a hearing,
326	which was seen as a good practice to prevent last-minute changes.
327	The idea of implementing a checklist for completeness was proposed, with the aim of ensuring that all
328	necessary elements are provided at the outset. The Board emphasized the need to be assertive in
329	accepting applications and avoiding wasted time.
330	The discussion then shifted towards specific cases where the Board required a traffic study as a
331	condition of zoning approval. It was noted that this condition needed to be met before the case could be
332	opened. There was also a suggestion to set clearer parameters for traffic studies to avoid potential
333	misunderstandings.
334	There was a debate about the benefits and drawbacks of having suggestive language in zoning
335	ordinances, with an emphasis on ensuring that the Board retains the authority to enforce necessary
336	standards.
337	The members deliberated on the flexibility afforded in areas like parking spaces and islands, as opposed
338	to the more standardized requirements for landscaping. There was a suggestion to incorporate language
339	in the regulations granting the planning board the authority to make determinations based on
340	submitted plans, providing them with more enforcement capabilities.

341 342 343 344	The conversation shifted towards drainage plans and the need for them, particularly in cases involving businesses and parking arrangements. The board acknowledged that in certain instances, cases had not yet been officially accepted, allowing for further consideration at the next meeting without the need for re-noticing.
345 346 347 348 349	The topic of right-to-know requests was also broached, with an emphasis on providing specific information that adheres to the request's criteria. It was noted that the focus of the request was on communications between board members, particularly regarding short-term rentals. The challenges posed by a high volume of right-to-know requests were discussed, and potential solutions, such as hiring additional staff, were mentioned.
350 351 352	During the discussion, the focus shifted to scheduling upcoming meetings. The conversation then turned towards a potential Master Plan meeting on October 14th. The location and timing of the meeting were also considered, with confirming availability on the 14 th .
353 354 355	Lastly, the meeting concluded with an agreement on review of the minutes of the meeting from June, July and August from the members. The conversation then turned towards a potential Master Plan meeting on October 14th.
356 357	Ultimately, it was agreed that the 14th would work well for everyone, and the meeting concluded with the agreement on the set date for the next meeting on October.
358	REVIEW MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING(S)
359	OTHER BUSINESS:
360	Chairman White made a motion to adjourn at 09:52 PM.
361	Seconded by Mr. Swick.
362	The motion passed unanimously.
363	Respectfully submitted: Rajmonda Selimi
364	Planning Board / A
365	John Sugare Hotting
366	Peter White Chairman Suzanne Gottling
367	The the
368	Gregory Swick Ann Bordeianu
369	- Warll Clah
370	Jeff Claus Randy Clark
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372	Joseph Butler Richard Osborne

