

ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

Chapter 16 – Site Plan Review

ORDINANCE AMENDMENT: Authorizing Site Plan Review of Power Generation Facilities, And Establishing Specific Bases for Waiving Landscaping and Buffering Standards

THE CITY OF ROCKLAND HEREBY ORDAINS THAT CHAPTER 16, Site Plan And Subdivision Review, ARTICLE II, Site Plan Review Ordinance, BE AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:

Sec. 16-201 Projects Reviewed; Effect on Action by Code Enforcement Officer and Board of Appeals

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Notice Required. All property owners within three hundred (300) feet of the lot lines of any proposed change of use under this section shall be notified in writing at least ten (10) days prior to consideration of the change of use by the Planning Board. When the use of the lot that is the subject of a site plan application is a grid-scale power generation facility and the lot abuts a town line, notice of the application shall be provided to the Selectmen and/or Manager of such adjacent town, whether or not such use constitutes a change of use. Submission deadlines shall be the same as for any Site Plan Review.

Sec. 16-201.1 Exceptions to Review Requirements

1. New Structures or additions or changes in use will not be reviewed under the Site Plan Review Ordinance if in any five year period the new structure or new addition or the structure within which a change of use is to be located is:

A. Under 600 square feet in gross floor area and does not exceed 20 feet in height, or

B. Located in the City of Rockland Industrial Park, except grid-scale and distributed power generation facilities.

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Sec. 16-203 Elements of the Site Plan

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18. Technical Review Fee. The Planning Board, in the review of any application, may refer said application presented to it to such engineer, traffic professional, environmental expert, financial expert, facilities safety expert, attorney or other professional that the Board shall deem reasonably necessary to enable it to review said application as required by law. Such review shall not be a substitution for any technical submissions as required by Ordinance or requested by the Board, but rather shall constitute a third party review of any of the applicant's submissions. The Board may waive such third party review if it is determined that the scale or nature of the project does not warrant it. Fees charged by such professionals shall be in accord with fees usually charged for such services in the region and pursuant to a contractual agreement between the City and such professional. All such charges shall be paid by the City through an escrow account established in accordance with Section (19) below.

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Sec. 16-204 Standards

A site plan shall be approved unless in the judgment of the Planning Board one or more of the following conditions are found to exist:

1. Traffic. The provisions for vehicular loading, unloading, and parking, and for vehicular and pedestrian circulation on the site and onto adjacent public and private streets and ways will create hazards to safety, or will impose a significant burden upon public facilities. There shall be a presumption that sidewalks are required. However, in those cases where the Planning Board makes a specific finding that, due to the inadequacy or lack of connecting sidewalks adjacent to the proposed project, together with circumstances within the proposed project which render the immediate construction of sidewalks inappropriate, the Planning Board may substitute one of the following conditions:

- A. It may require a reasonable payment from the applicant to be used to link the proposed project to the City's sidewalk system when the system reaches the proximity of the project.
- B. It may waive the requirement either partially or entirely.
- C. It may make reasonable provision for the construction by the developer of sidewalks serving the project, whether or not the sidewalks are actually within the project.

2. Compatibility with Other Uses; Burden on Public Facilities. The size and location of proposed building and structures and the proposed uses thereof will be detrimental or injurious to other private or public development in the neighborhood or will impose significant burdens upon public facilities.

3. Landscaping. The provisions of on-site landscaping and screening do not provide adequate protection to neighboring properties from detrimental features of the development. The Planning Board may modify or waive the landscaping, screening, and/or buffering requirements set forth in Ch. 19, Art. III, Sec. 19-316 – Performance Standards where the Board finds that part or all of the landscaping or buffering required thereunder either (A) is impracticable due to site constraints not caused by the proposed development other than its utilization of or compliance with setback requirements; (B) is unnecessary due to the compatibility of abutting existing or proposed uses; or (C) would impede or detract from the programmatic, aesthetic, or community benefit components of a proposed development of exceptional merit. Financial burden or capacity shall not alone justify a waiver of a landscaping, screening, or buffering requirement.

4. Drainage. The site-plan fails to solve the soil and drainage problems that the development will create.

Projects within the Chickawaukie lake watershed, as defined in Section 19-304-13, shall be required to improve existing man-made drainageways flowing directly or indirectly to Chickawaukie Lake which will receive storm water from the proposed development, if such storm water is calculated to increase in volume above existing conditions. The volume of sediment or dissolved nutrients reaching Chickawaukie Lake shall not be increased.

5. Lighting. The provisions of exterior lighting create a hazard for vehicular or pedestrian traffic or safety or will unreasonably diminish the value or create a hardship to the reasonable enjoyment of adjacent property.

6. Fire Hazard. The proposed development will create fire hazard.

7. Sewer; Water; Solid Waste. The proposed development will impose an undue burden on on-site and off-site sewer and water or solid waste disposal.

8. Compatibility With Area. The proposed use and layout will be of such size or character that it will not be consistent with the appropriate and orderly development of the surrounding area.

9. Signs. If a sign is part of the application, the Planning Board does not have jurisdiction over review of this element. Standards and procedures relating to signs or other advertising devices are contained in Chapter 19 of the Rockland Code, Section 19-315, Signs.

10. Compliance With Other Ordinances. The proposed use, building, design or layout will not meet the provisions of the Zoning Ordinance or other regulations and ordinances of the City of Rockland or statutes of the State of Maine.

11. Financial Capacity. The applicant has not demonstrated that it has sufficient financial capacity to fund and complete (1) any improvements directly affecting any disturbed right-of-way or utilities or other infrastructure therein.

12. Decommissioning. The Board may require that an applicant proposing to erect a

windmill or construct any other form of power generation equipment or facility submit a Decommissioning Plan for the Board's review and approval. For these purposes, "decommissioning" may include, at the Planning Board's discretion, the physical removal of all components of the project, including, as may be applicable, wind turbines, cabling, electrical equipment, structures, and associated facilities. The Board may accept a decommissioning plan that provides for decommissioning no later than five years following the cessation of power generation on the site so long as the operator is, during such five year period, actively seeking to achieve a repurposing of the site and facilities to be decommissioned. The decommissioning plan must include a detailed estimate of the costs of decommissioning, and a financial plan acceptable to the Board for funding such decommissioning costs. To the extent any structures or components are proposed to be omitted from the decommissioning, the plan shall provide evidence of alternative, beneficial use of such structures and components following the cessation of power generation on the site.

Sec. 16-205 Approval

1. Assignment. A successor to an applicant who has received site plan approval by the Planning Board pursuant to this Article, or other assignee of such approval, shall be bound by and must comply with the application, site plan and related materials, and representations of such applicant, and with all conditions of approval and other requirements imposed by or on behalf of the Planning Board, to the fullest extent permitted by law. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a site plan approval for a Grid-Scale Power Generation Facility may not be assigned without Planning Board approval, and shall be void in the absence thereof.

24. Completion Deadline. If an applicant has not obtained a Certificate of Occupancy from the code enforcement officer within two (2) years from the date on which the Planning Board granted its approval under Sec. 16-202.4, then the applicant shall be subject to a penalty under Sec. 16-207. The Planning Board may permit an extension of up to one (1) additional year to obtain a Certificate of Occupancy for good cause shown.

32. Violation. Failure to comply with the order of the Planning Board shall constitute a violation of this Article and shall be subject to Section 16-207.

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