Findings of Fact | Wetland Conditional Use Permit City of Portsmouth Planning Board

Date: April 20, 2023

Property Address: 86 New Castle Avenue

Application #: LU-23-20

Decision: ☐ Approve ☐ Deny ☐ Approve with Conditions

Findings of Fact:

Effective August 23, 2022, amended RSA 676:3, I now reads as follows: The local land use board shall issue a final written decision which either approves or disapproves an application for a local permit and make a copy of the decision available to the applicant. The decision shall include specific written findings of fact that support the decision. Failure of the board to make specific written findings of fact supporting a disapproval shall be grounds for automatic reversal and remand by the superior court upon appeal, in accordance with the time periods set forth in RSA 677:5 or RSA 677:15, unless the court determines that there are other factors warranting the disapproval. If the application is not approved, the board shall provide the applicant with written reasons for the disapproval. If the application is approved with conditions, the board shall include in the written decision a detailed description of the all conditions necessary to obtain final approval.

In order to grant Wetland Conditional Use permit approval the Planning Board shall find the application satisfies criteria set forth in the Section 10.1017.50 (Criteria for Approval) of the Zoning Ordinance.

	Zoning Ordinance Sector 10.1017.50 Criteria for Approval	Finding (Meets Criteria for Approval)	Supporting Information
1	The land is reasonably suited to the use activity or alteration.	Meets Does Not Meet	The overall project is an addition to the existing principal structure and new pervious pavers all within the wetland to The small size of the addition and the inclusion of the por pavers appears to be reasonable for the site.
2	2. There is no alternative location outside the wetland buffer that is feasible and reasonable for the proposed use, activity or alteration.	Meets Does Not Meet	The existing project is to expand the footprint of the interiliving space where a deck currently exists. Given they are utilizing an existing footprint the location is the best alternative of the interior o
3	3. There will be no adverse impact on the wetland functional values of the site or surrounding properties.	Meets Does Not Meet	The proposed project represents a small new impact of impervious surface, but the applicant is adding landscapin porous pavers to the site which will reduce any overall im The landscaping will include mulch and plantings – more details are necessary on the types of plantings.

	Zoning Ordinance Sector 10.1017.50 Criteria for Approval	Finding (Meets Criteria for Approval)	Supporting Information
4	4. Alteration of the natural vegetative state or managed woodland will occur only to the extent necessary to achieve construction goals.	Meets Does Not Meet	There is no impact to the woodland and the only natural vegetation will be removal of some lawn and landscaped which are fairly small and will be replaced by porous pavand new landscaping.
5	5. The proposal is the alternative with the least adverse impact to areas and environments under the jurisdiction of this section.	Meets Does Not Meet	Overall, the applicant has provided an alternative with a s impact to the wetland buffer.
6	6. Any area within the vegetated buffer strip will be returned to a natural state to the extent feasible.	Meets Does Not Meet	The proposal includes a plan with native landscaping and porous paver buffer.
7	Other Board Findings:		

48 Stevens Hill Road, Nottingham, NH 03290 603-734-4298 ♦ mark@westenv.net

Peter Britz
Environmental Planning Coordinator
City of Portsmouth Planning Department
1 Junkins Ave
Portsmouth NH 03801

March 29, 2023

RE: Wetland Conditional Use Permit for 86 New Castle Ave Portsmouth, NH SUBJ: Response to Conservation Commission Review Letter

Dear Peter:

Per our conversation today West Environmental, Inc. (WEI) delivered hard copy documents to address the requested information contained in the six stipulations for approval in the Conservation Commission Review Letter dated March 16, 2023.

These include the following:

A. A revised Proposed Conditions Plan prepared by Millennium Engineering, Inc. with a revision date of 3-27-23 that includes a new infiltration system design to address **Item 1** in the letter. This plan shows the location and details of the infiltration trench to accompany the addition.

- B. The applicant also agrees to wetland boundary markers, the organic lawn care requirements, **Items 2 and 3** in the letter.
- C. The above referenced site plan also shows the two additional new landscape areas totaling 290 square feet **Item 4** in the letter. We have included an aerial photo showing the existing and proposed landscaped areas. We have also included a native plant list of shrubs, herbs and flowers. The 290 SF of new landscaped areas will include a minimum of ten shrubs and eight flowers or herbs from the submitted list.
- D. The new details for the infiltration trench on the site plan includes instructions for maintenance and the owners have received the plans to address **Item 5**.
- E. The owner agrees to maintain the wetland as a wet meadow in its current condition to address Item 6.

This completes our report, and we hope that it meets your needs. Please call our office if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

West Environmental, Inc.

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Mark C. West,

NH Certified Wetland Scientist #10

Cc: Betty Tamposi Lafe Covill Preston Brown





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Landscaping Plant Species for 86 New Castle Road, Portsmouth 3-27-23

Below is a list of species to be planted in the temporary impact areas within the inland wetland buffer zone. Existing plants and shrubs should be salvaged prior to construction if possible.

Shrubs

Arrowwood Viburnum Swamp Azalea Highbush Blueberry Lowbush Blueberry Inkberry Large Cranberry Northern Bayberry Sweet Pepperbush Wild Raisin

Perennials and Annuals

Asters
Goldenrods
Lavender and other herbs
Anemone
Milkweed
Bachelors button
Lupine
Trillium
And many others

