

**City of Augusta, Maine**  
DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

AUGUSTA STATE AIRPORT  
CODE ENFORCEMENT  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



ENGINEERING  
FACILITIES & SYSTEMS  
PLANNING

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

**Maine Veterans' Homes  
Minor Development Application  
Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law**

Pursuant to the provisions of the City of Augusta Land Use Ordinance, the City of Augusta Planning Board has considered the application of Maine Veterans' Homes, including supportive data, staff review comments, public hearing testimony, and related materials contained in the record. The Planning Board makes the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law.

**Findings of Fact**

1. **Project Description:** Application to construct a 28,075 square foot office building and a parking lot.
2. **Owner:** Skowhegan Savings Bank
3. **Applicant:** Maine Veterans' Homes
4. **Location:** Civic Center Drive
5. **Zoning:** Planned Development (PD) District
6. **Tax Map Number:** Map 5, Lot 125
7. **Existing Land Use:** Undeveloped land
8. **Proposed Land Use:** Business and Professional Offices and Services;  
Pharmacy
9. **Acreage:** 28.5
10. On January 10, 2014 the applicant submitted the following:
  - a. Development Review Application Form
  - b. Narrative
  - c. Purchase and Sale Agreement
  - d. Plan set
11. On January 24, 2014, City staff mailed notices to the owners of properties located within 1000 feet of the property regarding the public hearing regarding the application.
12. On January 25, 2014 and February 1, 2014, the Kennebec Journal published legal advertisements for the public hearing regarding the application.
13. On January 31, 2014, the applicant submitted:
  - a. Revised site plans, survey, topographic plan
  - b. Photometric plan and lighting specifications sheets

14. On February 11, 2014, the Planning Board held a public hearing regarding the application. The Planning Board conducted a detailed review of the material listed in Items 10 and 13 above, the staff review dated February 5, 2014, and considered testimony by the applicant and interested members of the public. -- individuals testified at the public hearing and -- written communications regarding the application were received. The Board voted to **approve the application with conditions.**

## **Conclusions of Law**

In view of the above actions and the application and supporting documentation in the record, the Planning Board makes the following conclusions of law.

### **4.4.1 Criteria for Reviewing the Preapplication**

4.4.1.1 Pollution. The proposal will not result in undue water or air pollution.

4.4.1.2 Sufficient Water. In order to comply with this standard, further action is required by the applicant as specified in Condition of Approval 3.

4.4.1.3 Municipal water supply. In order to comply with this standard, further action is required by the applicant as specified in Condition of Approval 3.

4.4.1.4 Soil erosion. The proposal will not cause unreasonable soil erosion or a reduction in the land's capacity to hold water so that a dangerous or unhealthy condition results.

4.4.1.5 Highway or public road congestion. The proposal will not cause unreasonable public road congestion or unsafe conditions on public roads. The developer has made adequate provision for traffic movement of all types.

4.4.1.6 Sewage waste disposal. In order to comply with this standard, further action is required by the applicant as specified in Condition of Approval 4.

4.4.1.7 Municipal solid waste and sewage waste disposal. In order to comply with this standard, further action is required by the applicant as specified in Condition of Approval 4 and 5.

4.4.1.8 Aesthetic, cultural and natural values. The proposal will not have an undue adverse effect on aesthetic, cultural or natural values.

4.4.1.9 Conformity with city ordinances and plans. The proposal complies with the 2007 Comprehensive Plan. In order to comply with this standard in regards to the Land Use

Ordinance, further action is required by the applicant as specified in the Conditions of Approval 3, 4 and 5.

4.4.1.10 Financial capacity and technical ability. The applicant has adequate financial and technical ability to meet the terms of the ordinance.

4.4.1.11 Surface waters; outstanding river segments. The proposal is not located in the watershed of a pond or lake or within two hundred and fifty (250) feet of any wetland, great pond, or river as defined in Title 38, Chapter 3, subchapter I, Article 2-B.

4.4.1.12 Ground water. The proposal will not adversely affect the quality or quantity of ground water.

4.4.1.13 Flood areas. The proposal is not in a flood-prone area.

4.4.1.14 Freshwater wetlands. All freshwater wetlands on the subject parcel(s) have been identified on maps submitted.

4.4.1.15 River, stream or brook. Any rivers, streams, or brooks within or abutting the subject parcel(s) have been identified on maps submitted as part of the application.

4.4.1.16 Stormwater. The proposal will provide for adequate stormwater management.

4.4.1.17 Access to direct sunlight. The proposal will not block access to direct sunlight to any structures utilizing solar energy.

4.4.1.18 Title 38 M.R.S.A. Section 484, Chapters 371 and 373-377. The project is not regulated by the Site Location of Development Law. Not applicable.

4.4.1.19 Spaghetti lots. Spaghetti lots are not proposed. Not applicable.

4.4.1.20 Outdoor lighting. All outdoor lighting shall be of a design and construction that prevents light trespass beyond the boundaries of the parcel(s).

### **6.3.4 Site Plan Criteria Applicable for Conditional Uses**

#### **6.3.4.1 Neighborhood Compatibility**

a.

- i. The proposal is compatible with and sensitive to the character of the site and neighborhood relative to land uses.
- ii. The proposal is compatible with and sensitive to the character of the site and neighborhood relative to architectural design.

- iii. The proposal is compatible with and sensitive to the character of the site and neighborhood relative to scale, bulk, and building height.
- iv. The proposal is compatible with and sensitive to the character of the site and neighborhood relative to identity and historical character.
- v. The proposal is compatible with and sensitive to the character of the site and neighborhood relative to disposition and orientation of the buildings.
- vi. The proposal is compatible with and sensitive to the character of the site and neighborhood relative to visual integrity.
- b. The elements of the site plan are designed and arranged to maximize the opportunity for privacy by the residents of the immediate area.
- c. The proposal will maintain safe and healthful conditions in the neighborhood.
- d. The proposal will not have a significant detrimental effect on the value of adjacent properties.

6.3.4.2 Plans and Policies. The proposal is in accordance with the 2007 Comprehensive Plan.

#### 6.3.4.3 Traffic Pattern, Flow and Volume

- a. The proposal is designed so that the additional traffic generated does not have a significant negative impact on the surrounding neighborhood.
- b. Safe access will be assured by providing proper sight distance and minimum width curb cuts for safe entering and exiting.
- c. The proposal provides access for emergency vehicles and for persons attempting to render emergency services.
- d. The entrance and parking system provides for the smooth and convenient movement of vehicles both on and off the site. The proposal satisfies the parking capacity requirements of the city and provides adequate space suited to the loading and unloading of persons, materials, and goods.

#### 6.3.4.4 Public Facilities

- a. *Public water.* In order to comply with this standard, further action is required by the applicant as specified in Condition of Approval 3.
- b. *Public sewer.* In order to comply with this standard, further action is required by the applicant as specified in Condition of Approval 4.
- c. The electric and telephone utilities have adequate capacity for the project.
- d. The public stormwater system has adequate capacity for the project.

#### 6.3.4.5 Resource Protection and the Environment

- a. There are freshwater wetlands on the parcel.
- b. The proposal complies with local, state, and federal air quality standards.
- c. The proposal complies with local, state, and federal water quality standards.

- d. In order to comply with this standard in regard to sewage, further action is required by the applicant as specified in Condition of Approval 3. No industrial waste is proposed.
- e. The proposal is not in the shoreland zone.

#### 6.3.4.6 Performance Standards

- a. The proposal complies with all performance and dimensional standards.
- b. The proposed land use can be conducted so that noise generated shall not exceed the performance levels specified in the performance standards.
- c. The proposal does not involve intense glare or heat.
- d. The exterior lighting will be sufficiently obscured to prevent excessive glare on public streets and walkways or into any residential area.
- e. The landscaping screens parking areas, loading areas, trash containers, outside storage areas, blank walls or fences and other areas of low visual interest from roadways, residences, public open space and public view.
- f. All of the signs comply with the Land Use Ordinance.

#### 6.3.4.7 Financial and Technical Ability

- a. The applicant has adequate technical ability to meet the terms of the ordinance.
- b. The applicant has adequate financial ability to meet the terms of the ordinance.

THEREFORE, the Planning Board hereby approves, with the following conditions, the application of Maine Veterans' Homes to construct a 28,075 square foot office building and a parking lot as described in the findings above.

### **Conditions of Approval**

The following conditions shall be met prior to the Signature of Approval on the Site Plan. No site or building permit shall be issued until these conditions are met. These conditions shall be met within one year of the signing of these Findings of Fact and Conditions of Approval by the Chair of the Planning Board. If these conditions are not met within one year, the applicant must come before the Planning Board for review of the conditions:

1. Submit a deed or easement that demonstrates that Skowhegan Savings Bank has retained the right to access the retained land from Maine Veterans' Homes' proposed access road.
2. Submit a revised Boundary Survey which shows the right of way from the proposed access road to the 1.01 acre parcel that will be retained by Skowhegan Savings Bank.

3. Submit a letter from the Greater Augusta Utility District which indicates there is adequate capacity in the public water system to supply water to the facility.
4. Submit a letter from the Greater Augusta Utility District which indicates there is adequate capacity in the public sewer to accept the wastewater from the facility.
5. Submit a letter from the Augusta Public Works Director that indicates that there is sufficient capacity at Hatch Hill for the solid waste.

This Conditional Approval shall expire within eighteen (18) months of the date of approval by the Planning Board, if a permit from the Bureau of Code Enforcement for the site and building work is not issued by that date.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Corey A. Vose, Planning Board Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date