

City of Augusta, Maine
DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

AUGUSTA STATE AIRPORT
CODE ENFORCEMENT
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



ENGINEERING
FACILITIES & SYSTEMS
PLANNING

IN THE MATTER OF:

**Connected Credit Union
Major 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 Connected Credit Union, 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:** To construct a credit union with a drive-through.
2. **Applicant:** Connected Credit Union
3. **Location:** Northeast corner of Civic Center Drive and Gaywalk Street
4. **Zoning:** Civic Center District (CD)
5. **Tax Map Number:** Map 5, Lot 53B
6. **Existing Land Use:** Vacant land
7. **Proposed Land Use:** Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate Services
8. **Acreage:** 1.86 acres
9. On June 12, 2015 the applicant submitted the following:
 - a. Development Review Application Form
 - b. Narrative
 - c. Purchase and Sale Agreement
 - d. Agent authorization letter
 - e. Site Plan
10. On June 18, 2015 the applicant submitted the following:
 - a. Stormwater report
11. On July 7, 2015 the applicant submitted the following:
 - a. Traffic impact study
12. On July 25, 2015 and August 1, 2015, the Kennebec Journal published legal advertisements for the public hearing regarding the application.
13. On July 24, 2015, City staff mailed notices to the owners of properties located within 500 feet of the property regarding the public hearing regarding the application.

14. On August 11, 2015, the Planning Board held a public hearing regarding the application. The Planning Board conducted a detailed review of the material listed in Items 9, 10, and 11 above, the staff review dated August 5, 2015, 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**.

15. Since there is no sidewalk along this section of Civic Center Drive, and since there is a fair amount of pedestrian and bicycle traffic in the area due, at least in part, to the proximity of the entrance to the University of Maine/ Augusta Campus, the shoulders of Civic Center Drive should not be used by vehicles.

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. There is sufficient water available to meet the needs of the proposal.

4.4.1.3 Municipal water supply. The proposal will not cause an unreasonable burden on the municipal water supply.

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. In order to comply with this standard, further action is required by the applicant as specified in Condition of Approval 1.

4.4.1.6 Sewage waste disposal. The proposal will provide adequate sewage waste disposal.

4.4.1.7 Municipal solid waste and sewage waste disposal. The proposal will not cause an unreasonable burden on the municipality's ability to dispose of solid waste and sewage.

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 1.

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. In order to comply with this standard, further action is required by the applicant as specified in Condition of Approval 2 and 3.

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 Act. Not applicable.

4.4.1.19 Spaghetti lots. A subdivision is 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. *Additional Traffic.* In order to comply with this standard, further action is required by the applicant as specified in Condition of Approval 1.
- 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. The public water utility has adequate capacity for the project.
- b. The public sewer utility has adequate capacity for the project.
- 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 no known sensitive areas.

- 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. Sewage and industrial wastes will be treated and disposed of in such a manner as to comply with local, state and federal standards.
- 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 Connected Credit Union to construct a credit union with a drive-through as described in the findings above.

Conditions of Approval

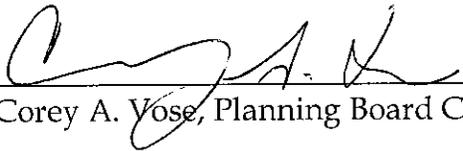
The following conditions shall be met prior to the Signature of Approval on the Site Plan. No site or building permit shall be issued until these conditions are met. These conditions shall be met within one year of the signing of these Findings of Fact and Conditions of Approval by the Chair of the Planning 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 proposal, which is acceptable to the City Engineer, to do one of the following:
 - a. Submit drawing(s) for a bi-directional, center left turn lane on Civic Center Drive. A minimum of 6 foot wide shoulders shall be maintained through the widened section of highway. The proposed site drive shall be

shifted north so that the center island of the new site drive is perpendicular to the University Drive island.

- b. Modify the site plan to show a right in, right out only at the proposed site drive off Civic Center Drive.
 - c. Modify the site plan to eliminate the entrance/exit off Civic Center Drive and to create a separated entrance/exit off Gaywalk Street.
2. Submit a detailed drawing of the pipe which will pass beneath the Gaywalk Street entrance. The drawing shall show how the culvert will interface with existing drainage pipes at the inlet and outlet ends. The drawing shall be acceptable to the City Engineer.
 3. Submit information regarding the culvert at the Civic Center Drive entrance, including its slope and the pipe size. The proposal shall be acceptable to the City Engineer.
 4. The letter that has been requested from the Maine Historical Preservation Committee must be received.

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. Yose, Planning Board Chair

9-1-15

Date