

Machias Planning Board
Wednesday, May 7, 2025
Machias Tele-Business Building

Present: Chairman Harry Flower, planning board members Arthur McCurdy and Andrew Mulholland, Town Manager Sarah Craighead Dedmon, Machias Code Enforcement Officer Betsy Fitzgerald, and Recording Secretary Sharon Mack.

Harry Flower called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. Motion by Andrew Mulholland, second by Arthur McCurdy. Unanimous vote.

The minutes for the April 2 meeting were accepted as presented. Motion by Andrew Mulholland, second by Arthur McCurdy. Unanimous vote.

Building Permit Requests:

1. Steve Davis (not present) M001 L062A, expansion to existing building. The application lacked a site plan and setbacks. The permit was tabled until the June meeting on a motion by Arthur McCurdy, second by Andrew Mulholland, unanimous approved.
2. Robin Pinto (attended) Maps, 6,7,11, construction of an entertainment stage at Middle River Park. On a motion by Arthur McCurdy, second by Andrew Mulholland, unanimously approved.
3. Machias School System (Nicole Case attended), M013 L014, construction of a walk-in freezer on a concrete slab attached to Machias Memorial High School. On a motion by Arthur McCurdy, second by Andrew Mulholland, unanimously approved.
4. Sunrise Eye Care (contractor attended), M015 L088, construction of a 10' x 40' addition and creation of a second floor suite of offices. Project would include new parking area paving and creation of a safer parking lot entrance. On a motion by Arthur McCurdy, second by Andrew Mulholland, unanimously approved.
5. Ivy Bagoy, (attended), M009 L025, installation of a 10' x 17' storage shed on Harwood Street. On a motion by Arthur McCurdy, second by Andrew Mulholland, unanimously approved.

6. Stacy Wade (attended), M005 L042-1, family residence. After double checking that local stream protection ordinances are met by a 75' setback, the permit was unanimously approved on a motion by Andrew Mulholland, second by Arthur McCurdy.

Review of Ordinances: A discussion regarding creation of a solar farm ordinance was held. Machias' existing solar moratorium may need to be extended beyond October to provide the Board enough time to craft the ordinance. Questions regarding local control that need to be discussed included taxation issues, use of pesticides, size limits. Sarah Dedmon suggested the Board dedicate an entire meeting to the solar and wind ordinances and the Machiasport ordinance could be a starting point. Sarah Dedmon will also check with the Maine Municipal Association for sample ordinances. Andrew Mulholland and Sarah Dedmon agreed to work on a framework for the Machias ordinance.

Potential lack of Quorum: Flower said he will be away for the June meeting and with the possible absence of planning board member James Jackson due to health issues, there may be a lack of quorum. It was suggested that CEO Betsy Fitzgerald could be deputized if necessary.

On a motion by Arthur McCurdy, second by Andrew Mulholland, the meeting was adjourned at 6:59 p.m.