

HEARING PANEL

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 29, 2005

PUBLIC HEARING

Present: Dr. Isadore Ramos, Jacob Harpootian, and Jeanne Boyle.

1. Approval of Minutes of September 6, 2005

On a motion by Mr. Harpootian, seconded by Dr. Ramos, the minutes of September 6, 2005 were unanimously approved and made part of the Hearing Panel's official record.

2. Public Hearing – Application of Wood Precision to seek approval to establish a storage silo to contain scrap wood generated by the existing custom woodworking facility located at 10 New Road, Map 301, Block 4, Parcel 8. Wood Precision is also seeking a conditional use permit to establish the open storage.

Dr. Ramos explained that the request by the applicant requires a public hearing and action by the Hearing Panel of the Waterfront Commission. The first presentation will be done by Wood Precision. After that the Hearing Panel will ask questions and after that the public will ask their questions.

At this time, Wood Precision made their presentation and explained the process of wood burning. Mr. Steven Kruppa, of Wood Precision, and Charlie Cary, from Bio Mass Combustion Systems were present. Mr. Cary states he is the manufacturer and supplier of the equipment that will be used. He explained it is a wood fire furnace system that they have had for the last 20 years. He said it is often used as a hand fired application which we have much less control over the combustion that what we are going to have in this case. It will be an automatically fed system using wood residue from the plant which will be blown into a silo and then fed out of the silo through a rotary air lock and into the back of the furnace. He noted they have these in downtown New York City and have a lot of experience with them. It will not emit any smoke at all.

Mr. Harpootian states that he was at the Design Review meeting where Wood Precision presented and is familiar with the operation. He asked what Monarch Industries manufacturers. They stated they make custom wood fixtures and architectural millwork. Our most well known customer is Duncan Donuts and built about 60 percent of them across the country.

Mr. Harpootian asked how often they would burn. Mr. Cary said they will burn continuously on a daily basis.

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Dr. Ramos asked about the noise impact. They said there incentive is not to have any noise because that would be an impact on the augers. The other noise would be a fan which they are currently using to blow the chips into the back of a van. That will be closed looping it around and blowing into the silo. That fan will make less noise because the loop will be closed.

Mr. Harpootian asked what happens to the ash after the wood chips are burned? Mr. Cary said the chips will be hauled to the landfill.

Dr. Ramos asked if all the requirements of the Fire Department have been met? Mr. Kruppa answered yes. The material burned will be a by-product from the wood factory. Dr. Ramos stated that if they propose any additional work, then they would have to come back before the Design Review Committee and the Hearing Panel.

At this time Dr. Ramos thanked the applicant.

At this time, Director Boyle asks that the Hearing Panel enter into the record the recommendation of the Design Review Committee to the Hearing Panel.

The Hearing Panels recommendation to the full Commission is based upon approval of the following conditions:

1. That all requirements of the Fire Department be met;
2. That the materials burned in the stove be limited to the by-products of the wood working facility;
3. That the application return to the Hearing Panel and Design Review Committee if additional outside storage is proposed; and
4. That the operation is in conformance with the information submitted in the application to the Waterfront Commission.

Motion

On a motion by Mr. Harpootian, seconded by Dr. Ramos, based upon the submitted application testimony presented to the Hearing Panel and to the Design Review Committee report, the Hearing Panel hereby finds that the proposal is consistent with the goals and objectives of the East Providence Waterfront Special Development District Plan. The Panel further finds that the proposed conditional use is in accordance with the condition established in Article 9, Section 6 of the Waterfront Special Development District Zoning deviations and conditional use provisions.

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3. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne M. Boyle
Interim Executive Director

JMB/SAC