

Public hearing for the Lost Kitchen's change of use proposal for three cabins

Meeting started at 7:00 PM

Present: Prentice Grassi, Mary Ann Bennett, Palmer Pearson, Peter Abello, and Frances Walker. Code Enforcement Officer Jackie Robbins, Erin French Michael Dutton, and some community members and were also present.

The meeting was called to order. Erin and Michael gave a description of use for the three cabins. While they had originally been intended to give a Covid-safe option for dining during the worst of the pandemic, that use is no longer needed. Many clients have expressed an interest in overnight accommodations that would be closer to the Lost Kitchen restaurant. To that end they would like to change the use from dining to overnight lodging. The three cabins are insulated and while each cabin has electricity, there is no plumbing. There is a bathroom that is in the main building that would be left open for the lodgers to use. There is also an outdoor sink that will also be utilized. There is an outhouse that might potentially also be used. Jackie was questioned about any environmental concerns with the project and she assured the group that the project was within state guidelines. They also said that they would like to leave the option open for future use as dining pods should the need arise since they had already been approved for that use. They assured the board that the cabins would only be used for either dining or lodging but never both uses at the same time. They also pointed out that although the original permit had been for six cabins, they stopped at three because of expense and have no plans to build any more. The cabins will be offered to clients as they come to the restaurant and will be utilized on a first come first serve basis. They will assess the clients' willingness to experience the non-traditional experience before they are assigned a cabin. There will be only two occupants per cabin and each cabin will have a queen bed, wood stove and electric heat option though they plan to use the cabins mostly in the warmer months. A question was asked about the woodstove use if lodgers might be unfamiliar with their use. Erin and Michael said staff would be responsible for the woodstove and it would be used mostly for ambiance rather than warmth. One neighbor to the project wondered about the possibility of excessive noise with overnight guests. He was assured that he could call Michael if it was a problem and he would come immediately to deal with it. The neighbor was also assured if noise became a chronic problem they would stop offering the overnight accommodations. They said they wanted to work with the Freedom community and wanted to preserve our small town environment.

Prentice made a motion to approve the Lost Kitchen application to permit overnight use for three cabins for overnight use for up to six nights per week Palmer seconded the motion and the vote approved unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:49