



MEMORANDUM

To: Village of New Hempstead Planning Board

From: Jonathan T. Lockman, AICP

Re: Hamaspik Choice Building Addition Amended Site Plan
775 North Main Street, New Hempstead
SBL# 42.18-2-24

Date: March 21, 2025

cc: Amanda Bettello, Deputy Village Clerk
Bruce Minsky, Esq., Planning Board Attorney
Glenn McCreedy, PE, Planning Board Engineer
Ira Emanuel, Esq., for the Applicant
John Atzl, LS, for the Applicant

Received and reviewed for this memorandum:

- Letter from AN&Z Engineers to Planning Board, with responses to agency and consultant comments, dated February 25, 2025.
- Environmental Assessment Form (EAF) Part III, by Atzl, Nasher & Zigler, dated February 25, 2025.
- Full SWPPP Report, signed by Ryan A Nasher, P.E., Atzl, Nasher & Zigler, dated April 12, 2024, with latest revision date of February 25, 2025.
- Drainage Maps-Existing and Developed Conditions, stamped by Ryan Nasher, PE, and John Atzl, PLS, dated October 31, 2022, with latest revision date of February 25, 2025.
- Sewer Analysis Report, stamped by Vahid Rostami, PhD, P.E., dated August 13, 2024, with latest revision date of February 20, 2025.
- Response to LaBella Associates Comments, from Harry Baker Associates, dated November 19, 2024.
- Traffic Impact and Parking Study, by Harry Baker & Associates, dated November 27, 2023, with revision dates of November 19, 2024, and December 24, 2024 (same as submitted previously).
- Site Plan, 11 sheets, for Hamaspik Choice (F/K/A Illinois Properties 26 LLC), stamped by Ryan Nasher, PE, and John Atzl, PLS, dated October 31, 2022, with latest revision date of February 25, 2025:
 - 1 – Site Plan
 - 2 – Existing Condition
 - 3 – Aerial Neighborhood Plan
 - 4 – Grading Plan
 - 5 – Drainage Details – 1
 - 6 – Drainage Details - 2
 - 7 – Erosion & Sediment Control Plan
 - 8 - Lighting Plan

- 9 – Fire Trucks Radius Plan
- 10 – Tree Removal Plan
- L-701 – Planting Plan (by Yost Design, dated June 24, 2024, revised September 11, 2024 -

Project Summary

The subject application is for a two-story addition to the rear of the existing two-story office building located at 775 North Main Street. The 2.96-net acre (126,840 square foot) lot currently contains a 26,885 square foot building and a parking lot with 113 spaces. The Applicant is proposing a two-story 18,554 square foot addition on the rear of the building. The Applicant proposes to increase the physical parking spaces provided at the site from 113 to 135. The project site is located in an NCD Neighborhood Commercial district, approved in October 2023.

Submission Comments:

1. Traffic Impact Study. The applicant submitted a Traffic Impact Study by Harry Baker Associates, dated November 27, 2023. It was reviewed by the Planning Board’s traffic engineering consultant, Frank Filiciotto, PE, LaBella Associates, in a letter dated October 9, 2024. Mr. Baker amended the Traffic Impact Study on November 19, 2024, and December 24, 2024, based on Mr. Filiciotto’s comments. In a final review letter dated January 7, 2024, Mr. Filiciotto stated that “LaBella finds that the applicant has adequately addressed the traffic and parking impact-related comments; no additional analysis is necessary.” M. Filiciotto also stated that “There is a discrepancy between the sight distance values presented on the Site Plan and those in the TIS. This discrepancy should be resolved, and the site plan should be updated with the correct intersection sight distance triangles as well as the stopping sight distance values for both directions of travel on NYS Route 45.” **We note that the sight distance values have been updated on the newest plans, and that all the traffic consultant’s comments and concerns have been addressed.**

Zoning Comments:

2. Comments 2 our previous memorandum dated December 26, 2024, has been resolved.
3. NCD Use Regulations – Maximum Building Size. Buildings in the NCD are subject to the standards found in §290-36.1. We note that §290-36.1.C.(1) states that “no building may exceed 20,000 square feet.” The proposed building will exceed this maximum size by over 100%. **A ZBA variance for exceeding the maximum building size of 20,000 square feet will be required**, and per comment 3 of our previous memorandum, this has been noted below the Bulk Requirements Table on sheet 1 of the site plan set.
4. Floor Area Ratio (FAR). The applicant has indicated that **a FAR variance will be needed, as a FAR of 0.36 is proposed**, when a maximum of 0.30 is required. Per comment 4 of our previous memorandum, this is now noted on the bulk requirements table on site plan sheet 1.
5. **Variances will also be required for a side setback of 29.5 and total side setback of 92.6 feet** which are below the minimum requirements. This is because the proposed building addition is extending the existing building, which is currently out of conformance with required side setbacks.

6. ZBA Variance Needed for Reduction in Required Spaces. See §290-62.B.(1). Per comment 6 of our previous memorandum, the need for a ZBA parking variance is now noted in the parking calculations table on the revised site plan sheet. One hundred eighty-two parking spaces are required for this 45,439 square foot building. ($45,439/250 \text{ sf} = 182$). Only 135 are provided. A ZBA variance will be needed for this 25.8% reduction of 47 parking spaces. **The Traffic Impact Study by Harry Baker that has been submitted finds that the 135 spaces proposed for the project will be adequate, and the Planning Board's traffic engineering consultant, Mr. Filiciotto agrees. See comment 1 above.**

Planning Comments:

7. A wetland area is located at the western end of the site. Chapter 159 of the Village Code regulates any wetlands over $1/10^{\text{th}}$ of an acre (or 4,356 square feet). In response to comment 7 of our previous memorandum, the applicant has submitted a letter from Peter Torgersen indicating that the wetland is only 1990 square feet in area, and therefore, this subject wetland is NOT regulated under Chapter 159 of the Village of New Hempstead Code and a 100' buffer is NOT required by §159-5. However, **with the adoption of new NYSDEC Wetlands Regulations on January 1, 2025, wetlands of any size within New Hempstead, which is designated as an Urbanized Area by the ZUS Census, must be reviewed by the Department. This small wetland has been submitted to DEC for review, to see if it finds this wetland significant enough to take jurisdiction. At the time of this writing, the Department has not responded.**

SEQRA/GML Comments:

8. On or about August 6, 2024, the Planning Board notified its intent to serve as lead agency in a coordinated review of this "unlisted" action under SEQR. An SEAF part two form was adopted by the Planning Board on February 4, 2025.
9. As the site is located along Route 45, and the Village of New Square is located across the street, Rockland County Planning Department GML review was required. A GML Review Letter was issued on July 31, 2024, with the following substantive modifications required:
 - a. A new layout should be proposed that reduces the development within the 100-foot wetland buffer to the greatest extent possible. (GML comment 8)
 - b. Reconduct wetlands delineation. (GML comment 9)
 - c. Show snow removal/storage areas (GML comment 10)

It appears that subsequent submissions have addressed GML comments 8, 9, and 10. **It appears that no GML overrides will be needed. In his review memorandum of the GML letter findings, dated August 2, 2024, the applicant's attorney Mr. Emanuel did not request any overrides.**

10. Now that **the Planning Board's traffic engineer is satisfied with the Traffic Impact Study as revised, the Planning Board may be ready to consider adopting a SEQRA negative declaration.** A draft negative declaration is attached to this memorandum for the Planning Board's review. Once a negative declaration is issued, this would allow the applicant to apply for variances to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Items Previously Reviewed

Items Reviewed for our previous memorandum, dated December 26, 2024:

- Supplemental Narrative Summary, for Hamaspik Choice Amended Site Plan, signed by Ira M. Emanuel Esq., dated September 13, 2024 (same as previously submitted, reviewed on November 14, 2024, memorandum).
- Short Environmental Assessment Form Part I, with Environmental Mapper Summary, signed by John Atzl, PLS dated July 27, 2023, revised September 23, 2024 (same as previously submitted, reviewed on November 14, 2024, memorandum).
- Letter from Peter D. Torgersen to John Atzl, re: Hamaspik Choice, re: wetlands, dated August 15, 2024 (same as previously submitted, reviewed on November 14, 2024, memorandum).
- Drainage Maps – Existing & Developed Condition, 1 Sheet, labeled “E-1 & D-1,” stamped by Ryan Nasher, PE, and John Atzl, PLS, dated October 31, 2022, with latest revision date of December 17, 2024.
- Letter from AN&Z Engineers to Planning Board, with responses to agency and consultant comments, dated December 3, 2024.
- Full SWPPP Report, signed by Ryan A Nasher, P.E., Atzl, Nasher & Zigler, dated April 12, 2024, with latest revision date of December 17, 2024.
- Sewer Analysis Report, stamped by Vahid Rostami, PhD, P.E., dated August 13, 2024.
- Response to LaBella Associates Comments, from Harry Baker Associates, dated November 19, 2024.
- Traffic Impact and Parking Study, by Harry Baker & Associates, dated November 27, 2023, with revision dates of November 19, 2024, and December 24, 2024.
- Site Plan, 11 sheets, for Hamaspik Choice (F/K/A Illinois Properties 26 LLC), stamped by Ryan Nasher, PE, and John Atzl, PLS, dated October 31, 2022, with latest revision date of December 17, 2024:
 - 1 – Site Plan
 - 2 – Existing Condition
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 - 4 – Grading Plan
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 - 6 – Drainage Details - 2
 - 7 – Erosion & Sediment Control Plan
 - 8 - Lighting Plan
 - 9 – Fire Trucks Radius Plan
 - 10 – Tree Removal Plan
 - L-701 – Planting Plan (by Yost Design, dated June 24, 2024, revised December 16, 2024)

Items Reviewed for our previous memorandum, dated November 14, 2024:

- Supplemental Narrative Summary, for Hamaspik Choice Amended Site Plan, signed by Ira M. Emanuel Esq., dated September 13, 2024.
- Short Environmental Assessment Form Part I, with Environmental Mapper Summary, signed by John Atzl, PLS dated July 27, 2023, revised September 23, 2024.
- Letter from Peter D. Torgersen to John Atzl, re: Hamaspik Choice, re: wetlands, dated August 15, 2024.

- Letter from AN&Z Engineers to Planning Board, with responses to agency and consultant comments, dated September 23, 2024.
- Letter, stamped by Ryan Nasher, PE, AN&Z Engineers, to Glenn McCreedy, updating SWPPP, dated September 23, 2024.
- Site Plan, 10 sheets, for Hamaspik Choice (F/K/A Illinois Properties 26 LLC), stamped by Ryan Nasher, PE, and John Atzl, PLS, dated October 31, 2022, with latest revision date of September 23, 2024:
 - 1 – Site Plan
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 - L-701 – Planting Plan (by Yost Design, dated June 24, 2024, revised September 11, 2024)
- Traffic Impact and Parking Study, by Harry Baker & Associates, dated November 27, 2023.
- Letter from Frank Filiciotto, PE, LaBella, to Village, re: Traffic Impact and Parking Study Review #1, Illinois Properties 26 LLC, dated October 9, 2024.
- GML Review Letter, Rockland County Department of Planning, dated July 31, 2024.
- Response to GML Letter, from Ira Emanuel Esq to Planning Board, dated August 2, 2024.

Items Reviewed for our previous memorandum, dated July 24, 2024:

- Narrative Summary, for Hamaspik Choice, signed by Ira M. Emanuel Esq., dated June 28, 2024.
- Application Forms package, for Site Development Plan Approval, for Hamaspik/Illinois Properties 26 LLC, signed by Hillel Kahan, April 27, 2023.
- Short Environmental Assessment Form Part I, with Environmental Mapper Summary, signed by John Atzl, PLS dated July 27, 2023.
- Site Plan, 10 sheets, for Illinois Properties 26 LLC, stamped by Ryan Nasher, PE, and John Atzl, PLS, dated October 31, 2022, with latest revision date of April 12, 2024.
 - 1 – Site Plan
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 - L-701 – Planting Plan (by Yost Design, dated June 24, 2024)
- Drainage Maps – Existing and Developed Condition, Sheet E-1/D-1, for Illinois Properties 26 LLC, dated October 31, 2022, with latest revision date of April 12, 2024.
- Full Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) Report, prepared by Ryan Nasher, PE, dated April 12, 2024