

Technical Review Group (TRG)
Tuesday, August 31, 2021
Town Council Chambers
NOTES OF MEETING

Mill Plaza Food Truck

TRG members present:

Michael Behrendt, Town Planner
Audrey Cline, Building Official
Brendan O'Sullivan, Fire Marshal
April Talon, Town Engineer

Applicants present:

Ryan Ash
Nathaniel Wilson

Ryan Ash introduced the project. They have a 14' x 7' food trailer. They are flexible where on the site they place it. Dan Sheehan, property manager at Mill Plaza, will draft a lease for them. It will be month to month.

They could push the starting time back from 7:30 pm to 8:30 or 9:00 pm. Dan Sheehan wants them to be open after the adjacent businesses are closed. Dominos is the only business open late. Hannaford closes at 9:00 pm.

They are fully insured. They had their food truck at Laconia for bike week. They plan to be at Tendercrop in Dover during the day. They will serve Italian sausages, burgers, French fries, macaroni and cheese, and pulled pork.

Audrey asked about trash and where people will eat. Ryan said their materials is logoed so you can see if trash if from their operation. They have a fast turnover. They anticipate some lines. People will go off to eat, eating while they walk or going back to their dormitories. They will have six or seven trash barrels around. They don't want people eating there but rather getting the food and leaving. There will be some trial and error. C-lot (the UNH parking on the opposite side of Mill Road) may be a place where people eat. They will walk around at the end of the shift and pick up trash. Ryan said they do not know yet if people could use the picnic tables at The Works but they expect people will leave with their food. They could post signs at the tables there if that would be helpful. Their customers will probably be people walking home from the bars, Scorpios and Libby's.

They talked to Paul Dean, UNH Police Chief. He said this would definitely increase foot traffic. They did approach UNH about placing a food truck on campus but UNH allows only one or two food trucks and said they should look at a site in town. Michael asked if they

looked at the space on the site between the two buildings. He said he didn't know if this would be better or not but it would be another possibility. Audrey said that might generate more noise toward Faculty Road with the funnel effect of the two buildings. Ryan said they have a generator but the sound is muffled.

People discussed what other businesses serving food might be open late. It was mentioned that Campus Convenience probably doesn't serve food anymore.

Brendan said using the fire land at night would probably be okay as long as the fire connection is kept open. There is a secondary fire access into Mill Plaza from Mill Road that must be kept open. There was discussion about using a few parking spaces in front of The Works or Hannaford closes to the building or in the median between parking spaces instead of being right up to the building. Brendan said the food truck should not be near Mill Road nor the sidewalk on Mill Road.

Ryan said that he and Nathaniel will always be there. There will always be at least two people if not three with a cashier.

Michael asked if people might eat in the pocket park next to Pauly's. April said people eat quickly. They are probably heading home. Some might sit on the curb and eat. Brendan mentioned that Franz used to have a food truck in C lot.

They said they would either empty the barrels into the dumpster in Mill Plaza or take the plastic bags home with them. Both Ryan and Nathaniel live in Dover.

Ryan said they have gray water for waste and fresh water tanks. They have a grease trap but he said a lot of grease doesn't build up. They take the grease to recycle in Dover at the dump. They use a generator for electricity.

Ryan said they don't need approval from NHDES. Audrey said they probably don't need a bathroom for a limited number of hours but the employees should have a place to go. Ryan said they could go to the Irving Station but it was noted that the station closes at 11:00 pm. Michael said it would be around a 20 minute walk there and back. Nathaniel said they bring the food trailer behind a truck. They could disconnect the hitch on the truck and take the truck if needed.

They said last call at the bars is usually 1:00 a.m. They would likely arrive after 8:00 pm and be open by 9:00 pm. They would start cleaning up around 1:30 am and be gone by 2:00 am.

Brendan checks for hood suppression one time. They probably need a food license from the state.

Michael said it might make sense to try this on a trial basis because it is difficult to know up front whether it will be problematic. He said the key issues seem to be noise and trash. He asked if they were receptive to a possible approval on a trial basis. Ryan said that makes

sense. He said this is why Dan Sheehan is making the lease month to month. Ryan said if there has to be a trial that would be okay but he would want to recoup their costs. Michael asked how many weekends they would need to be open to recoup their costs. Ryan said at least three weekends.

Audrey asked if they would be open in the winter. Nathaniel said if it was mild they could continue through November. They would then reopen in March or April.

Michael asked if they had looked at other sites as well. Ryan said they had not looked at other sites. Michael said it is possible that the Planning Board would want a site walk or more time to deliberate, which would take them probably to September 22.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Behrendt, Durham Town Planner/TRG Chair