

CITY OF ESSEX JUNCTION DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA

Online & 6 Lincoln St. Kolvoord Room at Brownell Library Essex Junction, VT 05452 Thursday, July 17th, 2025 6:30 PM

E-mail: mgiguere@essexjunction.org

www.essexjunction.org

Phone: 802-878-6944, ext. 1625

This meeting will be held in-person at 6 Lincoln Street in the Kolvoord Room at Brownell Library and remotely. Available options to watch or join the meeting:

- WATCH: The meeting will be live-streamed on Town Meeting TV.
- JOIN ZOOM MEETING: <u>Click here to join the meeting</u> or visit essexjunction.org for meeting connection information
- JOIN CALLING: Join via conference call (*audio only*): 1(888) 788-0099 (toll free) Conference ID: 839 2599 0985 Passcode: 940993
- **PROVIDE FULL NAME:** For minutes, please provide your full name whenever prompted.
- **MUTE YOUR MIC:** When not speaking, please mute your microphone on your computer/phone.
- I. Additions or Amendments to Agenda
- II. Public to be Heard
- III. Minutes for Approval
 - a. June 9th, 2025

IV. Public Hearing

- a. Site plan and conditional use review for the addition of a temporary training center at the Champlain Valley Expo at 105 Pearl Street by the Essex Junction Fire Department.
- b. Design review for the construction of a new single-family home at 40 Maple Street by Ron Bushey, owner.
- V. Other Development Review Board Items

VI. Adjournment

Members of the public are encouraged to speak during the Public-To-Be-Heard agenda item, during a Public Hearing, or, when recognized by the Chair, during consideration of a specific agenda item. Public comments are limited to a three minute rule unless waived by the Development Review Board Chair.

This meeting will be held in the Kolvoord Room of the Brownell Library at 6 Lincoln Street, Essex Junction, VT, 05452, and on Zoom at the link above. Reasonable accommodation will be provided upon request to the City to assure that City meetings are accessible to all individuals regardless of disability.

Plan documents will be available at <u>www.essexjunction.org/DRB</u> five days prior to the meeting. For more information, please contact the Community Development Department from 8 am – 4:30 pm at 802-878-6944.

CITY OF ESSEX JUNCTION DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD MINUTES OF MEETING JUNE 9, 2025 DRAFT

MEMBERS PRESENT: John Alden, Chair; Luke Brockmeier; Cristin Gildea; Maggie Massey; Dylan Zwicky **ADMINISTRATION:** Michael Giguere, City Planner **OTHERS PRESENT**: None

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Alden called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

2. ADDITIONS OR AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

None.

3. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

Mr. Giguere noted that this is a hybrid meeting, and that staff are present at 6 Lincoln Street to ensure public participation. While efforts will be made to accommodate remote public participants, in-person participation is the only legally mandated form of public participation. If there are technical difficulties the meeting may be paused and resumed on July 17th, 2025. All votes that are not unanimous will be done via roll call. Mr. Giguere took a roll call attendance of all members.

4. MINUTES

a. Regular Meeting – April 17, 2025

DYLAN ZWICKY made a motion, seconded by MAGGIE MASSEY, to approve the minutes of April 17, 2025, with corrections. Motion passed 5-0.

Corrections:

-The spelling of Mr. Alden's and Ms. Gildea's names will be corrected.

5. <u>PUBLIC HEARING</u>

a. Site plan review for the conversion of an existing duplex into a fourplex at 177 West Street by Adam and Eva Slocum, owners - waiver request for the paved driveway apron requirement of Section 703.K.3 of the Land Development Code.

Mr. Alden noted that the applicants are not present. Mr. Giguere stepped out of the meeting to call the applicants, who did not answer. He said that the DRB can proceed without the applicant present, which they chose to do. Mr. Alden said that the DRB had previously heard this application, and gave guidance that the project could be approved by staff if kept to the original footprint. Staff issued a zoning permit; however, the applicants have requested that they be exempt from the paving of the driveway and driveway apron. Mr. Alden noted that this was one of the few unpaved driveways in the area. Some vehicles appear to be parking on the grass. Mr. Giguere said that the Land Development Code (LDC) states that some of the driveway can be gravel, so long as the apron is paved. There is no explanation from the applicant as to the reasoning for the waiver request. Mr. Alden said that this would be a visual downgrade for the neighbors, and that it is important to maintain some control over the vehicle parking. All agreed. Mr.

Alden said that the applicant would be required to pave the apron, and that it is recommended that the entire parking area be paved. He also suggested that the front area appear neater than it currently is.

JOHN ALDEN made a motion, seconded by LUKE BROCKMEIER, to not allow the waiver for the paved apron, and that the apron complies with LDC requirements of a maximum 27 feet and may increase in size for the parking area as allowed by the LDC. No vote, motion failed.

JOHN ALDEN made a motion, seconded by MAGGIE MASSEY, to deny the waiver request for not paving the apron. Motion passed 5-0.

6. OTHER DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD ITEMS

The board's findings on the pocket park have been presented to the landscape architect, who is working to implement the proposed changes. The train station upgrade project underway, and the roofing will absorb most of the project budget. A public forum on the project will be held in the summer or fall. The Brownell Library roofing project will begin immediately follow the Lincoln Hall renovations. Mr. Giguere said that the hotel construction project is almost complete and has a temporary certificate of occupancy. The City Councial and Planning Commission has approved the regional planning commission's housing targets, with some concerns noted. Essex Junction will be requesting Tier 1b status. The Connect the Junction's finalized master plan should be available this week.

7. ADJOURNMENT

CRISTIN GILDEA made a motion, seconded by MAGGIE MASSEY, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 5-0 at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Darby Mayville



Staff Report

То:	Development Review Board
From:	Michael Giguere, City Planner
Date:	July 17 th , 2025
Subject:	Site plan and conditional use review for the addition of a training center at the
	Champlain Valley Expo at 105 Pearl Street by the Essex Junction Fire Department.
File:	SP# 5.2025

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The Essex Junction Fire Department (EJFD) is proposing the construction of a training facility comprised of three 8' x 8' x 20' shipping containers located in the gravel pit area on the north side of the Champlain Valley Exposition (CVE). Two (2) of the containers will be stacked with one (1) located to the side with a roof prop. Fire simulations will be performed by burning pallets and straw, and other fire departments in the area may be invited for regional cross-training and collaboration.

This application requires conditional use review, as it was determined by the administrative officer to not be substantially similar to any use currently listed on the LDC's Use Chart (Section 622).

EXISTING CONDITIONS AND GENERAL INFORMATION

Project Location: 105 Pearl Street, Essex Junction, VT 05452

Lot size: 130 acres

Proposed project size: 320 square feet

Lot Frontage: 800 feet

Existing Land Use: Exposition

Surrounding Land Use: Residential and Commercial

Zoning District: Planned Exposition (PE)

Minimum Lot Size: 100 acres

Existing Lot Coverage: 20.7%

Proposed Lot Coverage: 20.7%

Lot Coverage Maximum: 40%

SECTION 502: APPROVAL PROCEDURES FOR ACTIVITIES REQUIRING REVIEW UNDER CHAPTERS 6 AND

<u>7</u>

C. Approval of Conditional Uses

3. Approval Standards

"(a) The proposed use will be consistent with the Comprehensive Plan.

(b) The proposed use will not adversely affect the character of the neighborhood.

(c) The proposed use will not be detrimental to adjoining properties.

(d) The proposed use will not negatively affect the public health, safety, or welfare.

(e) The design of the proposed use will minimize any potential adverse impacts.

(f) Specific standards for the proposed use as listed within Chapters 6 and 7 of this Code shall be met.

(g) The proposed use will not adversely affect traffic on streets in the vicinity of the project. (h) The proposed use will not adversely affect the capacity of existing or planned public infrastructure.

(i) The proposed use will not adversely affect the utilization of renewable energy resources. (j) Notwithstanding the above approval standards, uses defined in 24 V.S.A. § 4413 (Limitations on municipal bylaws), shall not be restricted beyond the limits specified therein."

The current Comprehensive Plan states *"We value an active, visible police force and strong fire and rescue services. Upgrades to our physical infrastructure will allow us to move about our community with comfort and security."* Additionally, Goal 4 of Utilities/Facilities Goals states: *"Continue to provide all Village segments with the best fire protection."* In reference to CVE, the Comprehensive Plan states *"Public Village representatives should participate in the planning of any changes to the present use, or to the present master plan, as this will affect both the surrounding residents and the entrance into Essex Junction."*

Historically, the Fire Department has performed their training in buildings scheduled to be demolished. This facility would give them a dedicated space, rather than being at the will of infrequent demolition scheduling.

Regarding LDC sections 502.C.3.c and 502.C.3.d, it is unclear to staff what the visual and aromatic impact the controlled burns of straw and wooden pallets will have on neighboring properties and should be discussed further during the public hearing. Otherwise, staff believe this facility will improve the long-term safety of the community.

The DRB should evaluate the conditional use application using the approval standards of LDC Section 502.C.3.

SECTION 612: PLANNED EXPOSITION (PE)

A. Purpose

"To provide an area for special events and exposition facilities while minimizing adverse traffic, sound and visual impacts. It is the intent of this district to encourage innovation in design and to encourage pedestrian, bicycle and bus access to such events."

The application in question neither aligns with nor expressly conflicts with the purpose of the PE district.

B. Density/Lot Coverage

The existing lot size of 130 acres meets the district minimum of 100 acres, and the proposed lot coverage of 20.7% meets the district maximum of 40%.

C. Setback Requirements

The application meets district rear setback requirements (20 feet from commercial, 50 feet from residential).

E. Parking Requirements

"Off-street parking requirements shall be specifically approved by the Development Review Board."

Parking is discussed further below in Section 703.

F. Building Heights

The proposed training center is sixteen (16) feet tall, meeting the district's maximum height requirements of thirty-five (35) feet.

SECTION 703: PARKING AND LOADING

The applicant has not proposed any striped parking spaces, attesting that the gravel pit area where the training center is proposed is currently unused and has plenty of room for emergency vehicles and personal vehicles and should have no impact on parking or circulation at the rest of the CVE.

Staff recommend that the DRB approve the applicant's proposal for no dedicated additional off-street parking spaces.

SECTION 704: LIGHTING

The applicant has not submitted a lighting plan for this application. While normally required as a part of Site Plan Review, staff do not find a lighting plan to be necessary for this application based on the scope of work.

SECTION 718: PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

E. Smoke and Particulate Matter

The applicant attests that the training center location was selected in part to control periodic smoke emission from controlled burns from affecting neighboring properties. This also ensures large setbacks from neighboring properties. As specified in Section 718.E.1, the training center is also required to adhere to applicable Federal and State emission standards. The fire department intends to only be burning organic matter such as hay or wood. The burning of petrochemicals is not proposed.

SECTION 719: LANDSCAPE AND TREE PLANTING REQUIREMENTS

Section 719 requires 3% of total project cost to be dedicated to landscaping improvements. This project does not propose any landscaping additions based on estimated development costs and the relatively hidden project location from public view.

The DRB should determine if the applicant's proposal to forgo landscaping additions is acceptable.

Conceptual Site Plan Recommendations:

Staff recommend the Development Review Board approve the proposed conditional use and site plan amendment application pending determination of the following items:

- The Development Review Board should determine if the conditional use application meets the approval standards of LDC Section 502.C.3.
- The Development Review Board should determine if the applicant's proposal for no additional dedicated off-street parking spaces meets the requirements of Section 703.
- The Development Review Board should determine if the applicant's proposal for no additional landscaping additions meets the requirements of Section 719.

Recommended Motions:

- 1. I move that the DRB approve the conditional use application for the addition of a training center at the Champlain Valley Expo at 105 Pearl Street by the Essex Junction Fire Department.
- **2.** I move that the DRB approve the site plan application for the addition of a training center at the Champlain Valley Expo at 105 Pearl Street by the Essex Junction Fire Department.

	City of Essex June Development Ap		For Office Use: Permit #
Planned Unit Development: Scale	: Minor Major	Stage: Conce Prelir Final	eptual ninary (optional)
Site Plan: Scale:	: Minor Major	Stage: Conce Prelin Final	eptual ninary (optional)
Subdivision: Type:	Sketch Preliminary	Other: Varia Cond	nce itional Use
Property description (address) for ap 105 Pearl Street, Essex Junction, VT 05			
General Information			
		Day Phone# _	
Address <u>3 Pearl Street</u> Email Address jkellogg@essexju	Inction org		
Dwner of Record (attach affidavit if r			
Name TIM SHEA	iot applicant)	Day Phone#	802-878-5
Address 105 PEMAL			
Applicant's agents Name _ Chris Gaba Address _ Lwcolw S	TAULT	Day Phone# _	802-85878-69
Property information			
Zoning District PE	Current Use	osition Ta:	x Map #35
Lot #54	Lot size sf5,662	2,800	
Other Information			
Street frontage (public or priv	vate) 800 ft.	Proposed height <u>16 fe</u>	et
Proposed number of stories		Estimated completion	
Proposed Parking Spaces		Required spaces	
Landscape cost			
ot coverage (include all structures a		•	
Existing (sq ft.)			
	lation ft annuals	20.7% percent o	f lot covorago

proposal, forty-five (45) days prior to a scheduled meeting. Applications that are not complete cannot be accepted for review.



Briefly describe your proposal (attach separate sheet if necessary) Training center for Essex Junction FD. Structure will consist of three (3) 8' x 8' x 20' metal storage containers, two (2) stacked and one (1) to the side with a roof prop.

Describe all waiver requests (if applicable)

I certify that the information on this application is true and correct. I agree to abide by all the rules and regulations as specified in the land development code and any conditions placed upon approval of this application. In accordance with the Essex Junction City Council Policy for Funding Engineer Plan Review and Inspections, the applicant, by signing this form agrees to pay for the actual cost of engineering plan review and construction inspections by the City Engineer.

Applicant	6/29/25 Date 7/2/25
Land Owner (if different)	Date
RECEIVED	
Staff Action JUN 2 7 2025 Date received:	Meeting date: July 17th 2025
Board Action Approved Denied	Date:
Other approvals/conditions:	

**Fee based on sq.ft. of improved area per current Fee Schedule

Staff Signature		Date	
	Fee Amount: ** Fee Waived	Fee Verified:	
Form Revision 20240305	Page 2 of 2		City of Essex Junction

OWNER AFFIDAVIT

APPLICATION 🗲 (Attach to application form) AMPIAIN VALLEY APPLICANT NAME OS ADDRESS Ani IAIN OWNER OF RECORD ADDRESS 105 I/WE HEREBY CERTIFY THE FOLLOWING: (I AM/WE) THAT ARE) THE **OWNERS** OF RECORD 1. OF THE FOLLOWING 105 PROPERTY: VEM 2. THAT THE ABOVE DESCRIBED PROPERTY IS THE PROPERTY FOR WHICH, APPLICATION IS BEING MADE FOR DEVELOPMENT APPROVAL OF FIRE Syst. TRAININ Center 3. THAT THE UNDERSIGNED DOES APPOINT AS AGENT(S) FOR THIS REQUEST. 4. THAT SAID AGENT IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO COMPLETE ALL APPLICATION FORMS AND ATTEND TO ALL MATTERS PURSUANT TO THIS APPLICATION. THAT (I/WE) CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING IS TRUE AND CORRECT. 5. ROPERTY OWNER PROPERTY OWNER ITNESS WITNESS SIGNED AND DATED THIS 2025 - DAY OF

Attachment 1:



EJFD Training Center



6/25/2025, 3:30:20 PM



VCGI Sources Esn formTom Garmin FAQ NOAA USGS C OpenStreetMap contributors and the GIS User Community



CVE parcel

6/25/2025, 3:54:19 PM



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Staff Report

То:	Development Review Board
From:	Michael Giguere, City Planner
Date:	July 17 th , 2025
Subject:	Design review for the construction of a new single-family home at 40 Maple Street by
	Ron Bushey, owner.
File:	SP# 6.2025

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The property owner is demolishing the existing single-family home and constructing a new single-family home to replace it. This project is located within the Design Review Overlay (DRO) zoning district, which requires architectural review and approval by the Development Review Board (DRB).

EXISTING CONDITIONS AND GENERAL INFORMATION

Project Location: 40 Maple Street, Essex Junction, VT 05452

Project Area Size: 6,534 square feet

Lot Frontage: 157 feet

Existing Land Use: Residential

Surrounding Land Use: Residential

Zoning District: Residential 2 (R2)

Minimum Lot Size: 7,500 square feet

Existing Lot Coverage: 20.9%

Proposed Lot Coverage: 24.5%

Lot Coverage Maximum: 40% (total), 30% (buildings)

SECTION 619: RESIDENTIAL 2 (R2)

A. Purpose

"To provide areas for high-density single family residential development and accessory uses."

B. Lot Size/Lot Coverage

The existing lot size of square feet of 6,534 square feet is an existing non-conformity below the minimum district lot size requirement of 7,500 square feet. This subject is discussed below in Section 803.

C. Setback Requirements

The proposed home meets the minimum setback requirements of the R2 district (15 feet front, 8 feet side, 25 feet rear for principal structures, 15 feet rear for accessory structures).

D. Maximum Number of Dwelling Units

The proposed home meets the maximum R2 district requirement of four (4) maximum dwelling units per lot.

E. Permitted and Conditional Uses

"Single Family Dwelling" is a permitted use in the R2 district.

F. Parking Requirements

The application meets the minimum parking requirement of one (1) space per dwelling unit via paved driveway parking.

G. Building Height

"...building heights shall not exceed three (3) stories or thirty-five (35) feet, whichever is less."

The proposed height of two (2) stories and thirty-two (32) feet meets district requirements.

- H. Special Standards
 - 1. *"For the principal building closest to the street, at least one dwelling unit must have a primary pedestrian entrance facing the street."*

The application does not propose a street-facing pedestrian entrance. Staff have added this as a condition of approval.

The special standards for maximum driveway width of Section 619.H.2 have been met.

SECTION 620: DESIGN REVIEW OVERLAY DISTRICT (DRO)

A. Purpose

"The purpose of the Design Review Overlay District is to expand the design review standards used in the Village Center District into the trunk routes of Main Street, Lincoln Street, Pearl Street, Park Street and Maple Street as called for in the Comprehensive Plan; thereby recognizing the economic importance and unique historic qualities of the existing buildings and neighborhoods. The purpose of these standards is to:

1. Enable infill and redevelopment that brings opportunities to protect existing historic resources and provide new sources of architectural and urban design for the 21st century while increasing density, activity and economic opportunity.

2. Carryout the concepts of the Design Five Corners Plan which are to accommodate infill development while calming traffic and reclaiming more space for people.

3. Establish a pedestrian friendly atmosphere from the surrounding neighborhoods into the Village Center."

Section 620 provides further guidance on evaluation criteria for design review, including but not limited to:

- 1. Building mass relative to the size of a person
- 2. Architectural details at the front façade harmonizing with those of the Village Center District
- 3. Street edge consistency and maintenance of sidewalk/pedestrian space
- 4. Site features to promote cycling, walking, and transit and recreation

Staff find that the proposed architectural elevations, while limited in detail, generally harmonize with the intention of Section 620 and include two required site features (direct pedestrian access and shade trees).

Section 620.B states: "Regarding demolition the intent is for the Administrative Officer or Development Review Board to review the plan for reconstruction for conformance with this section prior to demolition." The Community Development Department issued a demolition permit on 6/11/25. It has since come to our attention that a demolition of existing buildings within the DRO district requires reconstruction plans prior to demolition approval and regret the error.

The DRB should determine whether the proposed application meets the requirements of Section 620 of the LDC.

SECTION 719: LANDSCAPE AND TREE PLANTING REQUIREMENTS

The applicant has provided pictures of existing landscaping and indicated the location of these materials on their site plan. No new landscaping additions are proposed.

The applicant attests that these existing conditions satisfy the requirement of Section 719, which typically calls for two to three percent (2-3%) of overall project cost to be dedicated to new landscaping. If desired, in lieu of on-site landscaping, the DRB has the authority to instead allow for or require right-of-way improvements including street trees, plantings, stormwater retention, and pedestrian amenities.

The DRB should determine whether existing conditions meet the landscaping requirements of Section 719.

SECTION 803: EXISTING SMALL LOTS

Section 803 of the LDC allows for development activity to occur on lots that are below the district minimum lot size provided that the property was subdivided or otherwise established prior to the zoning bylaw.

Given that the existing home was built prior to the adoption of zoning bylaws in Essex Junction, staff find this section applies to the property in question and should allow for development activity to occur despite not meeting R2 minimum lot size requirements.

Site Plan Recommendations:

Staff recommend the Development Review Board approve the proposed site plan application pending a determination of the following items:

- The Development Review Board should determine whether the proposed application meets the Design Review requirements of Section 620 of the LDC.
- The Development Review Board should determine whether existing landscaping conditions meet the requirements of Section 719.

Proposed Conditions:

1. Applicant shall amend architectural elevations to include a street-facing pedestrian entrance to meet the requirements of Section 619.H.1.

Recommended Motion:

I move that the DRB approve the site plan application for a single-family home at 40 Maple Street by Ron Bushey, owner, with conditions.

40 maple ST E	City of Essex Junction, VT Zoning Permit Application	For Office Use: Permit #
Property description (address) for a		
General information Applicant <u>Ronald</u> Address <u>IC maple</u> Email Address	ST ESSKY Set	Day Phone 80 2-59 8-00
	not applicant)	
Email Address		-)
Property information Zoning District R_2 Lot # 148 Street frontage (public or pr	Current Use HOUS -e Lot size sf 6,534	Tax Map Page #
Proposed number of stories		Proposed height <u>32 F</u> +
Lot coverage (include all structures Existing (sq.ft.) <u>1364</u> Divided by <u>6,534</u>	and impervious surface) plus proposed (sq.ft.) 236 lot sq.ft. equals 24,57. perce	equals <u>1600</u> total sq.ft. ent of lot coverage
Source of size information () Deed, ()	Survey, () Tax Map, () Other. If other	r, explain:
Describe proposed new use(s) and or s	tructure(s)	
Dimensions or areas of proposed new s Reflexe	structures(s) or new uses(s): Havs e	
Estimated starting date	Estimated c	ompletion date
Attach a site plan that clearly indicates	the location of the structure or use, dist g permit application checklist or in the	ance to all property lines, and all other Land Development Code. Provide an

Rould Bu Applicant

6-13-25

Date

Land Owner (if different)

,

Date



8	RECEIVED		
Staff Action	JUN 2 6 2025		
Date received	City of Essex Junction	Approved	Denied
Permit Valid Date		·	
Explain (if denied)			
Other approvals/cond	itions (note type/attach othe	er signed approvals):	

Staff Signature

÷.

Date

Fee Amount: Fee PAID: \$315 JUN 26 2025 City of Essex Junction





3 Bedroom Single family Home 2 Story



City of Essex Junction, VT - Property Database - Detail Result

1

Last Updated: August 07, 2024 | Official copies of data must be obtained at the City of Essex Junction Office.

Owner Information Parcel Value Information 85,500 Homestead 1029148000 Parcel Land Value 183.700 NORTON DEBORAH L **Dwelling Value** 97 200 Housesite 183,700 Owner Site Imprvmnt ESSEX JCT, VT 05452 Outbuildings 40 MAPLE ST Location Total 183,700 Sec/TWP/Range OLD STYLE Descr **Parcel Information** 208-086-SPAN NBHD 4 73 Acres 0.15 Status A - Active **Sales Information** Sale Date 2023-10-19 Book Page 54-Sale 55 Price **BUILDING Total Building SF** Roughins Year Built Energy Adj 1900 1076.00 Good Rooms Quality Effect Age **Bsmt Wall** Sione **Plumb Fixt** Bedrooms **Full Baths** Condition Average Style 2 Story **Bsmt SF** Fireplaces 1 Half Baths Phys Depr Design 1.5 Sty **Bsmt Fin** 6 Porch Gar/Shed **Bldg Type** Sincle **Bamt Fin SF Kitchens Funct Depr** Econ Depr Notes 0,15 Frontage Depth LAND Area Grade Land

1364 Lot



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