

Dollar General gets first approvals for new Belmont store near fire station

By ALANA PERSSON, LACONIA DAILY SUN

BELMONT — A new Dollar General may soon be built at 15 Gilmanton Road in Belmont Village if all goes according to plan. Both Belmont Planning Board members and local community members said they are excited for this major store to come to town. Dollar General is a variety store that often serves smaller rural areas with discount merchandise.

When asked what they thought of having a Dollar General come to town, locals outside of the Dunkin' Donuts in Belmont said it is a good thing which will bring more business to town. Other business owners in the area had not heard of the plans but said they thought that any new business is good business. The only concern a few citizens expressed Wednesday was about possible traffic issues with the location near the fire station, especially if heavy traffic were to stop emergency vehicles from leaving as quickly as they need to.

Beginning the application review process at the end of May, the committee has since determined that the plot of land meets general requirements for the proposed infrastructure. Once additional permits are passed and additional zoning requirements are met, the Planning Board will allow demolition and building to begin. On July, 25 an initial outline of what the Dollar General could look like was proposed to the board by Matthew Bombaci of Bohler Engineering, who works in conjunction with Liscotti Development.

After evaluating the property, the lot was approved for parking requirements, with a waiver allowing 31 parking spaces instead of the required 40, and it has been deemed handicap accessible. Additionally, the board passed a motion for a tree buffer that will allow the trees on the plot to be left standing unless one dies or falls down, which will result in all of the surrounding trees' removal.

According to the New Hampshire Department of Transportation a crosswalk cannot be built from the east side of the fire station across 140 to the subject lot that is in direct access to the parking lot. Thus, there are concerns regarding pedestrians crossing the street to get to the store, which are still being evaluated.

Candace Daigle, town planner for Belmont, said the Planning Board has asked to change the evaluation and roofing outline in order to meet requirements, and has been pleased with how accommodating the designers have been with the requested changes.

"We appreciate they put a little extra effort into the roof line," said Daigle.



This property in Belmont across from the fire station is being considered for demolition as Dollar General proposes a new store there. (Alana Persson/Laconia Daily Sun)

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