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Duxbury Clipper

Yo Taco comes to town

BY MEAGHAN GLASSETT, CLIPPER STAFF

Over 25 Duxbury residents came out to the Board of Appeals meeting on Thursday in support of a new take-out taco restaurant.

The board voted 5-0 in favor of granting Yo Taco, located on 30 Railroad Avenue, a special permit to change the former Back River Fish Market into a take-out food establishment.

The permit for Yo Taco was approved with the following conditions set by the board: The restaurant must be both an eat-in and take-out establishment, the septic must pass the Title V inspection, and the hours of operation are between the hours of 7 a.m. and 10 p.m.

Board of Appeals Chairman Dennis Murphy said there were no objections from the design review board for the proposed project.

The Board of Health expressed concerns that the establishment must pass the Title V septic regulations. The Conservation Commission had no issues with the proposed restaurant unless the owners planned on expanding or paving the lot for parking.

The owner of the building said that the septic is designed for a 60-seat restaurant.

There will be no structural changes to the existing building and there will only be a slight change to the corporate name.

Yo Taco owners Kelly Clifford Laviolette, Norm Laviolette and Tim Haws said they have had quite a bit of support from residents who feel they could use a healthy and affordable place to eat.

Norm Laviolette said the restaurant will be an asset for townspeople who are looking for something to eat after a soccer game or a school play.

Farfar's Danish Ice Cream Shop owner Stephen Carlton, a neighbor to Yo Taco, said he has recently had a chance to look at the site plans and he saw a number of improvements. He was particularly pleased with the new parking plan. There will be no more parking in front of the building, alleviating the problem of cars backing into the street.

Carlton asked the board if they would specify that there must be onsite food service as part of the approval and they agreed to do so.

The plans show that there will be three tables (12 seats inside the restaurant). However, the owners said there is a waiting area, where they will try to add more seating.

"I think there would be less impact on the adjacent neighbors businesses if their business could be as self-contained as possible," Carlton said, after expressing concerns that trash might become an issue.

"We anticipate more grabbing your food and going to the ball game," Laviolette said.

The owners told the board they would like to be open for lunch and dinner service and hoped to close at 10 p.m. They eventually would like to operate the business seven days a week.

Board of Appeals member Gene Orosz said that he was in favor of the project but was a bit concerned that the food establishment might be a magnet for teenagers, because there aren't many other place in town open until 10 p.m.

Orosz asked that the owners talk with the police chief, and be proactive instead of reactive to possible issues.

Resident Bob Austin said that he has been to several board meetings over the last few weeks and felt there was animosity toward people who were trying to do something in a business point of view.

"This town needs business," he said.