

NORDIC AQUAFARM PROJECT REZONING
PUBLIC COMMENT FOR APRIL 17 PUBLIC HEARING
COMMENT RECEIVED FROM APRIL 13 (after 4:00 pm) - APRIL 16 (Until 4:00 pm)
From Wayne Marshall, Director, Code & Planning (April 16, 2018)

This document includes all public comment that was received by the Department between the dates of April 13 (after 4:00 pm) and April 16 (until 4:00 pm) regarding the April 17 public hearing scheduled on the proposed rezoning for the Nordic Aquafarm project. I have attached copies of the comment in a single pdf file and I am providing each Councilor a printed copy of all comments. I also intend to post the comments that have been received on the City website. These comments supplement public comment that has previously been received and provided to the Council as part of the formal public record.

Following is a list of persons who have submitted comment:

1. William Nelson, April 13 email, High St, Belfast
2. Jenny Davis, April 13 email, Village Road, Belfast
3. Sarah Mattox, April 14 email, (No Address Listed)
4. Donna Short, April 14 email and accompanying letter, Swanville (Letter previously submitted; additional statement in email message)
5. Sarah Tietje, April 14 email, Spring St, Belfast
6. Leslie Moore, April 14 email, Huntress Ave, Belfast
7. Peter Noyes, April 14 email, Thorndike
8. Sasha Kutsy, April 15 email, Pearl St, Belfast
9. William Colcord, April 15 email, Bayview St, Belfast
10. Mike Silverton, April 15 email, Church St, Belfast
11. Abe Shaffer, April 15 email, Village Road, Belfast
12. Dick Deforge, April 15 email (through Councilor Mortier), Woods Rd, Belfast
13. Edward Earle, April 15 email (through Councilor Mortier), Church St, Belfast
14. Jay Peters, April 15 email, Condon St, Belfast (follow-up to earlier email with new comment)
15. No Name - Email Address Only - mittme@juno.com, April 15 email, Identifies a Belfast resident and property taxpayer
16. Karen Aveni, April 16 email, Belfast
17. Mary McClintock, April 15 email, Conway, Mass (frequent visitor to Belfast)
18. Larry Theye, April 15 email & accompanying letter, Northport Ave, Belfast
19. Sally Lawrence, April 15 email, former resident, Belfast (2010 - 2-15)
20. Petra Hall, April 13 email, Belfast
21. Larry Brown, April 16 email, Belfast
22. Laura Brown, April 16 email (through Councilor Mortier), Northport Ave, Belfast
23. Amy and James Grant, April 14 email (through Mayor Paradis), Perkins Road, Belfast
24. Joan Proudman, April 16 email, Freedom, ME
25. David Smith, April 16 email, Seaview Terrace, Belfast
26. Dorothy Colcord, April 14 email and accompanying article from Bangor Daily News that she commented on, Belfast



**City of
Belfast**

Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

Nordic Aquafarms

2 messages

William Nelson <wmnelson@midmaine.com>
To: Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

Fri, Apr 13, 2018 at 4:33 PM

Mr. Wayne Marshall

City Planner

City of Belfast

Mr. Marshall,

From all I have read and heard about the proposed Nordic Aquafarms salmon farm, there seem to be many important questions still to be satisfactorily resolved. I hope the City will be able to put a moratorium in place to allow further discovery before any binding decisions on the matter are made.

William Nelson

156 High Street

Belfast



Virus-free. www.avast.com

Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>
To: William Nelson <wmnelson@midmaine.com>

Mon, Apr 16, 2018 at 1:25 PM

Dear Mr. Nelson

Thank you for submitting your comment. It will be included in the formal record for the upcoming April 17 public hearing and will be provided to the City Council in advance of the hearing.

On behalf of the City,

Wayne

[Quoted text hidden]

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Wayne Marshall
Director, Code & Planning
City of Belfast
131 Church St
Belfast, ME 04915
207-338-1417 x 125 (phone)
207-338-1605 (fax)
wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org



**City of
Belfast**

Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

Salmon farm

2 messages

Jenny Davis <jennnydavis@gmail.com>

Fri, Apr 13, 2018 at 7:26 PM

To: planner@cityofbelfast.org

Hi Mr Marshall,

I live and work in Belfast and I've got some concerns that this salmon farm is going to be approved without enough understanding of its impacts. I don't have a knee jerk reaction against it, and of course the jobs would be a boon. I just think the community needs to better understand the impact it will have, on waterways, wildlife, etc before such a massive project gets the go-ahead.

Respectfully

Jenny Davis

29 Village Road

Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

Mon, Apr 16, 2018 at 1:28 PM

To: Jenny Davis <jennnydavis@gmail.com>

Dear Ms. Davis:

Thank you for submitting your comment. It will be included in the formal record for the upcoming April 17 public hearing and will be provided to the City Council in advance of the hearing.

On behalf of the City,

Wayne

[Quoted text hidden]

--

Wayne Marshall

Director, Code & Planning

City of Belfast

131 Church St

Belfast, ME 04915

207-338-1417 x 125 (phone)

207-338-1605 (fax)

wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org



**City of
Belfast**

Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

Re. Proposed Salmon Farm

2 messages

Sarah Mattox <sarah.beth.mattox@gmail.com>

Sat, Apr 14, 2018 at 9:18 AM

To: wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org

Dear Wayne Marshall and Belfast City Councilors,

I have concerns about the proposed Nordic Aquafarms fish farm and its impact on Belfast, and I urge the City Council to postpone the re-zoning vote until more research and information is obtained and carefully considered.

To enumerate on these concerns:

- 1) I am concerned about the health of the bay if large volumes of wastewater were to be pumped into it;
- 2) I am concerned about traffic congestion due to tanker trucks;
- 3) I am concerned that this company is young and the scale of this project untested;
- 4) I really love the Little River Trail just as it is.

With gratitude for the work that each of you do to care for this community -

Sarah Mattox

Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

Mon, Apr 16, 2018 at 1:52 PM

To: Sarah Mattox <sarah.beth.mattox@gmail.com>

Dear Ms. Mattox:

Thank you for submitting your comment. It will be included in the formal record for the upcoming April 17 public hearing and will be provided to the City Council in advance of the hearing.

On behalf of the City,

Wayne

[Quoted text hidden]

--

Wayne Marshall
Director, Code & Planning
City of Belfast
131 Church St



**City of
Belfast**

Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

Nordic aquafarms

2 messages

donna short <dscampc321@gmail.com>

Sat, Apr 14, 2018 at 11:57 AM

To: wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org

Wayne--I have previously sent you the letter I wrote with my concerns to the local papers and I will attach it in case you did not get it, but this is a short note to say that my concerns only deepen and persist. I add my voice to those who are suggesting an environmental impact statement would be prudent and reassuring to the town; and if you do decide to let Nordic go forward by changing the zoning laws, please put a limit on the tonnage expected to be produced, as Norway has done, until the company itself and the technology has been fully proven.

--Nordic has all the "right" language and as a couple of older fisherman said to me recently " when I heard they were bringing in Tesla trucks I just laughed! When something sounds too good to be true, it is!"

--remember there has still been no successful business with this plan yet in the WORLD! Only successful farming has been to get the Atlantic salmon to smolt size...

Thank you for your attention. We do have other choices here. Let us keep our options and our ability to make those choices for all people in Belfast , open . Meredith Bruskin

 Letter to the Editor Nordic.docx
13K

Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

Mon, Apr 16, 2018 at 2:28 PM

To: donna short <dscampc321@gmail.com>

Dear Ms. Short:

Thank you for submitting your letter and your additional comment via this email. Your additional comment will be included in the formal record and will be provided to the Council in advance of the April 17 public hearing.

On behalf of the City,

Wayne

[Quoted text hidden]

--

Wayne Marshall
Director, Code & Planning
City of Belfast
131 Church St
Belfast, ME 04915
207-338-1417 x 125 (phone)

Letter to the Editors:

We appreciate the thoughtful letters about Nordic Aquafarm's proposed Belfast expansion, from George Maendel , Karin Spitfire and Matthew Scala..

A few more questions for the Mayor, City Planner, and City councilors seem in order:

1. Did you know that Nordic Aquafarms while established in 2014, appears to have only been actively in business for **2 years**, with only **ONE** open plant currently "growing" yellowtail kingfish, not Atlantic salmon, and their first harvest date was 3 months ago- **December 21, 2017?**

2. Have you done a thorough financial review of this company and will you publish these results?

3. When will you do a complete environmental impact study including traffic patterns, waste deposits, that includes the delivery of fishmeal required for feeding and marketing 33,000 Tons of fish annually (how many trucks a day?), and the impact of possible dredging of our lovely Bay in order to lay pipe to ensure that the " dead water" resulting from the process will be released " over a mile and a half" away from shore?

4. Why are they not considering the Industrial Park? The two plants they operate (or the **ONE** in full operation, the second still to be opened to full operation in **2018**) are not directly on bodies of water/why do they need to be on Little River and Penobscot Bay and directly on Route 1, the busiest road in the area?

5. Why send the profits made in Belfast to Norway? Bucksport is local, right? And what about two aquafarms for salmon, opening 15 miles apart on the Penobscot Bay?

6. Did you know it appears that Nordic Aquafarms is already using the town of Belfast on their website as if we are their third facility (looking for funding, anyone?), sounding like this is already a done deal?--we invite everyone in town to go to their website and look at the photos of the building site in Norway under construction, and multiply the stripped land mass required for their facility by 4x, for the proposed Belfast facility. Wow. On Little River?

7. Our ground water? Our ground water--our greatest resource. Your job to protect it?

8. Has the tax rate in Belfast gone down since Front Street Boatyard opened on most of Belfast's available waterfront?

9. Nordic Aquafarms? Sounds fishy to us.

Meredith Bruskin & Donna Short

Swanville

March 19, 2018

338-5089



**City of
Belfast**

Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

Fish farm

2 messages

Suzanne Tietje <suzannetietje64@gmail.com>

Sat, Apr 14, 2018 at 12:48
PM

To: planner@cityofbelfast.org

Dear Mr.Marshall, I encourage you to delay the upcoming vote regarding the land based fish farm on the Little River site in Belfast. I expect you have read the numerous letters to the editor in the local papers, suggesting that several questions remain unanswered regarding the long term environmental impact of this project. Slow the process so the public can evaluate the many changes (traffic, visual impact, noise due to construction and eventual trucking of the product and waste, water use, night sky impact of a lighted 40acre site, etc.) and make an informed decision. Thank you for your consideration, Suzanne Tietje 68 Spring Street, Belfast. 207-974-6688.

Sent from my iPad

Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

Mon, Apr 16, 2018 at 2:29
PM

To: Suzanne Tietje <suzannetietje64@gmail.com>

Dear Ms. Tietje:

Thank you for submitting your comment. It will be included in the formal record for the upcoming April 17 public hearing and will be provided to the City Council in advance of the hearing.

On behalf of the City,

Wayne

On Sat, Apr 14, 2018 at 12:48 PM, Suzanne Tietje <suzannetietje64@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Mr.Marshall, I encourage you to delay the upcoming vote regarding the land based fish farm on the Little River site in Belfast. I expect you have read the numerous letters to the editor in the local papers, suggesting that several questions remain unanswered regarding the long term environmental impact of this project. Slow the process so the public can evaluate the many changes (traffic, visual impact, noise due to construction and eventual trucking of the product and waste, water use, night sky impact of a lighted 40acre site, etc.) and make an informed decision. Thank you for your consideration, Suzanne Tietje 68 Spring Street, Belfast. 207-974-6688.

Sent from my iPad



**City of
Belfast**

Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

Nordic Aquafarms Salmon Farm

2 messages

Leslie Moore <penpets1@gmail.com>

Sat, Apr 14, 2018 at 4:25 PM

To: Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

Dear Mr. Marshall,

I have deep reservations about the proposed aquafarm. If it were to be built on the site of an abandoned mall, I'd be all for it. That land has been devastated already. However, to destroy 40 acres of pristine woodlands and waterways for an experiment in growing salmon seems a shame to me. Nordic Aquafarms has no proven track record in salmon fishing. In fact, it's only opened one farm for yellowtail kingfish in the last two years. That's it! Do we really want to trust them with the future of Belfast's water resources, traffic congestion, housing shortages, ecology, and general well being?

I hope that this whole process can be slowed down.

Thank you,

Leslie Moore
20 Huntress Ave.
Belfast

Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

Mon, Apr 16, 2018 at 2:30 PM

Draft To: Leslie Moore <penpets1@gmail.com>

Dear Ms. Moore:

Thank you for submitting your comment. It will be included in the formal record for the upcoming April 17 public hearing and will be provided to the City Council in advance of the hearing.

On behalf of the City,

Wayne

[Quoted text hidden]

--

Wayne Marshall
Director, Code & Planning
City of Belfast
131 Church St



**City of
Belfast**

Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

NAF question

2 messages

boxcraft@uninets.net <boxcraft@uninets.net>

Sat, Apr 14, 2018 at 6:36 PM

To: wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org

Hello, What is the source of the feed for this operation? Fish meal?
From where?

Thank you

Pete Noyes
Thorndike

Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

Mon, Apr 16, 2018 at 2:32 PM

To: boxcraft@uninets.net

Dear Mr. Noyes:

It is my understanding that Nordic Aquafarms has not made a final decision regarding which feed it will use, however, it appears that they will be using feed that is non-GMO based.

I thank you for submitting your comment and it will be provided to the Council for the upcoming April 17 public hearing.

Wayne

[Quoted text hidden]

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Wayne Marshall
Director, Code & Planning
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131 Church St
Belfast, ME 04915
207-338-1417 x 125 (phone)
207-338-1605 (fax)
wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org



City of
Belfast

Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

Salmon Farm Concerns

2 messages

Sasha kutsy <sashakutsy@hotmail.com>

Sun, Apr 15, 2018 at 7:05 AM

To: "wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org" <wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org>

Dear Belfast City Councilors,

I am writing to express my concerns with the proposed salmon farm in Belfast.

I am concerned with the scale of this project and with the amount of woodlands (40 acres) that will need to be clear-cut to build such a large facility. I am also very worried about the future of our aquifer. Our home is on well water and I fear that the amount of water that the salmon farm will need to use from our local aquifer might effect our small well.

I understand that the tax revenue that this project could bring in is very exciting, but I am not willing to sacrifice so much land and our local aquifer for the possibility of paying a lower mil rate.

I would appreciate it if the full impact of this project could be carefully studied and reviewed before it is approved.

Thank you for time,
Sasha Kutsy
107 Pearl St.
Belfast

Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

Mon, Apr 16, 2018 at 2:33 PM

To: Sasha kutsy <sashakutsy@hotmail.com>

Dear Ms. Kutsy:

Thank you for submitting your comment. It will be included in the formal record for the upcoming April 17 public hearing and will be provided to the City Council in advance of the hearing.

On behalf of the City,

Wayne

[Quoted text hidden]

--

Wayne Marshall
Director, Code & Planning



**City of
Belfast**

Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

Nordic Farms

2 messages

William Colcord <bill.colcord@gmail.com>

Sun, Apr 15, 2018 at 8:37 AM

To: planner@cityofbelfast.org

Cc: Samantha Fanjoy <sfanjoy@lghcpa.com>, Doug & Gail Smith <dougail2@roadrunner.com>, Richard Koralek <rkoralek@roadrunner.com>, "Corliss C. Davis" <cdavis5468@roadrunner.com>, John Terry <eliterry@hotmail.com>, Dorothy Colcord <dorothy.colcord@gmail.com>

Wayne,

I am concerned about the size and impact the Nordic Farms fish farm will have on Belfast. There are many items to discuss and resolve prior to approving the project.

Some items are:

- paving over much of a pristine area
- traffic, especially trucks on Rt 1
- jobs (hard to get workers in Belfast now)
- once rights to water are given up they are lost forever
- spillage
- affect on homeowners with wells in the area

w

What happens to the property if the company decides to build elsewhere in 10 or 20 years?

What if Nordic goes bankrupt? Who is responsible for the property?

These are just a few of the issues I have.

I am sure that other people will have different issues.

I think the city is moving too fast and the vote on Tuesday should be delayed for 6 months or more to give all parties involved time to carefully review all of the issues and the impact on Belfast.

We need to do the right thing for our fair city.

Thanks,

Bill Colcord

36 Bayview St

Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

Mon, Apr 16, 2018 at 2:35 PM

To: William Colcord <bill.colcord@gmail.com>

Dear Mr. Colcord

Thank you for submitting your comment. It will be included in the formal record for the upcoming April 17 public hearing and will be provided to the City Council in advance of the hearing.



**City of
Belfast**

Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

salmon farm

2 messages

Mike Silverton <hensteeth@aol.com>
To: wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org

Sun, Apr 15, 2018 at 8:58 AM

Mr Marshall, I urge you to Google salmon farming in Norway before the town comes to a decision regarding the world's largest salmon farm in Belfast. Exorbitant Norwegian licensing charges reflect the hazards salmon farms present there. It's small wonder this company wants to relocate where regulations and fees are less harsh. Would it not be prudent to go to Norway (on the town's dime of course) to have a look and ask questions?

As to vast reductions in our taxes should the salmon farm become a reality, I look forward to that along with a generous slice of pie in the sky.

Regards,

**Mike Silverton
86 Church Street. Belfast
338 5585**

Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>
To: Mike Silverton <hensteeth@aol.com>

Mon, Apr 16, 2018 at 2:35 PM

Dear Mr. Silverton:

Thank you for submitting your comment. It will be included in the formal record for the upcoming April 17 public hearing and will be provided to the City Council in advance of the hearing.

On behalf of the City,

Wayne

[Quoted text hidden]

--

Wayne Marshall
Director, Code & Planning
City of Belfast
131 Church St



**City of
Belfast**

Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

Comments on proposed Nordic Aquafarm developmentq

2 messages

Abe Shaffer <abeshaffer5@gmail.com>
To: planner@cityofbelfast.org

Sun, Apr 15, 2018 at 12:12 PM

Dear Mr. Marshall and Belfast City Council Members,

I am writing to express my concern regarding the development of the proposed aquafarm. As an avid hiker and someone who appreciates the natural environment, I am concerned about the inevitable consequences to the Little River corridor and nearby forest. I believe that a development of this size and type will negatively impact the water quality, wildlife habitat, and recreational value of the area. Please do not rezone these 40 acres for industrial use.

Sincerely,
Abe Shaffer

Abe Shaffer
66 Village Rd
Belfast, ME 04915
cell 978-325-6811

Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>
To: Abe Shaffer <abeshaffer5@gmail.com>

Mon, Apr 16, 2018 at 2:45 PM

Dear Mr. Shaffer:

Thank you for submitting your comment. It will be included in the formal record for the upcoming April 17 public hearing and will be provided to the City Council in advance of the hearing.

On behalf of the City,

Wayne

[Quoted text hidden]

--

Wayne Marshall
Director, Code & Planning
City of Belfast
131 Church St
Belfast, ME 04915



**City of
Belfast**

Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

Fwd: fish farm

2 messages

Mary Mortier <marym@92-94main.com>

Sun, Apr 15, 2018 at 12:40 PM

Reply-To: marym@92-94main.com

To: Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

For the record.

----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject:fish farm

Date:Sun, 15 Apr 2018 09:58:30 -0400

From:Dick Deforge <dickdeforge@myfairpoint.net>

To:Ward1councilor@cityofbelfast.org

Councilor,

I am a long time resident of Belfast. I have been following the news of a proposed fish farm coming to Belfast. There seem to be many unanswered questions. Most of the people I have spoken to in town seem to have little knowledge of what is happening. With the potential of such a large development I think it would be prudent to slow down. It would be in the best interest of Belfast and its greater community to have more time for open dialog. Please consider tabling the proposed zoning changes for now. Time is on everybody side.

thank you

Dick Deforge

Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

Mon, Apr 16, 2018 at 2:47 PM

To: Mary Mortier <marym@92-94main.com>

Hello Mary:

I will include the comment that you forwarded to me from Dick Deforge in the formal record for the upcoming April 17 public hearing.

Wayne

[Quoted text hidden]



City of
Belfast

Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

Fwd: Nordic Aquafarms, vote yes to change zoning

2 messages

Mary Mortier <marym@92-94main.com>

Sun, Apr 15, 2018 at 12:41 PM

Reply-To: marym@92-94main.com

To: Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

For The Record.

----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject: Nordic Aquafarms, vote yes to change zoning

Date: Sun, 15 Apr 2018 10:14:33 -0400

From: Edward Earle <edward.earle@gmail.com>

To: ward1councilor@cityofbelfast.org

Greetings Ms Mortier,

While I can appreciate the concern that people have who live in close proximity to the proposal Aquafarm, there will be plenty of reviews of environmental impact during the full proposal and development phase. I encourage you to vote to change the zoning to allow the project to proceed. This is an opportunity for all of Belfast. I would rather buy locally raised fish at Hannafords, with the safeguards that Nordic Aquafarms offers, rather than product with a foreign source.

Thanks for your hard work for Belfast.

Sincerely,

Ed Earle

Edward W. Earle
66 Church Street
Belfast, ME 04915

Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

Mon, Apr 16, 2018 at 2:48 PM

To: Mary Mortier <marym@92-94main.com>

Hello Mary

I will include this email comment that you forwarded to me in the formal record for the upcoming April 17 public hearing.



**City of
Belfast**

Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

Re: Salmon Farm

2 messages

Jay Peters <jpeters@maine.edu>

Sun, Apr 15, 2018 at 1:50 PM

To: Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

Dear Wayne,

Thank you for prompt response to my email. I have no doubt that the Belfast Water District has done due diligence regarding the water they will sell from the Goose River watershed. My concern is the private wells the company will drill into an aquifer which you identify as the Little River Watershed. Have adequate hydrology studies been conducted to determine the size of the aquifer (not the watershed), its rate of replenishment, & etc. Without good hydrology studies then on what basis can we determine if that aquifer can sustain the water use proposed by the corporation?

Many thanks for bringing this matter to the attention of the City Council members.

Sincerely yours,

Jay (John R.) Peters
17 Condon Street,
Belfast, Maine.

On Fri, Apr 13, 2018 at 10:14 AM, Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org> wrote:

Dear Mr. Peters.

Thank you for submitting your comment. Your comment will be part of the formal record for the upcoming April 17 public hearing and will be provided to the City Council in advance of the hearing.

I also note that this project, if it proceeds, will be using the water from the Little River Watershed, and that the on-site wells that they will operate are at the end and not the beginning of this watershed. In addition, Belfast's public water supply comes from an entirely different watershed, the Goose River. Continuing, the Water District, as part of their due diligence to determine if they had adequate water capacity to sell water from their existing wells in the Goose River watershed hired A.E. Hodson, a professional engineer, to analyze their ability to provide water to existing customers, water at the maximum quantities Nordic may need, and water for future growth, and that this engineer concluded that the District had more than adequate supplies to meet all of the above.

Hope that this information may be helpful.

Wayne

On Fri, Apr 13, 2018 at 9:20 AM, Jay Peters <jpeters@maine.edu> wrote:

Dear Belfast City Councilors,

I have many concerns about the proposed Salmon farm in Belfast, most of which could be resolved with more public hearings, discussion, and information. Please do not rush to make any decisions regarding zoning, and so forth.

I am particularly concerned about the water this project will possibly remove from the aquifer. The aquifer is an important resource which belongs to all of us in Belfast. Having the City sell water from our reservoirs is one thing but unfettered pumping from the aquifer is entirely different. What happens if they deplete the aquifer beyond usable levels?

As I said, please make sure that we all get a chance to look over their plans and proposals, listen to their responses to our questions, and think about what is best for the city.

Many thanks,

Jay (John R.) Peters

17 Condon Street

Belfast, Maine

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Wayne Marshall
Director, Code & Planning
City of Belfast
131 Church St
Belfast, ME 04915
207-338-1417 x 125 (phone)
207-338-1605 (fax)
wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org

Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

Mon, Apr 16, 2018 at 2:54
PM

To: Jay Peters <jpeters@maine.edu>

Hello Mr. Peters.

I appreciate receiving your follow-up email, and I will provide such to the City Council for the April 17 public hearing.

I do note that if Nordic Aquafarms chooses to submit a permit application that the City, through the proposed Ordinance amendments, will have specifically established its authority to regulate significant groundwater wells. As such, the Belfast Planning Board would require Nordic Aquafarms to submit its well testing and drawdown data and the Board would subject this information to review by a 3rd party professional to determine if the groundwater wells proposed by Nordic Aquafarms would have an adverse impact on area wells. I also note that most properties in the surrounding area, Perkins Road and along Route 1 (except on Herrick Road) are served by the Belfast Water District and that they do not rely on private wells.

Hope that this information helps respond to your concern.

Wayne

[Quoted text hidden]



**City of
Belfast**

Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

Comment re: Nordic Aquafarm and Zoning Change Vote

2 messages

mittme@juno.com <mittme@juno.com>

Sun, Apr 15, 2018 at 3:21 PM

To: wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org

On Tuesday, Belfast city councilors will decide whether to change the zoning at Nordic Aquafarms' proposed site, says the Bangor Daily News.

Discussion points and potential downsides for the project have been identified by others; my purpose in writing is to take the Council to task for its stunning lack of information provided to the general populace of Belfast and the surrounding area. One "informational" gathering and a handful of newspaper articles do not reach an appropriate threshold of responsibility for City of Belfast officials to consider that the public has been "informed", or is invited to participate in decisions which significantly impact our future. A zoning change of the magnitude you are considering is significant; we should be making it together.

I haven't heard the first word, informative, pro or con, from my city councilor, or any of the others, since the "informational" meeting...so, my call to the City is this - Slow down. Involve citizens in molding their future. Do a better job of sharing what information and plans you have. Listen to us. Facilitate our making all necessary decisions together for the betterment of each and every one of us, now and into the future.

Thank you.

A Belfast resident and property owner (Ward 1)

We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence then is not an act but a habit.

- Aristotle

Enjoy every sandwich.

- warren zevon

Royal Family Tragedy Unfolds

risingstarnewspaper.com

<http://thirdpartyoffers.juno.com/TGL3132/5ad3a67f790bc267f5db9st03vuc>

Sponsored Links

Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

Mon, Apr 16, 2018 at 2:58 PM

To: "mittme@juno.com" <mittme@juno.com>

To the Sender of the email:

You did not provide your name with your email thus I am responding to you as the Sender. I have received your comment and it will be included in the formal record for the upcoming April 17 public hearing. It also will be provided to all City Councilors in advance of the hearing.

On behalf of the City,

Wayne

[Quoted text hidden]

--

Wayne Marshall
Director, Code & Planning
City of Belfast
131 Church St
Belfast, ME 04915
207-338-1417 x 125 (phone)
207-338-1605 (fax)
wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org



City of
Belfast

Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

fish farm

2 messages

Karen Aveni <klaveni@belfastme.net>

Sun, Apr 15, 2018 at 3:32 PM

To: wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org

At this time I am opposed to a zoning change to allow a fish farm to apply for permits to build. I would like to see the council take more time to inform themselves about the far reaching consequences of this proposal. Without environmental impact studies on the mouth of the Little River and Penobscot Bay it would be imprudent for the City of Belfast to give control of our land and natural resources to a foreign for profit business. Our children and grandchildren will reap the consequences of this decision. Please approach this issue with the care you took in banning single use plastic bags. Everyone had time to deliberate the issue.

Sincerely, Karen Aveni

Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

Mon, Apr 16, 2018 at 2:59
PM

To: Karen Aveni <klaveni@belfastme.net>

Dear Ms. Aveni:

Thank you for submitting your comment. It will be included in the formal record for the upcoming April 17 public hearing and will be provided to the City Council in advance of the hearing.

On behalf of the City,

Wayne

On Sun, Apr 15, 2018 at 3:32 PM, Karen Aveni <klaveni@belfastme.net> wrote:

At this time I am opposed to a zoning change to allow a fish farm to apply for permits to build. I would like to see the council take more time to inform themselves about the far reaching consequences of this proposal. Without environmental impact studies on the mouth of the Little River and Penobscot Bay it would be imprudent for the City of Belfast to give control of our land and natural resources to a foreign for profit business. Our children and grandchildren will reap the consequences of this decision. Please approach this issue with the care you took in banning single use plastic bags. Everyone had time to deliberate the issue.

Sincerely, Karen Aveni



**City of
Belfast**

Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

Strongly OPPOSE salmon farm in Belfast/Penobscot Bay

2 messages

Mary McClintock <mcclinto@verizon.net>

Sun, Apr 15, 2018 at 6:47 PM

To: wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org

Dear Mr. Marshall,

As I a long-time visitor to the Belfast and Penobscot Bay area, member of the Maine Island Trail Association, and someone who has sea kayaked in Penobscot Bay waters for over 30 years, I STRONGLY oppose plans for a salmon farm in Belfast. Like all large-scale factory farms, land-based salmon farms concentrate fish feces and cause extensive freshwater and ocean water pollution and disruption of local plant and animal communities.

The scale of this project is way out of line. The developers want to use Belfast and the surrounding area as a guinea pig to develop a "largest anywhere" salmon farm. Belfast and the surrounding area will suffer the consequences of any failures of their experiment.

Please OPPOSE this salmon farm.

Thank you,

Mary McClintock

~~~~~

Mary McClintock

929 S. Deerfield Rd.

Conway, MA 01341

413-369-0117

---

**Wayne Marshall** <planner@cityofbelfast.org>  
To: Mary McClintock <mcclinto@verizon.net>

Mon, Apr 16, 2018 at 3:00 PM

Dear Ms. McClintock:

Thank you for submitting your comment. It will be included in the formal record for the upcoming April 17 public hearing and will be provided to the City Council in advance of the hearing.

On behalf of the City,

**Wayne**

[Quoted text hidden]

--

Wayne Marshall  
Director, Code & Planning  
City of Belfast  
131 Church St  
Belfast, ME 04915  
207-338-1417 x 125 (phone)  
207-338-1605 (fax)  
wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org



**City of  
Belfast**

**Wayne Marshall** <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

**Letter re. Rezoning**

2 messages

**Larry Theye** <ldtheye@gmail.com>  
To: wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org

Sun, Apr 15, 2018 at 8:33 PM

Hello Wayne,

I'm attaching a letter regarding the proposed rezoning of the Water District property. I hope you will share it with the City Councilors.

Thanks,  
Larry Theye

 **The Zoning 2.docx**  
15K

**Wayne Marshall** <planner@cityofbelfast.org>  
To: Larry Theye <ldtheye@gmail.com>

Mon, Apr 16, 2018 at 3:03 PM

Hello Larry

I have received your letter and I am providing copies to the City Council in advance of the upcoming April 17 public hearing. Your letter will be part of the formal public record.

Wayne

[Quoted text hidden]

--

Wayne Marshall  
Director, Code & Planning  
City of Belfast  
131 Church St  
Belfast, ME 04915  
207-338-1417 x 125 (phone)  
207-338-1605 (fax)  
wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org

April 15, 2018

To: Wayne Marshall and Members of the Belfast City Council

“The Planning and Code Department performs a variety of services intended to **protect, maintain,** and develop an attractive, safe, and healthy environment.” This is the mission of the department. A major purpose of zoning is to prevent encroachment upon existing residences and businesses by new development.

So what happened? Instead of directing the type and location of new development to an appropriate existing zone, we see a prospective developer directing the City as to type and location of a huge new development—a development destined to change the character of Belfast.

The public was initially informed of this proposed new development after contracts were signed and the deal was completed, making public comment essentially irrelevant. Control now rests with Nordic Aquafarms; the only control that remains with the City rests in the zoning decisions.

Unfortunately, the zoning proposal presented by the City Planning officer also cedes this control to Nordic Aquafarms by changing the zone to industrial. It is also potentially ruinous to property values in the neighboring residential area, as no one would intentionally locate a residence adjacent to an industrial zone.

We now learn that the appropriate zoning for aqua farming is agricultural. Why establish an industrial zone here if it's not necessary?

A major objection to the Nordic Aquafarm proposal is that it is far too large for this plot and for this city. Erik Heim boasts that it will be five times larger than their operation in Fredrikstad, a city of 80,000. Belfast can and should try to constrain the scope and footprint of this development through the establishment of more restrictive performance standards. Why allow buildings to be 50 feet high when 30 feet would be adequate? Why expand the area allowed for impervious construction to 70% when it is in our interests to restrict it as much as possible?

Thirty years ago Belfast featured chicken processing that polluted both the Bay and the city, creating the impression that Belfast was an unpleasant city to be avoided. We have worked hard to overcome that reputation and now are seen as an attractive, desirable place to live and work, featuring a beautiful harbor and surrounded by green spaces where one can enjoy nature. But Nordic Aquafarms proposes to convert Belfast into the site of one of the world's largest aquafarming operations, once again emptying waste into the bay. This will transform our lovely city and will affect us all—some much more than others.

The land sold to Nordic Aquafarms was public land managed by the Water District and sold at a rock bottom price. Plus, the City Council has decided to subsidize this private company with \$360,000 of taxpayer money. This adds up to a risky investment in a start-up company using unproven technology. Shouldn't the public have had a say in this decision?

Many citizens have written letters that pose critical questions pertaining to this aquafarm proposal. The City Council should defer a decision on zoning until these questions can be satisfactorily addressed.

Larry Theye  
Belfast, Maine



**City of  
Belfast**

**Wayne Marshall** <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

---

## **Please--No Fish Farm**

2 messages

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**Sally Lawrence** <slawren@gmail.com>  
To: wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org

Sun, Apr 15, 2018 at 8:36 PM

Dear Mr. Marshall,

I was a five-year resident of beautiful Belfast and still love your sweet, little village. You have a good thing going there now: filled store fronts, new restaurants, the new and thriving boatyard, and a bay that is coming back to life--slowly--after years of being destroyed by the chicken farms. Belfast is now a destination!

But...will tourists still visit or retirees choose to live there if the bay is filled with fish offal? What about the odor wafting through the town? Will the wealthy want their huge yachts to sail or motor through fish guts to get to the boat yard? How will the huge, unsightly tanks affect one of the prettiest spots in Belfast? What about the tax dollars needed to pay for the road damage from the big trucks needed to transport feed into town and the salmon out of town?

Yes, new jobs are needed, but at what risk? Why not an oyster farm--these farms actually help clean the water and don't draw heavily on ground water or well water.

Please keep Belfast beautiful.

Sincerely,  
Sally Lawrence (resident from 2010-2015)

---

**Wayne Marshall** <planner@cityofbelfast.org>  
To: Sally Lawrence <slawren@gmail.com>

Mon, Apr 16, 2018 at 3:04 PM

Dear Ms. Lawrence:

Thank you for submitting your comment. It will be included in the formal record for the upcoming April 17 public hearing and will be provided to the City Council in advance of the hearing.

On behalf of the City,

Wayne  
[Quoted text hidden]

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**City of  
Belfast**

Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

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## **April 17th hearing on Nordic Aqua Farms**

2 messages

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**Petra Hall** <rfph18@zwi.net>

Fri, Apr 13, 2018 at 11:03 PM

To: wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org, planner@cityofbelfast.org

**To Wayne Marshall and the Belfast City Council,**

**I respectfully request that the Belfast City Council does not approve a change in zoning at the April 17th meeting, and that we postpone this decision while we seek solid answers to all the numerous questions and concerns which have been raised about the Nordic Aqua Farm project. It is of vital importance that these issues are carefully explored in depth before any zoning change should take place.**

**Many local citizens have written to you and have spoken at the last several council meetings, and while I am choosing not to repeat what they have brought up, I am similarly deeply concerned about the issues and questions. It would be in the best interests of all of us, for us to truly understand the ramifications of what a fish farm of this size would do to this area, and to dig deep into all the pros and cons in order to really make the decision that is best for Belfast and this region.**

**Therefore, I am urging us to postpone any change of zoning, possibly enacting a moratorium, and to spend enough time to diligently and thoroughly evaluate this very major proposal. We did this before, when we had**

**large scale retail at our door, and we had a moratorium during which time we held hearings, spent time educating ourselves and having discussions (at times heatedly, admittedly) about the detriments and benefits, named a Corridor Committee to explore where large-scale retail development might possibly be situated, had transportation studies done to see what those effects would be with many more cars and semi trucks coming in, and we discussed runoff and other potential environmental impacts, and so much more. As many of you will recall, at the end of the moratorium, we held a city-wide vote on whether to change the zoning to raise the square footage for retail development. It was at the council's discretion, and it was non-binding, but the council did honor it, and the vote was nearly 2 to 1 against dramatically increasing the size for large scale retail. That city council (specifically and especially, those three council members who kept the zoning change from occurring while we debated it all, as a community, and then enabled us to have the referendum), were exemplary in their roles as elected officials, as they reached out to all of us to have us all be part of the decision-making process. It was the responsible thing to do, and I remain grateful to them for their bold commitment to trying to find a solution to a city-wide challenge which held major implications for the direction of Belfast.**

**We owe it to all of us, then, to have the same kind of extensive scrutiny and fact-finding in order to make the best decision now for our city and the region. If this is the great project that it is being touted to be by Nordic Aqua**

**Farms, then a few months' delay should not be a hindrance to their potential success. So much is at stake here, however, that it is imperative that we take the time to do due diligence, address the serious questions and concerns being raised, and work together to really find out if this is truly a good fit for us.**

**Thank you all for your efforts, and for your consideration.**

**Sincerely,  
Petra Hall, Belfast**

---

**Wayne Marshall** <planner@cityofbelfast.org>  
To: Petra Hall <rfph18@gwi.net>

Mon, Apr 16, 2018 at 3:06 PM

Hello Petra:

Thank you for submitting your comment. It will be included in the formal record for the upcoming April 17 public hearing and will be provided to the City Council in advance of the hearing.

On behalf of the City,

**Wayne**

[Quoted text hidden]

--

Wayne Marshall  
Director, Code & Planning  
City of Belfast  
131 Church St  
Belfast, ME 04915  
207-338-1417 x 125 (phone)  
207-338-1605 (fax)  
wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org



Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

**Salmon farm**

2 messages

**Brown, Laurence E** <LBrown@tiaa.org> Mon, Apr 16, 2018 at 7:13 AM  
To: "ward1councilor@cityofbelfast.org; wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org"  
<ward1councilor@cityofbelfast.org>, "wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org"  
<wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org>

I am opposed. Thanks for all your hard work on our city's behalf.

Larry Brown

Sent with BlackBerry Work  
(www.blackberry.com)

\*\*\*\*\*  
This e-mail may contain confidential or privileged information.  
If you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender immediately and then delete it.

TIAA  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Wayne Marshall** <planner@cityofbelfast.org> Mon, Apr 16, 2018 at 3:07 PM  
To: "Brown, Laurence E" <LBrown@tiaa.org>

Dear Mr. Brown:

Thank you for submitting your comment. It will be included in the formal record for the upcoming April 17 public hearing and will be provided to the City Council in advance of the hearing.

On behalf of the City,

Wayne

[Quoted text hidden]

--

Wayne Marshall  
Director, Code & Planning  
City of Belfast  
131 Church St



**City of  
Belfast**

**Wayne Marshall** <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

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## **Fwd: Salmon Farm**

2 messages

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**Mary Mortier** <mmortier@grfrealestate.com>  
Reply-To: mmortier@grfrealestate.com  
To: Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

Mon, Apr 16, 2018 at 9:29 AM

For the record.

----- Forwarded Message -----

**Subject:**Salmon Farm

**Date:**Mon, 16 Apr 2018 07:06:29 -0400

**From:**laura brown <lauraabrown@comcast.net>

**To:**ward1councilor@cityofBelfast.org

Dear Mary Mortier,

I am a resident and registered voter in Belfast. I would like to go on record as being opposed to the rezoning of land to accommodate the building of a salmon farm. I do not want the Salmon farm to be built in Belfast. I appreciate all the time and work you put into the beautiful city of Belfast.

Sincerely,  
Laura Brown

Laura Brown  
18 Northport Ave  
Belfast

---

**Wayne Marshall** <planner@cityofbelfast.org>  
To: Mary Mortier <mmortier@grfrealestate.com>

Mon, Apr 16, 2018 at 3:09 PM

Hello Mary

Thanks for forwarding. I received a separate email from Ms. Brown. I will include this one in the formal record as well.

Wayne

[Quoted text hidden]

--

Wayne Marshall  
Director, Code & Planning



**City of  
Belfast**

**Wayne Marshall** <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

**Salmon Farm**

2 messages

**laura brown** <lauraabrown@comcast.net>  
To: wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org

Mon, Apr 16, 2018 at 7:00 AM

Dear Mr. Marshall,

I am a resident in Belfast. I would like to go on record as being opposed to the rezoning of land to accommodate the building of a Salmon Farm.

Sincerely,  
Laura Brown

Laura Brown  
18 Northport Ave  
Belfast

**Wayne Marshall** <planner@cityofbelfast.org>  
Draft To: laura brown <lauraabrown@comcast.net>

Mon, Apr 16, 2018 at 3:07 PM

Dear Ms. Brown

Thank you for submitting your comment. It will be included in the formal record for the upcoming April 17 public hearing and will be provided to the City Council in advance of the hearing.

On behalf of the City,

**Wayne**

[Quoted text hidden]

--

Wayne Marshall  
Director, Code & Planning  
City of Belfast  
131 Church St  
Belfast, ME 04915  
207-338-1417 x 125 (phone)  
207-338-1605 (fax)  
wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org



Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

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## The proposed re-zoning/factory farm

3 messages

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Amy Grant <agrant7108@gmail.com>

Sat, Apr 14, 2018 at 8:00 PM

To: wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org

Cc: Samantha Paradis <mayor@cityofbelfast.org>

Dear Mr. Marshall, Mayor Paradis and City Councillors,

My husband and I own Good Karma Farm on the Perkins Road.

We have tried to be open minded about the proposed industrial development of the Little River Watershed ( and we stand to lose our entire life savings to this development). The tipping point for us was the statement made by Nordic Aquafarms that they didn't choose the Bucksport site because they didn't want to deal with buildings, etc. Excuse my language, but "screw you". Farmland and open spaces are vulnerable across the world for development because it's "easy". The citizens of Maine don't remember the builders of the abandoned paper mills, woolen mills, chicken plants, etc. Those industries were absolutely essential for the building of our cities and our country at the time they were built and used. With 3% unemployment and a severe lack of affordable housing we are not at that point at all in the city of Belfast. The future citizens of Belfast will be so grateful for the foresight of our leadership and citizenry to protect a beautiful and special place in our city. Throughout history, cities across our country have chosen to protect green spaces, even when it wasn't financially beneficial at that time; the Boston Common, Boulder, Co., Ipswich, MA. Wheeling WV. So many blue collar ( at the time) cities who were smart enough to know that the value of the city would only be enhanced by protecting the wild places.

**Why in the world do we have zoning and a comprehensive plan if we are willing to throw that out the window for the biggest golden carrot dangled before our eyes?**

We are vehemently opposed to this project in this location.

Most respectfully and sincerely yours,

Amy and James Grant  
Good Karma Farm  
67 Perkins Rd

---

Samantha Paradis <mayor@cityofbelfast.org>

Mon, Apr 16, 2018 at 10:41 AM

To: Amy Grant <agrant7108@gmail.com>  
Cc: Wayne Marshall <wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org>

Amy and James,

Thank you for your comment. It will be included in the public record and provided to each councilor prior to the second hearing on the proposed zoning changes tomorrow at 7pm at city hall.

Best,  
Samantha

[Quoted text hidden]

--

Samantha Paradis, RN  
Mayor  
City of Belfast, Maine  
(207) 338-3370 ext 146

Under Maine law, documents, including e-mails, in the possession of public officials or city employees about government business may be classified as public records. There are very few exceptions. As a result, please be advised that what is written in an e-mail could be released to the public and/or the media if requested.

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**Wayne Marshall** <planner@cityofbelfast.org> Mon, Apr 16, 2018 at 3:12 PM  
To: Samantha Paradis <mayor@cityofbelfast.org>  
Cc: Amy Grant <agrant7108@gmail.com>, Wayne Marshall <wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org>

Dear Ms. Grant

As Mayor Paradis noted, your comment will be included in the formal public record for the upcoming April 17 public hearing. Thanks for submitting our comment.

Wayne

[Quoted text hidden]

--

Wayne Marshall  
Director, Code & Planning  
City of Belfast  
131 Church St  
Belfast, ME 04915  
207-338-1417 x 125 (phone)  
207-338-1605 (fax)  
wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org

**City of  
Belfast****Wayne Marshall** <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

---

**Nordic Aquafarms**

2 messages

**joan proudman** <joanproudman@gmail.com>Mon, Apr 16, 2018 at 10:43  
AM

To: wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org

As a concerned citizen of the Waldo County area and as someone who has lived here for over twenty years and witnessed a great increase in population and surge in development, I urge caution and restraint with regards to the execution of the Nordic Aquafarms project. There are far too many controversial issues surrounding this project. Can we slow down before we give the go-ahead to something that may result in irreversible consequences to our precious environment? We don't even know how a project such as this will impact our environment, although the ramifications are likely enormous. I believe the project is too big for this area and I hope and pray we use great discernment and discretion with regards to its planning and execution. When has an abundance of ambition and so called "progress" really paid off for all involved, not the least of whom do not have a voice to protect themselves-- such as our dwindling wildlife and our precious resources, such as clean air and water? I fear that a project of this magnitude will have negative, irreversible consequences to all involved. Let's not make the same mistakes that are being made everywhere else--let's preserve the simplicity, beauty and health of our Maine home.

Thank you for allowing me to contribute my opinion on the matter.

Joan Proudman

Joan Proudman  
<http://www.joanproudman.com>  
Freedom, ME

---

**Wayne Marshall** <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

Mon, Apr 16, 2018 at 3:14 PM

To: joan proudman &lt;joanproudman@gmail.com&gt;

Dear Ms. Proudman:

Thank you for submitting your comment. It will be included in the formal record for the upcoming April 17 public hearing and will be provided to the City Council in advance of the hearing.

On behalf of the City,

Wayne



**City of  
Belfast**

**Wayne Marshall** <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

**Salmon!**

2 messages

**David Smith** <dls.smith7@gmail.com>

Mon, Apr 16, 2018 at 10:50 AM

To: wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org

Dear Wayne,

I am finally expressing my thoughts on the big salmon plant after taking in a whole lot of information from the beginning of this process.

It seems to me that the six month extension on any decision is the right thing to do for now. There are so many serious questions that need to be addressed.

Sincerely,  
David Smith  
Belfast

**Wayne Marshall** <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

Mon, Apr 16, 2018 at 3:14 PM

Draft To: David Smith <dls.smith7@gmail.com>

Hello David:

Thank you for submitting your comment. It will be included in the formal record for the upcoming April 17 public hearing and will be provided to the City Council in advance of the hearing.

On behalf of the City,

Wayne

[Quoted text hidden]

--

Wayne Marshall  
Director, Code & Planning  
City of Belfast  
131 Church St  
Belfast, ME 04915  
207-338-1417 x 125 (phone)  
207-338-1605 (fax)  
wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org



**City of  
Belfast**

Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

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**By Nick McCrea, BDN Staff • April 14, 2018 1:00 am.pdf**

2 messages

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**Dorothy Colcord** <dorothy.colcord@gmail.com>

Sat, Apr 14, 2018 at 7:17  
AM

To: wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org, Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

Dear Wayne,

Please see my comments on the article written by Nick Mc Crea. This is an enormous project and its impact on Belfast needs to be carefully reviewed before we consider any action to implement.

Thank you,  
Dorothy Colcord



**By Nick McCrea, BDN Staff • April 14, 2018 1:00 am.pdf**  
4551K

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**Wayne Marshall** <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

Mon, Apr 16, 2018 at 3:46  
PM

To: Dorothy Colcord <dorothy.colcord@gmail.com>

Dear Ms. Colcord.

Thank you for submitting your comment. I have provided the Council the article that you have submitted that was published in the Bangor Daily News and your comments on this article.

I do offer a few comments.

1) The Water District has approved selling the Water District property to Nordic Aquafarms. The District will receive the full amount of the purchase price, \$1,059,000. They also have a 6 year agreement to sell them water, and Nordic Aquafarms (per the agreement) is required to purchase 100,000,000 millions gallons per year at the same rate as all other Belfast customers. Nordic has the right to purchase up to 262,000,000 gallons per year and the two parties can extend the purchase agreement for additional

years. I have attached the agreement. This agreement and other matters regarding the Water District can be found on the District's website; <http://belfastwater.org/>.

2) The City of Belfast has agreed to purchase land located within 250 feet of the Reservoir on both the Belfast and Northport side of the Reservoir from the Water District for a cost of about \$100,000 for 36 acres of land. The City largely will manage this land to preserve the Little River Trail.

3) The City has agreed to pay up to \$20,000 per year for 6 years, a total of \$120,000, to pay half the cost to filtrate water from the Water District. The City obligation is capped at both \$20,000/year and for a total of 6 years.

4) The Water District has conducted an engineering assessment of the wells in the Goose River aquifer that they use to provide water service to their customers. The District's engineer noted that the District has a significant reserve capacity in the aquifer even with the maximum amount of water that could be sold to Nordic Aquafarms. Keith Pooler, Supt, with the District, has noted that the amount of water that would be associated with the potential sale to Nordic (maximum amount) and all other customers in Belfast is less than when the chicken plants and Stinson operated in the City up through the late 70's and early 80's.

I know that I have not responded to all of the comments that you made, but I tried to focus on factual data that is available.

Wayne

[Quoted text hidden]

--

Wayne Marshall  
Director, Code & Planning  
City of Belfast  
131 Church St  
Belfast, ME 04915  
207-338-1417 x 125 (phone)  
207-338-1605 (fax)  
[wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org](mailto:wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org)

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 **Options and Purchase Agreement 013018.pdf**  
1147K

By [Nick McCrea](#), BDN Staff • April 14, 2018 1:00 am

BELFAST, Maine — A Norwegian company planning one of the world's largest indoor fish farms in Belfast faces its first significant hurdle on Tuesday, as city councilors decide whether to change the zoning at its proposed site.

That hurdle must be cleared before the company, Nordic Aquafarms, can start lining up required permits and approvals from federal and state agencies.

Nordic, which operates two indoor farms in Denmark and has a third under construction in Norway, plans to produce 33,000 tons of Atlantic salmon per year at the Belfast farm. Its initial investment of \$150 million could grow to \$500 million in later phases of the project. Nordic expects to hire about 60 people to operate the facility.

The company plans to purchase 40 acres off Route 1 near the Northport border for the development, but it needs to be rezoned before the process can move any further. The water district owns most of that land and will sell its share to Nordic for \$1,059,000. Nordic also will purchase a 12-acre strip from a private owner for an undisclosed amount of cash.

Nordic has been digging test wells to find out what kind of water resources lie underneath the property. Eric Heim, the company's CEO, said the site sits at the end of a large, "promising" watershed that

60 people from where? Is there a commitment they will be from current Belfast residents? Or will they be from away folks who move into Belfast to work here?

Water is an essential resource for a community and should NOT be sold to private corporations no matter how socially responsible they are.

Maybe leasing it makes more sense.

\$1,000,000 minus the \$120K for 6 years reduces the \$1M to \$280K.

\$280,000? Really? For that essential, irreplaceable resource?

Droughts happen.

Water sources can be exhausted.

drains into Penobscot Bay.

Under its water supply agreement, the city's water district has promised to sell a minimum of 100 million gallons to Nordic each year for six years. The city will cover about half the cost of filtering that water annually — up to \$120,000 — for the first six years of the farm's operation. Most of the water used in the facility will be salt water drawn from the bay.

Heim said Nordic can't yet provide precise answers to questions about water usage or tank number and size because much depends upon where structures are placed and how they're laid out. For the past two months, the company has been mapping the site, testing soil and digging test wells to determine the best placement.

He hinted that work should be concluded in May, and the company should be able to reveal its first designs of the project. Then it will be able to come up with clearer estimates of energy use, tank capacity and water use before moving on to environmental and building approvals.

Once zoning is completed, Nordic will spend the next year having its plans vetted by federal and state agencies. Shovels won't hit the ground until 2019.

Local opposition

Still, that seems too quick for some in town. As Nordic irons out its plans, a small opposition group is trying to build support and convince

Belfast will pay up to \$120 K for first 6 years. Then what? The city will pick up 100%?

Where is this minimum 100 million gallons coming from? More importantly, is there a maximum they can buy?

How can Belfast commit to a contract when these figures are not known?

city councilors to slow things down.

The group, calling itself Local Citizens for Smart Growth, is made up primarily of Belfast residents who fought a runway expansion at the city's airport several years ago. The group reassembled during the push for the aquaculture site, according to Ellie Daniels, a member and downtown business owner. About 35 people attended its most recent meeting.

"It's too much, too fast, and we want them to slow down," Daniels said.

The group has sent out emails and posted fliers asking residents to share their concerns and questions with the city planner. They cite a list of concerns ranging from water and electricity use to fish welfare and traffic levels during construction.

One claim, based on a 2016 International Salmon Farmers Association report, is that an indoor farm of this size would require 60 billion gallons of water annually to operate.

Heim said that estimate is vastly overblown.

The ISFA estimate assumes a farm would use depuration — a process in which a tank is repeatedly emptied and refilled to clean the fish before they're harvested. Heim said that won't be necessary because the water will be constantly cycled and filtered, keeping the tanks clean and free of contamination.

Thank you small  
opposition group for  
keeping your eyes open  
and advising us to slow  
down this process.

It may be a good  
business to have in town,  
but it may not be.  
Research and answers  
are necessary before  
moving ahead.

Heim said he cant  
estimate but knows this  
figure is vastly  
overblown?

Tanks will need to be emptied entirely and refilled only on rare occasions for cleaning and repairs. Also, most of the water in the tanks will be salt water drawn from the bay, not fresh water from the aquifer.

Heim argued it wouldn't make sense for his company to pump hundreds of millions of dollars into a facility without knowing that it had access to enough water to sustain its operations long term.

Another concern is the amount of nitrogen the farm would discharge into the bay. Heim said the exact numbers aren't yet available, but that the amount of nitrogen released by the farm would be less than what is released by the city's wastewater treatment plant. The farm's discharge pipe will extend about a mile into the bay, rather than right offshore.

The density of the fish in the tanks has been another point of interest. Crowding too many fish into a tank can affect their growth and health. Heim said that research at existing farms in Europe puts the optimal density range at around 150-175 pounds of fish per cubic meter, though some do operate at higher densities.

Tinkering with salinity levels, water temperatures, feeding and light levels can affect the growth rates and taste of the salmon.

"Our primary goal is to produce a high-quality fish, not to get it out the door as quickly as possible," Heim said.

Samantha Paradis, Belfast's mayor, said city officials have been

What is enough water?

What is rarely?

How many gals used when empty/refill does happen?

We need to deal with wastewater but we don't need salmon farm if it will overburden our environment.

Just curious...did this Norweigan Corp attempt to build this facility in Norway? Why didn't they?

listening carefully to people's questions and concerns, and that they would be carefully considered to ensure any negative impacts of the farm are kept to a minimum.

"We can expect to see a socially responsible company that adds to our vibrant economy," Paradis said in an email. "I foresee a relationship between the city and Nordic Aquafarms for years to come. Nordic Aquafarms will become an integral part of our community."

*Follow Nick McCrea on Twitter at [@nmccrea213](#).*

*Follow the [Bangor Daily News on Facebook](#) for the latest Maine news.*

This project will have a huge impact on our city and needs to be carefully and fully reviewed. Attracting responsible businesses to town IS important, but must be done responsibly.

It sounds like the city council and mayor considers this a done deal.

Please dont rush into this agreement and endanger our water supply, our environment and our lives.

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Have feedback? Want to know more? Send us ideas for follow-up stories.

Comments

**NORDIC AQUAFARM PROJECT REZONING**  
**PUBLIC COMMENT FOR APRIL 17 PUBLIC HEARING**  
**COMMENT RECEIVED FROM APRIL 16 (after 4:00 pm) - APRIL 17 (12:30 pm)**  
From Wayne Marshall, Director, Code & Planning (April 17, 2018)

This document includes all public comment that was received by the Department between the dates of April 13 (after 4:00 pm) and April 16 (until 4:00 pm) regarding the April 17 public hearing scheduled on the proposed rezoning for the Nordic Aquafarm project. I have attached copies of the comment in a single pdf file and I am providing each Councilor a printed copy of all comments. I also intend to post the comments that have been received on the City website. These comments supplement public comment that has previously been received and provided to the Council as part of the formal public record.

Following is a list of persons who have submitted comment:

1. Lewis Cisle, April 16 email, Belfast
2. Christopher Harley-White & Kristin Robinson-White, April 16 email & accompanying letter, Belfast
3. Mike Silverton, April 17 email with link, Belfast
4. Levi Krajewski, April 15 email, Belfast
5. John Krueger, April 17 email & accompanying letter, Belfast
6. Kathy Muzzy, April 16 email, Belfast
7. Dawn Marie Clark, April 17 email, Belfast
8. Thomas Nielson, Geologist, Ransom Consulting, April 17 Letter (Visual Observation of Aquaculture Operations)
9. Meg & Luke Harrington, April 17 email, Herrick Rd, Belfast
10. Linda Hurley, April 17 email, Belfast
11. Judith Simpson, April 17 email, Grove St, Belfast
12. Beth Whitman, April 17 email, Village Rd, Belfast
13. Jim Merkel, April 17 email, Patterson Hill Rd, Belfast



**City of  
Belfast**

**Wayne Marshall** <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

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## Aqua Farm

2 messages

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**lcisle@bluestreakme.com** <lcisle@bluestreakme.com> Mon, Apr 16, 2018 at 5:23 PM  
To: wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org

Sir,

I am deeply concerned over the lack of public input regarding the proposed salmon farm.

Until the questions raised by the citizens are given their due , I shall oppose the building of

this facility with every fiber of my being . I am a firm believer in the democratic process and I don't

see it at work here. With so many issues involving the salmon farm I think we should call time a out.

Sincerely,  
Lewis Cisle  
Cisle Studio

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**Wayne Marshall** <planner@cityofbelfast.org> Tue, Apr 17, 2018 at 9:19 AM  
To: lcisle@bluestreakme.com

Dear Mr. Cisle

Thank you for submitting your comment on the Nordic Aquafarm project. Your comment will be part of the formal record for the April 17 public hearing and will be provided to the City Council.

Wayne

[Quoted text hidden]

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Wayne Marshall  
Director, Code & Planning  
City of Belfast  
131 Church St  
Belfast, ME 04915  
207-338-1417 x 125 (phone)  
207-338-1605 (fax)  
wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org



**City of  
Belfast**

**Wayne Marshall** <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

## The Fish Farm Proposal

2 messages

**Christopher Harley-White** <acadia@midcoast.com>

Mon, Apr 16, 2018 at 7:02 PM

To: wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org

Mr. Marshall:

We would like to submit the document below regarding the fish farm proposal. We'll send it as an open form email to you as well in case that's a more convenient format for you.

Thank you for accepting out comment.

Christopher Harley-White  
Kristin Robinson-White

P.O.Box 78  
Belfast, ME 04915

 **Letter\_4-16-18.docx**  
128K

**Wayne Marshall** <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

Tue, Apr 17, 2018 at 9:24 AM

To: Christopher Harley-White <acadia@midcoast.com>

Dear Mr. Harley-White and Ms. Robinson-White:

Thank you for submitting your letter of April 16. It will be included in the formal public record for the April 17 public hearing and will be provided to the City Council in advance of the hearing.

Wayne

[Quoted text hidden]

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Wayne Marshall  
Director, Code & Planning  
City of Belfast  
131 Church St  
Belfast, ME 04915  
207-338-1417 x 125 (phone)

P.O. Box 78  
Belfast, ME 04915  
April 16, 2018

Att.: Mr. Wayne Marshall  
Office of City Planner  
Belfast City Hall  
131 Church Street  
Belfast, Maine  
04915

Mr. Marshall:

We could hardly contain our enthusiasm when we first heard of the prospective salmon-raising facility in town. It certainly appealed to our business side: The breadth and scope of the operation seemed to offer a means to make our small community a major player in an international market, all while lowering our taxes. In addition, the idea also carried a sentimental appeal for us considering our strong family ties to relatives in Norway. With all of these potential benefits on offer what could possibly dissuade us from extending our enthusiastic support to the proposal?

But in fact we are more than our business side; we are more than our identities as concerned taxpayers; and we are more- one would hope- than our sentiments too. We are also citizens of a community who, like others in it, share in the common interest to make the best of our resources and the legacy handed down to us. With this in mind, and after further deliberation on the matter, we now admit to seeing a number of problems with the proposal despite our initial favorable reaction.

Water heads our list of concerns. Nature, fortunately, has bestowed on us a fairly abundant supply. Nonetheless, it is a finite resource. Should we not serve as stewards of this inheritance in order to best maintain it for ourselves and pass it on to future generations? To do so entails a long-term commitment not only to safeguard the aquifers at the heart of this resource, but also the watershed and groundwater capabilities needed to replenish it. Selling it for a short-term expedience particular to our time could well betray that legacy- especially if it is done without a thorough examination of the complexities and potential unintended consequences of such a move.

If, as a now popular saying goes, 'Water is the new oil,' do we want to compromise local sovereignty over our water in the midst of a global scramble to lock up these resources? Does it make sense to bestow that sovereignty on a foreign-based trans-national company? What allegiance to us does this enterprise have as it withdraws the value it extracts from a significant portion of our fresh water for private gain?

And who pays the tab for the by-products, ie. the externalized costs, intrinsic to so large-scale an undertaking: for instance, the effects of pollution to our freshwater, our marine resources, and our air? That burden, along with other indirect costs, will fall on us, the taxpayers, and thus nullify the tax revenues we expect to gain.

Also, instead of widening the tax base, we might find ourselves (as has happened to many states and municipalities trying to woo industry) strapped with demands for tax abatements, subsidies, and expanded services instead. Do sixty jobs adequately offset assuming this risk?

And might we also risk compromising the quality of life that makes Belfast unique? What about the consequences to tourism or real estate or the mood of existing employers who have found it attractive to locate here? Do we wish to become an industrial town instead? Is that compatible with our identity? Or will it undermine the reputation we have built, our 'brand' so to speak? Might it not be better to build on what we have, especially when our community has so many advantages that others lack?

Lastly, everyone has a stake in expanding our employment base; but doing so at the expense of our uniqueness would be counterproductive. If we make ourselves less desirable as a community, the virtuous circle that has resulted from good policy decisions stalls or goes into reverse. If real estate declines, to take one example, how will it affect jobs in building supplies or construction? What will it do to our service economy? Declines in any of these areas, should they occur, create other negative multiplier effects. Have we considered them? Have we discussed them?

As taxpayers, we do not want to risk the legal- and moral- obligation to compensate our neighbors on the other side of town for what may eventually prove an injudicious plan whose purported benefits fall short of promise in the long run.

As much as we have admired past decisions of our city government, we must admit that the process underway to sell a significant portion of a precious resource baffles us. We understand the need sometimes to keep a sensitive negotiation under wraps; what we don't understand is the disclosure of this offer to the public too late in the game to make a meaningful contribution to the decision.

We find two additional features of this process particularly troubling too. At a time when many state and local governments are stepping in to stand as bulwarks against the dysfunction occurring elsewhere, it appears that our city government is poised to do the opposite- as if it has internalized the same disregard for facts that have proven so corrosive on the national level. The rush to judgement on the matter of a large-scale fish farm- without even so much as an environmental impact review- seems to us to display just such a disinclination to seriously explore the evidence necessary to deliberate toward an appropriate outcome.

And finally, we are appalled by the intention to push through this proposal with a zoning change to the Comprehensive Plan. One of us worked for five years on the board that created it. Many of its provisions protect property owners and business owners alike by providing continuity and stability: it shapes the overall context in which we live and work. To change it- especially cavalierly- would threaten the very purpose for which it was designed. It should never be a quick expedient but a last- and very reluctantly applied- resort. It is the equivalent of the "nuclear option" in the U.S. Senate, ie. abolishing the filibuster. It is there, surely, but wiser heads have decided it would be folly to exercise it. Or perhaps it is more like throwing out an amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Imagine the fallout from that. Translated to the local level violating *our* constitution, our Comprehensive Plan, would mean open season on us from any outside entity, that expediency rules, that henceforth anything goes.

In the same way we fear the extent to which an incompletely examined, if not questionable, business decision contains within it the potential to set in motion a chain of irreversible consequences. Let us think, and think seriously therefore, before taking that leap.

In that spirit we thank you and others for whatever further consideration you give to this matter. We also appreciate your openness in receiving our views.

Respectfully,

Christopher Harley-White  
Kristin Robinson-White



**City of  
Belfast**

Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

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## land-based salmon farming

2 messages

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**Mike Silverton** <hensteeth@aol.com>

Tue, Apr 17, 2018 at 9:26 AM

To: wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org

### **More cautionary information:**

<https://www.aquaculturenorthamerica.com/salt-water-fish/a-challenging-environment-for-land-based-salmon-farming-1640>

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**Wayne Marshall** <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

Tue, Apr 17, 2018 at 9:33 AM

To: Mike Silverton <hensteeth@aol.com>

Hello Mr. Silverton.

Thank you for sharing this link. I note that the Council has the ISFA report and that the report has been entered into the formal record for the April 17 public hearing.

Wayne

On Tue, Apr 17, 2018 at 9:26 AM, Mike Silverton <hensteeth@aol.com> wrote:

**More cautionary information:**

<https://www.aquaculturenorthamerica.com/salt-water-fish/a-challenging-environment-for-land-based-salmon-farming-1640>

--

Wayne Marshall  
Director, Code & Planning  
City of Belfast  
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Belfast, ME 04915  
207-338-1417 x 125 (phone)  
207-338-1605 (fax)  
wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org

Levi K. <levi.krajewski@maine.edu>  
To: wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org

Sun, Apr 15, 2018 at 11:21 AM

Hi Wayne,

I hope you're well.

I only have one concern about the proposed salmon farm, but it's a huge one for me, and I figure it could be a big one for others, particularly in this community. I haven't mentioned it to that protest organization that's trying to slow things down, so if they've brought it up, it's entirely not my responsibility.

Is Nordic Aquafarms planning to raise AquAdvantage salmon, or a similar gmo variety? Based upon an estimate of how quickly they said they could bring their first salmon to market, it sounds like they may be.

I wholeheartedly believe it would be a wonderful development, and sincerely want it to succeed. I also like to think it's something that Nordic Aquafarms can work around if they are planning to grow AquAdvantage salmon.

If you don't know already, I would like to know how an answer might be gotten, particularly as I hear an important meeting is coming up. I know it's not a be-all-end-all meeting, but I feel it's important for others to know this information, as it should be a consideration:

The new salmon was approved by the FDA in 2015. My concern is only the potential result of it ending up in the bay. Due to its genetic modifications, the success of its reproductive cycle is not as good as natural salmon, but the fish is estimated to grow twice as fast as natural salmon, it is able to reproduce, and a reproductive cycle would improve with every generation. A fish that grows and matures 2x as fast as a natural fish could easily, if not quickly, displace a natural population.

Even if the facility is a mile from the water, I know there are people who behave irrationally when it comes to animal rights, and there are also people who just want to stick it to the man, and the release of just a couple of these salmon into the open ocean could be enough for them to reproduce or cross with natural populations, however low the chances are.

I was the coordinator for the Sheepscot River Watershed Council for a couple of years, and it was my job to promote the conservation and restoration of the endangered Atlantic Salmon populations in Maine's rivers. You may remember that Maine even had an Atlantic Salmon Commission not too long ago. There aren't a lot of things outside of my family that are as important to me as the state of Maine and the state of its ecosystems.

Your response is greatly appreciated.

Thanks!

-Levi

**Wayne Marshall** <planner@cityofbelfast.org>  
To: "Levi K." <levi.krajewski@maine.edu>

Mon, Apr 16, 2018 at 5:13 PM

Hello Levi

I spoke with Elizabeth Ransom, the engineer who is working with Nordic Aquafarms, to ensure that I accurately responded to your question. She stated that Eric Heim, Nordic Aquafarms does not endorse nor will he use genetically modified (such as AquAdvantage) salmon. He similarly is committed to not use gmo based feed. Both practices are prohibited in Norway and he plans to follow Norwegian standards with how he raises fish in the U.S. Ms. Ransom specifically noted that Nordic Aquafarms is committed to raising high quality premium fish through land based aquaculture and that Mr. Heim has stated that if the U.S. establishes organic standards for the salmon aquaculture industry (such standards do not yet exist), that he intends to comply with such standards. The main U.S. standard that salmon producers now strive for in the U.S. is issued by Salmon Watch (Monterey Bay). They list land based aquaculture north atlantic salmon as a best choice.

Thank you for submitting your comment. I will include such in the formal record for the upcoming April 17 public hearing.

Wayne

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Wayne Marshall  
Director, Code & Planning  
City of Belfast  
131 Church St  
Belfast, ME 04915  
207-338-1417 x 125 (phone)  
207-338-1605 (fax)  
wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org

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**Levi K.** <levi.krajewski@maine.edu>  
To: Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

Mon, Apr 16, 2018 at 8:26 PM

Hi Wayne,

I very greatly appreciate your time and the comprehensive response. I'm quite happy to hear it and be able to cross my fingers and hope that the whole thing goes through!

Cheers,

-Levi



**City of  
Belfast**

**Wayne Marshall** <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

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## Farmed Salmon

3 messages

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**dawn marie clark** <dawnakasunny@gmail.com>

Tue, Apr 17, 2018 at 9:47  
AM

To: wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org

It is toxic.

Is this the garbage that you want being produced in Belfast?

[http://goodfullness.net/farmed-salmon-one-toxic-foods-world-see-stop-eating/?](http://goodfullness.net/farmed-salmon-one-toxic-foods-world-see-stop-eating/?utm_source=pet&utm_tracking=17&utm_medium=Social)

[utm\\_source=pet&utm\\_tracking=17&utm\\_medium=Social](http://goodfullness.net/farmed-salmon-one-toxic-foods-world-see-stop-eating/?utm_source=pet&utm_tracking=17&utm_medium=Social)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ag0Y9xCatM8>

Dawn M Clark

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**Wayne Marshall** <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

Tue, Apr 17, 2018 at 9:55  
AM

To: dawn marie clark <dawnakasunny@gmail.com>

Dear Ms. Clark

Thank you for submitting your comment. Your comment will be part of the formal record for the upcoming April 17 public hearing and the links that you submitted will be provided to the Council in advance of the hearing. I do not that this video raises concerns regarding ocean pen raised salmon in a marine environment. The Nordic Aquafarm project involves land based aquaculture using a RAS water recirculation system. Also, the fish waste on the bottom of the ocean/bay is because of the open pens. A land based operation does discharge certain processed wastes to the marine waters, but the volumes are considerable less.

Wayne

[Quoted text hidden]

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Wayne Marshall  
Director, Code & Planning  
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Belfast, ME 04915  
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207-338-1605 (fax)  
wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org

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**Wayne Marshall** <planner@cityofbelfast.org>  
To: dawn marie clark <dawnakasunny@gmail.com>

Tue, Apr 17, 2018 at 9:56 AM

Ms. Clarke.

The word 'not' that I typed at the beginning of my third sentence was to read 'note'. My apologies for the error.

Wayne  
[Quoted text hidden]



**City of  
Belfast**

**Wayne Marshall** <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

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## Nordic Aquafarms - Salmon Farm

2 messages

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**Kathy Muzzy** <Kmuzzy@bluestreakme.com>

Mon, Apr 16, 2018 at 9:47  
PM

To: wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org

I would like to voice my opinion about 1.)the scale of this project, it is frightening to me. This will be the largest such facility in the world – in Belfast, Maine?? 2.)The site is adjacent to the Little River reservoir, it would allow clear cutting which would affect wildlife, affect the use of a prime recreational area and it could also affect water from the local aquifer. 3.)Nordic Aquafarms, established in 2014, is a relatively new business, yet it's taking on a project of THIS size. I question if they are ready to do that. I am not in favor of the project moving forward at it's current rate of speed. I will be City Council meeting tomorrow night to learn more, but I hope this project does not move forward until more in depth information is given to the public. Thank you, Kathy Muzzy

---

**Wayne Marshall** <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

Tue, Apr 17, 2018 at 9:26  
AM

To: Kathy Muzzy <Kmuzzy@bluestreakme.com>

Dear Ms. Muzzy:

Thank you for submitting your comment via email. Your comment will be included in the formal public record for the April 17 public hearing and will be provided to the City Council in advance of the hearing.

Wayne

On Mon, Apr 16, 2018 at 9:47 PM, Kathy Muzzy <Kmuzzy@bluestreakme.com> wrote:

I would like to voice my opinion about 1.)the scale of this project, it is frightening to me. This will be the largest such facility in the world – in Belfast, Maine?? 2.)The site is adjacent to the Little River reservoir, it would allow clear cutting which would affect wildlife, affect the use of a prime recreational area and it could also affect water from the local aquifer. 3.)Nordic Aquafarms, established in 2014, is a relatively new business, yet it's taking on a project of THIS size. I question if they are ready to do that. I am not in favor of the project moving forward at it's current rate of speed. I will be City Council meeting tomorrow night to learn more, but I hope this project does not move forward until more in depth information is given to the public. Thank you, Kathy Muzzy

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John Krueger  
207-322-6297  
291 Rocky Road  
Northport, Maine 04849

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**Wayne Marshall** <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

Tue, Apr 17, 2018 at 9:31 AM

To: John Krueger <jkrueg1@gmail.com>

Dear Mr. Krueger

Thank you for submitting your comment via email. Your comment will be included in the formal record for the April 17 public hearing and will be provided to the Council in advance of the hearing.

**Wayne**

[Quoted text hidden]

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Wayne Marshall  
Director, Code & Planning  
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wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org



**City of  
Belfast**

**Wayne Marshall** <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

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## salmon farm testimony

2 messages

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**John Krueger** <jkrueg1@gmail.com>

Tue, Apr 17, 2018 at 9:04 AM

To: Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

Here is a written version of the testimony I would like to provide tonight. Would you like me to provide printed copies? Please distribute.

Thanks.

My name is John Krueger, I am a resident of Northport. Thank you for allowing me to address this body.

I moved from Liberty to this area to find a large woodlot, smaller than my holdings in Liberty, but to take advantage of the wonderful trails and pristine environment in North Northport. I believe I can speak for many of your Northport neighbors and even other Waldo county towns when I express concern for the request of a foreign owned company to lobby a town to degrade a pristine natural resource to become rezoned as industrial.

It strikes me as unusual for a zoning redistricting to be accomplished solely for a single private interest. Zoning is regulation and it should be preceded by a thoughtful planning process. In Maine, Zoning is one of a variety of tools that implement a municipality's comprehensive plan. This planning should take place before the adoption of land use regulations. It can preserve community character and the social capital that binds a community together. What's more, by linking the regulations in a zoning ordinance with the policies in a comprehensive plan, ensures that a community has well thought-out reasons for the restrictions it places on private property.

The current rezoning looks very much to me like a Concentrated Animal Feed Operation, or CAFO. As a MOFGA Board member, I could not include such a operation as "Organic" and find it insulting to Maine at such suggestions. CAFO's are essentially factory farms that feed 1000 animal units confined on site for more than 45 days during the year. where a single animal unit is defined as the equivalent of a 1000 pound cow. Examples of CAFO's include 1000 head of beef cattle, 700 dairy cows, 2500 swine weighing more than 55 lbs, 125 thousand broiler chickens, or 82 thousand laying hens or pullets). NAF is proposing the slaughter of approximately 180,000 fish a day (Based on 33,000 tons of fish/year).

Typically, in the US these CAFO's are located in the Midwest and plains states where large areas are available. Their placement away from communities is due to the fact that there are often failures of such operations that have negative effects on residential areas.

- CAFOs produce huge amounts of animal sewage and other pollutants. CAFO owners and operators spend millions of dollars on technologies that make it possible to produce massive quantities of milk, eggs, and meat, and yet failures continue to exist.
- The amount of urine and feces produced by the smallest CAFO is equivalent to the quantity of urine and feces produced by 16,000 humans.
- CAFO waste is usually not treated to reduce disease-causing pathogens, nor to remove chemicals, pharmaceuticals, heavy metals, or other pollutants.
- Over 168 gases are emitted from CAFO waste, including hazardous chemicals such as ammonia, hydrogen sulfide, and methane.
- Airborne particulate matter is found near CAFOs and can carry disease-causing bacteria, fungus, or other pathogens.
- Animals frequently die in CAFOs. Their carcasses, often in large numbers, must be dealt with.
- Infestations of flies, rats, and other vermin are commonplace around CAFOs and therefore around CAFO neighbors.

Often you'll hear owners of CAFOs argue that the wastes produced by the livestock provide nutrients that help them offset the use of synthetic fertilizers. The sheer amount of wastes produced, however, often overwhelms the ability of the land and crops to absorb CAFO wastes.

I'd like to see better tax information, so that we can put a better price on this gift of Belfast's finest properties to NAF.

Given the speed of this proposal I have serious concerns that remain unaddressed and ask the City Council to wait until more information is available by NordicAqua Farms before proceeding with zoning changes. I suggest that residents be completely involved in the entire process of acquiring information and evaluating this proposal in order for the development of community wide consensus. Such participation by the community is consistent with comprehensive planning, a precursor to zoning. I would like to believe that there exists trust in a foreign company, trust and work with the Council and trust in the community. We need impartial 3rd expert parties to help us with this planning process.

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April 17, 2018

Belfast City Council  
City Hall  
131 Church Street  
Belfast, Maine 04915

RE: Risk of noise and odor at proposed Nordic Aquafarms facility in Belfast

Dear Council Members,

I am writing to offer information about the potential for noise and odor associated with the proposed Nordic Aquafarms facility in Belfast. This information is based on my first-hand experience at the hatchery and grow-out facilities Nordic Aquafarms operates with their partners, in the towns of Hanstholm and Bedsted Thy in Denmark.

In September 2017, I visited Nordic Aquafarms' Danish grow-out facility, called Sashimi Royal, and the hatchery facility that supplies Sashimi Royal, Maximus. At the time of my visit, Nordic Aquafarms was nearing its first harvest of Yellowtail Kingfish from the facility. As a part of my visit, I was able to tour through both facilities, observing the production of everything from the algae and copepods used to feed the larval and juvenile fish in the hatchery to growth of market-sized fish in the grow-out facility.

Growing up on the Maine coast (only a short distance south of Belfast), I spent many of my childhood and early adult years in and around fishing boats and on bait wharves. I became used to the omnipresent smell of rancid baitfish, seagulls, and fish waste associate with the traditional fishing industries in Maine and developed an enduring appreciation for this part of our state's heritage and economy. On my visit to the Nordic Aquafarms facilities in Denmark, I was particularly struck by the absence of the auditory and olfactory cues that I associated with fishing and fish processing.

The hatchery functioned more like a laboratory than anything else, staffed by personnel in lab coats and sterile boots to maintain the biological integrity of the fish being raised. From the exterior, the grow-out facility was quiet and odorless, with the proximity to the ocean and the oxygen infuser as the only obvious indication it was an aquaculture facility. Once inside, I was impressed by the cleanliness of the operations, the relative quiet of the pumps, tanks, and treatment systems, and the lack of fishy odor. The large central tank the fish were being raised in was comprised of two concentric tank sections containing fish of different ages, and a middle tank section that contained the biofilter used to remove impurities from the water being circulated in the tanks. Even walking the catwalks over the biofilter and fish, I noticed the smell of saltwater more than anything else, and equipment was quiet enough that I was able to have a conversation without having to significantly raise my voice.

While the facilities I visited in Denmark raise Yellowtail Kingfish, not Atlantic Salmon, the systems, operations, and processing are essentially the same. I feel confident, based on my experience, that the risk of unwanted noise or odor associated with the proposed facility in Belfast is extremely low. For a

Pease International Tradeport, 112 Corporate Drive, Portsmouth, New Hampshire 03801, Tel (603) 436-1490, Fax (603) 436-6037  
400 Commercial Street, Suite 404, Portland, Maine 04101, Tel (207) 772-2891  
12 Kent Way, Suite 100, Byfield, Massachusetts 01922-1221, Tel (978) 465-1822  
60 Valley Street, Building F, Suite 106, Providence, Rhode Island 02909, Tel (401) 433-2160  
2127 Hamilton Avenue, Hamilton, New Jersey 08619, Tel (609) 584-0090

Belfast City Council  
City Hall

sense of what the Danish facilities look like, I have included several photos of the hatchery and grow-out facilities.

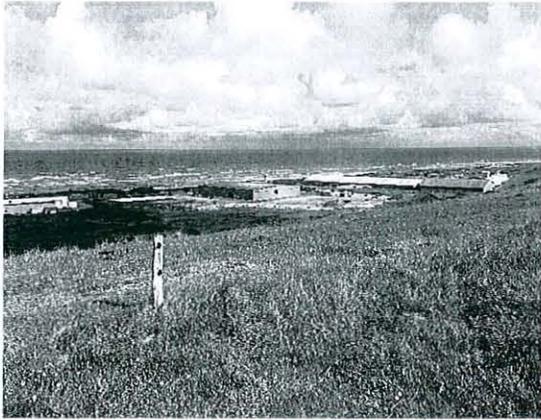
While the economic development argument in favor of Nordic Aquafarms proposed Belfast facility is strong, there is an equally compelling argument in favor of the project to be found in the ecological benefits. Land-based aquaculture can help to keep the traditional fisheries of our state sustainable through helping to maintain clean water, good genetic diversity of fish populations, and appropriate levels of fishing pressure.

I appreciate your time in reading this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas Neilson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Thomas B. Neilson  
Geologist



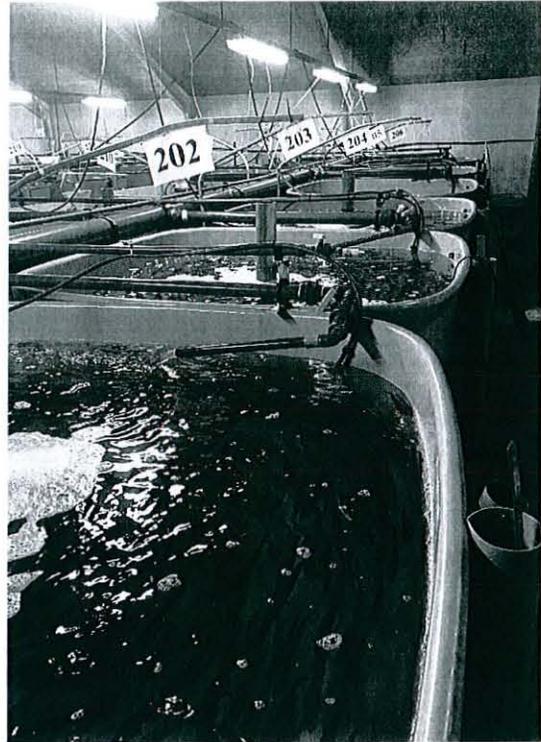
Sashimi Royal in Hanstholm, Denmark.



The beach in front of the facility. Seawater intake and discharge lines are run underground through the notch in the dunes to the ocean.



The tank where fish are being grown to market size at Sashimi Royal.



Juvenile fish shortly before being transferred to the grow-out facility.



Growing algae to feed copepods, which are used to feed juvenile fish and to tint the water of the tanks for proper fish development.



**City of  
Belfast**

Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

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## Please wait on proposed zoning changes for Nordic Aquafarms project

2 messages

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**Luke Harrington** <harrington77@yahoo.com>

Tue, Apr 17, 2018 at 10:06 AM

To: "wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org" <wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org>, "planner@cityofbelfast.org" <planner@cityofbelfast.org>, "mayor@cityofbelfast.org" <mayor@cityofbelfast.org>

Dear Wayne Marshall and Belfast City Council,

We are writing to express our opinion on the proposed Nordic Aquafarm project.

Upon initial consideration, we are not in favor of the project. Like other citizens have expressed, we would like more time to carefully consider the potential impacts. In order to do so, we would like to have a clearer picture of the expected costs and benefits. For example, what assurances do we have that the plant will not adversely affect the surrounding river and bay? How will the proposed deep wells at the site affect the aquifer level? How will traffic, specifically large trucks, access the site? Will they be entering and exiting from Route 1, or The Perkins Road? What will the noise level be? If there will be a reduction in property taxes, what specifically will it be? What assurances do we citizens have that the reduction will actually happen? For comparison, how much were taxes reduced with the arrival of MBNA or Athenahealth?

Until we have answers to such questions we do not believe that citizens can make an informed choice. For that reason, we urge you and the council to refrain from changing zoning at the proposed site, or taking other measures that would increase the momentum of this project until we have a clearer picture of the project's impacts.

As citizens who live approximately one mile from the proposed site, who live near The Little River, who enjoy hiking the trails along the river and walking in the area, we will be impacted by this project. From what we have seen so far, we would rather continue paying our current level of taxes and know that we will be able to continue to enjoy the peace and quiet of our home and surroundings than risk those things for what we see as minimal benefit. Even if this project reduced our property taxes by half, we would prefer paying our current rate than risking problems with the issues we have mentioned above.

Thank you for considering our position, and we look forward to hearing more from you and the council about what to expect from this project.

Sincerely,  
Meg and Luke Harrington  
24 Herrick Rd.  
Belfast, Maine

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**Wayne Marshall** <planner@cityofbelfast.org>  
To: Luke Harrington <harrington77@yahoo.com>

Tue, Apr 17, 2018 at 10:44 AM

Dear Meg and Luke Herrington.

Thank you for submitting your comment via email. Your comment will be part of the formal record for the April 17 public hearing and will be provided to the City Council in advance of the hearing.

**Wayne**

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Wayne Marshall  
Director, Code & Planning  
City of Belfast  
131 Church St  
Belfast, ME 04915  
207-338-1417 x 125 (phone)  
207-338-1605 (fax)  
wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org



**City of  
Belfast**

**Wayne Marshall** <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

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## NAF

2 messages

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**Linda Hurley** <othurley@gmail.com>

Tue, Apr 17, 2018 at 11:00 AM

To: wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org

I would like to ask the city counsel to table the zoning vote until further research, data and information can be obtained. This whole project feels, to me, as though it is being railroaded through. There are still so many unknowns. If it's such a good project, than it should be able to withstand the time it takes to do a complete and thorough investigation.

Respectfully,

Linda Hurley  
Belfast Maine

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**Wayne Marshall** <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

Tue, Apr 17, 2018 at 11:31 AM

To: Linda Hurley <othurley@gmail.com>

Dear Ms. Hurley.

Thank you for submitting your comment. It will be included in the formal record for the April 17 public hearing and will be provided to the Council in advance of the hearing.

Wayne

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Wayne Marshall  
Director, Code & Planning  
City of Belfast  
131 Church St  
Belfast, ME 04915  
207-338-1417 x 125 (phone)  
207-338-1605 (fax)  
wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org



City of  
Belfast

Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

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## Please share tonight at Council meeting

2 messages

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**Judith Simpson** <jsimpsonmindfulness@gmail.com>

Tue, Apr 17, 2018 at  
12:05 PM

To: wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org

Just to add yet another number to urge for more time to totally assess the potential effects of a land-based aquafarm in Belfast:

I have great respect for the desires of others in Belfast who are deeply concerned about the future of water and beautiful green places in Belfast. I know that those in the southern part of town suffered mightily when the chicken farm was here. I also know that people move to Maine for its beauty of both the woods and the water. This is like no other state, and Belfast is like no other place I've lived. I have settled here for the past twenty years with a long history of inhabiting more than thirty different areas! The condition of our Penobscot Bay affects every one of us in one way or another.

We deeply need places for our workers to live during all seasons; and we do not deeply need another factory.

Thank you!

Judith E Simpson  
9 Grove Street

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**Wayne Marshall** <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

Tue, Apr 17, 2018 at 12:09 PM

To: Judith Simpson <jsimpsonmindfulness@gmail.com>

Dear Ms. Simpson

Thank you for submitting your comment. Your comment will be included in the formal record for the April 17 public hearing and copies will be provided to the Council in advance of the hearing.

Wayne.

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Wayne Marshall  
Director, Code & Planning  
City of Belfast  
131 Church St  
Belfast, ME 04915  
207-338-1417 x 125 (phone)



City of  
Belfast

Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

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## input for zoning on

2 messages

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**Beth Whitman** <whitmanbeth@yahoo.com>

Tue, Apr 17, 2018 at 12:24  
PM

To: Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

Hi Wayne,

Below is input for the City Council as they consider the zoning change tonite.

Thanks.

-Beth Whitman

Dear Belfast City Council,

As you consider changing the zoning, here are some specific requests and ideas that I am hoping you consider (if you are not already considering them).

- Impermeable Requirement: Because this zone is so close to the Little River, and it is in an area that is not part of a business park, it may be appropriate to have an impermeable requirement of even less than 70% - perhaps 50% or 60 %
- Building Height: 50 feet seems excessive for this area.
- Setback: 50' setback from property that is in the same zone (ie: the Matthews Bros) may be enough, but I think that it needs to be 150' of vegetated setback from any property line that is next to a different zone.
- Viewscape from Rt 1. Please include some sort of additional setback or limit on the type of building that is allowed in the immediate viewscape onto this property as you come North on Rte 1. As has been mentioned in comments made to the council, the beauty and welcoming entrance to the Town of Belfast should be preserved.
- Lighting: I believe Belfast needs to make sure that all lighting is completely shielded and pointed downward. I believe this needs to be written into any new zone that is created, and hopefully included in the overall zoning requirements.
- Traffic: Any development in a new zone should consider the impact of traffic both on Route 1, but further north where there is an Exit off of Route 1 that leads to a left turn onto Route 3 towards Augusta. This particular intersection is often backed up - even in summer, and it seems that it would be incumbent on this new development in this new zone to work with MDOT to resolve the congestion issue at this intersection.

- Noise: Particularly since this is next to a residential district, something needs to be written into the zoning to make sure that any constant or loud noise will be mitigated in some manner.
- Odor: Again, next to a residential district, something needs to be written into the zoning to protect against odors that may emanate from a large industrial project such as this.

Thank you for considering the concerns of the Belfast residents,

-Beth Whitman  
35 Village Rd  
207-212-7554

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**Wayne Marshall** <planner@cityofbelfast.org>  
To: Beth Whitman <whitmanbeth@yahoo.com>

Tue, Apr 17, 2018 at 12:33 PM

Hello Beth

Thank you for your comment. It will be considered part of the formal public record for tonight's hearing and will be provided to the Council in advance of the hearing.

Wayne

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Wayne Marshall  
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City of  
Belfast

Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

## Aquaculture input for tonight's meeting

2 messages

**Jim Merkel** <jimimerkel@gmail.com>  
To: wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org

Tue, Apr 17, 2018 at 12:30 PM

From: Jim Merkel

97 Patterson Hill Rd.

Belfast, Maine 04915

207 323-1474

jimimerkel@gmail.com

Dear Belfast City Council Members, City Manager and City Planning Department and Staff,

I am strongly opposed to siting a large aquaculture facility in Belfast, Maine. The proposed site is amongst Belfast's finest land that currently serves as a green belt and wildlife connecting corridor, linking the sea with the lifeblood of the land via riparian habitat and secluded unroaded forests. And the crown jewel is the Little River Trail winding through it. I've been out there with the late Skip Pentalton, constructing small trail bridges from forest round wood. It is a magical hike up over hill and dale, crossing small streams, where time suspends — with old growth white pine stands up to the lip of the reservoir. It is a delight in any season, but winter time is a favorite for my son and I.

Aside from destroying this treasure, the proposed facility is largely untested and can have major unintended consequences associated with any hazardous, industrial process, including biohazards. All monocultures turn out to be unstable as they are unknown to natural processes. The mere step of isolating an aquaculture facility from the sea, only addresses a small subset of the hazards and impacts. Producing 60 million pounds of salmon a year from an onshore facility will require massive clean inputs and massive dirty hazardous outputs — in ecological terms, there is no "ecological free lunch." Inputs will include water, food, land, road space, and energy. Outflows will include manure, biohazards, carbon emissions, traffic, road wear, light and noise pollution and polluted water. Food, energy and water don't arrive without ecological costs, often in terms of large monocultures to source the food. The water inputs are extraordinary and when we take clean water and pollute it with fish excrement, it is energy intensive and often impossible to return it to the original condition. I wouldn't want to drink it, swim in it or eat fish that swim in it. Land areas are needed to sequester wastes. Benign and useful wastes are possible in small scale systems such as small organic farms but among massive monocultures, it is all theoretical and rarely if ever accomplished.

Other impacts include traffic and an outflow of money from our community to some foreign agents. Small, local businesses recycle money within the community where these ventures ship money (in the form of our local commons — fertility, land, water, clean air) out of the community.

A large site of nature now sequestering carbon, providing wildlife habitat, contributing to ground water recharge, providing a green belt, which filters water and air, would be stripped off our accounting sheets, along with uncounted ecosystem services. The land, ruined beyond recognition will be extremely costly and difficult to restore when the project eventually ends.

Aquacultures have a horrible track record of problems that people of common sense, and a pinch of ecological basics did loudly predict. Unfortunately, it is tough to stand up against seasoned monied interests. The very skilled sales people of these industrial schemes have a way of soothing every concern to advance their dream child in hopes of making profits. But profits come from the commons. Our commons. From Our Town Belfast.

I strongly support backing away from this large monoculture. Why ruin the Little River? For what end? That beautiful Penobscot Bay, void of historic fish stocks, has been destroyed by hair-brained schemes and when the creators of them went out of business, they left us taxpayers with the impossible task of cleaning up all the unintended consequences, like miles of mercury sludge rippling into the food chain, and no place to take your son fishing.

Better to spend this resource in restoring Atlantic Salmon and wild fish stocks to the many rivers of Maine. These rivers were ruined by dams, industrial poisons, chemical factories, pulp mills, over cutting of the forests, spraying of blueberry barrens, pumping massive amounts of water for irrigation (which warms the water temperatures in the streams) and then by overfishing. And now by Aquaculture? We should have learned by now.

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**Wayne Marshall** <planner@cityofbelfast.org>  
To: Jim Merkel <jimimerkel@gmail.com>

Tue, Apr 17, 2018 at 12:36 PM

Hello Jim

Thank you for submitting your comment. It will be included in the formal public record for the April 17 public hearing and will be provided to the Council in advance of the hearing.

**Wayne**

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