

**APRIL 17 PUBLIC HEARING & SECOND READING
ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS - NORDIC AQUAFARM PROJECT
PERSONS WHO HAVE SUBMITTED PUBLIC COMMENT
BETWEEN APRIL 12 (12 Noon) and APRIL 13 ()
LIST NUMBER 2**

This is a list of persons who have submitted public comment via email or letter for the April 17 Public Hearing associated with the Second Reading of Ordinance amendments associated with the Nordic Aquafarm project. Copies of the actual emails and letters have been provided to the City Council and are available for inspection on the City website; reference cityofbelfast.org, go to Nordic Aquafarms Information heading listed on the home page under News and Events. The public also can inspect the comments at the Code and Planning Department offices in City Hall. The City Council will receive copies of comment submitted between the dates of April 12 (noon) through April 13 (4:00 pm) at the April 17 Council meeting.

Sixty persons who submitted public comment were identified on List # 1. Thus, this list (List 2) starts at the number 61.

Persons Who Have Submitted Comment

61. Dana Williams, April 13 email, Fahy St, Belfast
62. Wendy Watson, April 13 email & accompanying letter, Belfast
63. Ridgely Fuller, April 13 email & accompanying letter, Village Road, Belfast
64. Emma Macaillen, April 13 email, Orono
65. Tom Moore, April 12 email, Huntress Ave, Belfast
66. Patrick Santiago, April 13 email, Bayview St, Belfast
67. Erica Schlueter, April 12 email, Belfast
68. Tracey Lindelof & The Lindelof Family, April 13 email, Swanville, Belfast, Northport & Islesboro
69. Lesley Dodge-Harrer, April 12 email, Condon St, Belfast
70. Gef Fimlin, April 12 email & accompanying letter, Perkins Road, Belfast
71. Judy Williams, April 12 email, Belfast
72. Jay Peters, April 13 email, Condon St, Belfast
73. James Atkinson, III, April 13 hand-delivered letter, Northport
74. Marilyn Boyer, April 13 hand-delivered letter, No address listed (believe from Belfast)
75. Sue Garrett, April 13 hand-delivered letter, Springbrook Dr, Belfast
76. Lindsay Moore, April 13 hand-delivered letter, Charles St, Belfast
77. Alana Rose, April 13 hand-delivered letter, Morrill
78. Jane Morgan, April 13 hand-delivered letter, Village Road, Belfast
79. ? Unable to read name, April 13 hand-delivered letter, Uncertain of Address
80. Charles ? Haplin, April 13 hand-delivered letter, Uncertain of Address
81. Jim Kosinski, April 13 hand-delivered letter, Bayview St, Belfast
82. Ieva Bell-Shippee, April 13 hand-delivered letter, High St, Belfast
83. Heather Wilson, April 13 hand-delivered letter, Bridge St, Belfast
84. Judy Cohen, April 13 hand-delivered letter, Montville
85. Amy McDonagh, April 13 hand-delivered letter, No address listed

86. Elizabeth Mogg, April 13 hand-delivered letter, Belfast
87. Barbara Egan, April 13 hand-delivered letter, Cape Elizabeth
88. Christopher Groden, April 13 hand-delivered letter, Merriam Drive, Belfast
89. Susan Genett, April 13 hand-delivered letter, Freedom
90. Andrew Duzs, April 13 hand-delivered letter, Carlisle, PA
91. Kaylen Ottman, April 13 hand-delivered letter, Montville
92. Sara Stone, April 13 hand-delivered letter, Brooksville, ME
93. Julie Rose, April 13 hand-delivered letter, High St, Belfast
94. Winn Noys, April 13 hand-delivered letter, Thorndike
95. George Morgun, April 13 hand-delivered letter, Verona Island, ME
96. Jack Scully, April 13 hand-delivered letter, Washington St, Belfast
97. Syrene Slugone (spelling), April 13 hand-delivered letter, Cobb Rd, Belfast
98. Katrina Momowski, April 13 hand-delivered letter, Monville
99. Marc Bubar, April 13 email, Northport
100. Hannah Tays, April 13 email, Searsport Ave, Belfast



City of
Belfast

Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

Potential zoning change for salmon farm

2 messages

Dana Williams <dlwill53@hotmail.com>

Fri, Apr 13, 2018 at 12:54 PM

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

Hello Wayne,

I'm writing today to add my voice to those who are concerned about proposed changes to the city's zoning of the property being considered for a salmon farm. There are a variety of questions that would seem to be appropriate to have answered before such an entity establishes itself in Belfast. Chief among those is, "Does a fledgling business like Nordic Farms have the experience to dependably and responsibly steward the natural resources in the area it plans to do occupy?" It does not appear that they have, given their history and the difference in size of their proposed business and the projects they have already been involved with. The property they are seeking for their business is one of the loveliest in the city, with its reservoir, river, ocean, and trails. The waste alone from a salmon farm could sully this area, to say the least.

One also wonders whether the amount of water they will need to do business will compromise the aquifer from which it will be drawn. And, of course, how would the significant increase in traffic in that area, which would impact not only the plant itself, but likely a length of roadway both north and south of it, affect traffic flow and safety?

These are just a few thoughts, Wayne. If I am unable to attend the meeting on Tuesday, I would be grateful if you would pass them along. I think that the Planning Board does a wonderful job considering the "larger picture" on projects such as these, and I have no doubt that will be the case with this one. I also know by my own experience that the Planning Board welcomes and considers input from the city residents. We are fortunate to have this kind of representation.

Sincerely,

Dana Williams
25 Fahy Street
Belfast, ME 04915
20-338-1852

Sent from my iPad

Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

Fri, Apr 13, 2018 at 1:08 PM

To: Dana Williams <dlwill53@hotmail.com>

Dear Ms. Williams

Thank you for submitting your comment. It will be included in the public record for the April 17 public hearing and will be provided to the Council in advance of the hearing. Also, written/email comment is given the same 'weight' as verbal comment so it is okay that you cannot attend the hearing on the 17th.

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>

Letter to City Council - NAF Salmon Farm

2 messages

Wendy Watson <wswatson8@gmail.com>

Fri, Apr 13, 2018 at 11:03 AM

To: Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

Dear Wayne,

Please find the attached letter regarding the NAF Salmon Farm project. Thank you for ensuring my letter is forwarded to the members of the City Council and be a part of the public record.

Sincerely,

Wendy Watson
Belfast, ME 04915

NAF Salmon Farm Concerns W.Watson 4.13.18.pdf
45K

Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

Fri, Apr 13, 2018 at 2:01 PM

To: Wendy Watson <wswatson8@gmail.com>

Hello Wendy

I have received your letter. It will be part of the formal record for the upcoming April 17 public hearing and I will be providing copies to the Council via email today and in print in advance of the meeting.

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

Nordic Aquafarms Salmon Farm Concerns

Size of the Project and Limited Experience

- The Nordic Aquafarms (NAF) Salmon Farm project would be the world's largest land based salmon farm in the world, 33 million tons of fish produced at full production. It would be 16 times larger than this company's initial project in Norway (still not at full production capacity). No company, including NAF, has ever done something on this scale before in the world. We are basing the decision to move forward with the NAF project based on their theoretical modeling, not on actual experience.
- NAF only incorporated in 2014 and has been actively in business just two years, with only one plant in production, the first harvest in Dec. 2017 being yellowtail kingfish and not salmon. Do we want to be the town that they experiment on?

Proposed Zoning Changes Are Inadequate to Protect Community Resources

- A 50' set back (with 40' vegetative) is not enough, especially to protect neighbor's and Rt. 1 views, including light pollution and noise encroachment. It should be at least 100' (with 75' vegetative) or even more along Rt. 1 and abutting neighbor's property.
- Compared to Mathew's Bros. 27-30' building height, NAF's 50' building height is too high for the surrounding residential area. It should be no higher than 30' (without the solar panels).
- Given the proximity to the Little River watershed and Penobscot Bay, allowing 70% impervious surface for buildings and paving (28 of 40 acres) is too high and should be much lower. Maybe this higher amount would be acceptable if this project were being built in an area already zoned industrial area.

Location of the Project

- The siting of a large, industrial factory fish farm along the BWD Little River Reservoir and hiking trail will destroy a pristine, wooded area that is habitat to a lot of wildlife and enjoyed by many hikers. The City seems to be willing to sacrifice the area to be clear cut, built and paved (minus 250' along the reservoir for the existing trail) vs. considering the siting of this project in the business park or the potential reuse of another industrial area.
- Increased traffic congestion along Rt. 1 with tractor trailer trucks coming and going on a daily basis, combined with a 7 year of construction period for a project this size, will be significant.

Environmental Impact

- One significant concern is that there is no fish meal currently being produced at the volume that will be needed, which is considered organic. Testing of current sources of fish meal have been found to be dangerously high in concentrations of dioxins, PCB's, heavy metals and other toxins such as Ethoxyquin (a chemical pesticide used to prevent rancidity of the fish meal, and a possible carcinogen).
- 100% of the waste produced in a land based RAS Salmon system can neither be contained nor eliminated. We also don't have adequate information about the discharge volume and what will be in the discharge after filtering. NAF only promises that it will be "clean."
- We have not been given adequate information from NAF about the actual amount of water they will need for a project this size. Based on the 2017 International Salmon Farmers Association (ISFA) report, it has been estimated that a facility this size would require **60 BILLION gallons of water annually** from our local aquifer and Bay.
- We should be asking for a guarantee from NAF to not use any water outside of it's 40 acre site, to protect neighbor's wells and the local aquifer. We should also be asking that NAF conduct an environmental impact study, given a project of this size.

Energy Use and Fish Health

- Energy consumption for land based aquaculture is very intense. Consider that for every pound of fish produced there is an impact of 263 pounds of carbon emissions. According to the ISFA report, that due to such high energy and infrastructure cost, in order to make land based salmon fish farms profitable, fish must be raised in much higher densities than in net pen marine systems, which creates stress on the system and the fish in it.
- Even in land based aquaculture systems challenges still remain like pathogens getting into the system and once there, the whole system has to be depopulated of fish and then disinfected, and tanks refilled and repopulated with fish again. In addition, fish escapes can and do happen due to human error and handling.
- A recent report by the Scottish Salmon Producers Organization (SSPO) concluded that land based RAS for fish farming for all grow out stages, is neither financially viable given the high energy use and the resulting high carbon footprint that makes for an environmentally unfriendly choice.

Tax Revenue and Job Growth

- Do we actually have detailed figures to prove the NAF promise of cutting our mil rate in half? If so, then that information should be public knowledge.
- Historically our property taxes have not declined in the two decades since I've lived here in Belfast even with such large employers and businesses that have come to Belfast, like MBNA, athenahealth, Front St. Shipyard, etc.
- Large-scale growth can increase tax revenues, but mil rates do not stay reduced as budgets must increase, as the state now wants to reduce subsidies that are property evaluation based.
- Of the 60 jobs being promised, do we know how many would actually benefit local citizens or will they most be highly technical and skilled jobs for the well-educated? Many local employers have said they are experiencing a lack of qualified candidates to fill current job openings, along with an affordable housing crisis that both Wayne Marshall and the City has acknowledged and is trying to grapple with currently.

Speed of the Project

- The NAF Salmon Farm project has been on a fast track since it was first announced to the public in Feb. of this year and the fast pace has hampered public input. We need more detailed plans from NAF for a project this size, in order for both the City Council and the public to conduct their due diligence.
- Given the magnitude and impact of the proposed NAF Salmon Farm on citizens and the environment alike, I respectfully ask that this process and the related zoning changes be slowed down and not voted on April 17, until we have more specific information and detailed plans from NAF. Taking some additional time upfront now, will assist both the City Council and the citizens you represent, to be able to make sound decisions that will have long-standing implications and impact to Belfast and the region.

Wendy Watson
Belfast, ME



**City of
Belfast**

Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

Concerns regarding Nordic Aqua-Farms Salmon Farm Proposal

2 messages

Ridgely Fuller <ridgelyfuller@gmail.com>
To: wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org

Fri, Apr 13, 2018 at 12:26 PM

Hi Wayne,

Thank you for making sure my attached letter of concerns become part of the public record and is shared with the City Councilors.

Have a great weekend!

Ridgely Fuller
47 Village Rd
Belfast, ME
508-333-6230



Letter to Belfast City Councilors with Respect to Nordic Aqua Farm's Proposal.docx
154K

Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>
To: Ridgely Fuller <ridgelyfuller@gmail.com>

Fri, Apr 13, 2018 at 1:13 PM

Hello Ridgely,

I have received your letter and will ensure that it is provided to Councilors in advance of the upcoming April 17 public 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)
207-338-1605 (fax)
wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org

Dear City Councilors,

I appreciate you taking the time to review the following concerns I have with respect to the Nordic Farms Aqua-Farm's proposal for a land based salmon factory scaled farm in the Little River area of Belfast .

Speed of the project: This project was first unveiled to the public in early Jan. 2018 and is moving forward so fast that it has prevented adequate public understanding, deliberation and input.

Scale of the project: The land-based fish farm being planned by Nordic Aqua Farms (NAF) would be the largest such facility in the world, raising up to 33,000 tons of salmon a year at full production. This facility is 16 times larger in scope than NAF's initial project in Norway, which is not yet at full production. In short, many questions that have been raised concerning the operation of such a facility can only be answered in theoretical models. A project of this magnitude has never been accomplished before. The scale is simply too large for Belfast, where locally-owned and locally-operated businesses play a key role in our community and our small-town way of life.

Siting of the project: Adjacent to the Little River reservoir, trail and adjoining 40 acres of woodlands: prime recreational and wildlife habitat location in Belfast. These 40 acres of woodlands are destined to be clear-cut and the new proposed zoning changes would allow up to 70% of it paved, to make way for pipes, vehicles, buildings, tanks. Millions, perhaps, even billions of gallons of water pulled from aquifers by proposed deep-water wells NAF plans to drill throughout the area . Although City says it will take control to preserve the trail on a 250' wide shore land strip, it also acknowledges it can grant rights for NAF to dig deep water wells

Nordic Aquafarms has very limited experience: Established in 2014, and 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. NAF is still waiting for a 4,000-ton salmon farm permit from Norway. Shouldn't we be learning from Norwegian caution?

Use of our water sources: Unsustainable water use as Water District agrees to sell NAF water. There remain questions as to the impact of this sale on our community water resources. Test wells are being drilled in early spring, resulting in skewed measures that do not take our summer droughts into account, especially given climate change. What will be the impact of deep ground wells on neighboring wells? How can neighbors be guaranteed that the water drawn on the 40 owned acres will not effect their wells? It is estimated that it will initially require **484 million gallons of water** to fill the tanks and then more during the lifecycle of the fish

Health and quality of fish: There is huge concern over the toxic contaminants in the feed that all farm based fish are currently given and I have yet to find any information on availability (let alone affordability of organic feed. This is such an issue that financial forecasters in fish industry are concerned about its eventual market value. Norway prohibits organic labeling for land based salmon. Many nutritionists argue that all farmed salmon raised on pellets does not provide the omega 3 and other benefits found in wild salmon. There are concerns about animal welfare of the fish including density in tanks and issues of waste which lead to disease among the fish. There have been instances of fish in land based tanks becoming sick necessitating a complete kill; draining and cleaning of tanks to eliminate cause of disease.

Increase traffic congestion: NAF's proposed facility will have only one point of entry: at the entrance current entrance to the Water District on Rt1 (unless other access is acquired on Perkins Road).. The construction is expected to take seven years, over which time Belfast can expect an increase in construction vehicle traffic in that area. Should the plant become fully operational, 25 tanker trucks are estimated to enter and exit the facility every day. NAF acknowledges that construction will increase the noise level in the area.

Zoning Changes proposed by City are inadequate to protect community: 50' height allowance and all proposed set back and vegetative planting requirements are inadequate for what is essentially a residential zoned area with extensive recreational opportunities as well as important wild life habitat.. There exists no provision to ensure scenic viewscape along Route 1. Although City will take over 250' of

shore land to include Little River Trail, it is unacceptable that deep water ground water wells can be dug in this area which isn't wide enough given need to redirect trails when erosion becomes a concern. There is no guarantee that the current use of the trail will not become restricted.

I understand that Belfast City Officials have claimed that increased job-growth and property-tax revenue justifies inviting a relatively inexperienced multinational corporation to build the world's largest salmon farm at the expense of our natural resources and small-town way of life., but...

Job growth: local businesses, at the recent 2018 Job Fair held in Belfast universally claimed there are plenty of jobs in Belfast and vicinity. The problem, they stated is too small a labor force- one company offered that NAF would, in effect be competing with existing local businesses for similar employees; another company suggested it would like to grow and "be showered by the same municipal attention awarded NAF". All stated the small labor force problem is due to insufficient affordable housing that would attract more employees to our community. Matthews Brothers stated they are looking to fill 50 jobs in the next month. This is more than Nordic Aqua Farm is offering our community over the next 7 years! Should we not be focusing on helping our local businesses achieve their goals rather than on an international corporation that will by definition be taking its profits out of our community?

Tax revenue: We are repeatedly reminded that Belfast property taxes have not declined despite MBNA, athenahealth, Front Street Shipyard and other large businesses locating in our community. We do also realize that the issue of property taxes are closely linked to issues in our state government and should be resolved at that level. Moreover, despite the promises of NAF to pay property taxes, it now seems more apparent that such will depend on the amount of TIF (tax incremental financing) negotiated through which property taxes can be reduced for purported community investment. This mechanism is highly complicated and even more controversial as often it becomes simply a rebate to the company <http://www.theforecaster.net/policy-wonk-maine-tifs-are-not-created->

[equal/.www.pressherald.com/2014/02/19/maines-tif-law-allows-businesses-to-avoid-paying-for-local-services-schools/](http://www.pressherald.com/2014/02/19/maines-tif-law-allows-businesses-to-avoid-paying-for-local-services-schools/)

In summary, I believe the NAF permitting process needs to slow down. Zoning changes should be delayed pending formation of a citizen taskforce to have transparent and respectful conversations with city officials around a proposal of this magnitude. Residents of Belfast want to learn and to help develop a community-wide understanding of the benefits and costs of this project. Finally, an independent financial analysis and an independent environmental impact study should be conducted before any zoning changes are made or additional agreements with NAF negotiated.

Thank you for your attention,
Ridgely Fuller
47 Village Road
Belfast



**City of
Belfast**

Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

(no subject)

2 messages

tom moore <tmoore41@gmail.com>
To: wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org

Thu, Apr 12, 2018 at 1:42 PM

Dear Belfast City Councilors:

I was at first very enthusiastic about the Nordic Aquafarms project, but I no longer am.

1. I am concerned about the amount of water they will draw from the aquifer. No one knows when the limit may be reached.
2. I am concerned about the jobs/workers required. There have been help wanted signs up at Matthews Brothers and Penobscot McCrum for many months. There are not enough people to fill current positions and no low-cost housing for any new workers.
3. I am concerned about Nordic Aquafarms' track record. They have only been in business since 2014. No one knows how reliable they are. Belfast should be more cautious.

I think we should know more before we proceed.

Sincerely,

Thomas R. Moore
20 Huntress Ave.
Belfast

Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>
To: tom moore <tmoore41@gmail.com>

Fri, Apr 13, 2018 at 10:31 AM

Dear Mr. Moore

Thank you for submitting your comment. It will be part of the formal public record for the upcoming 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
City of Belfast
131 Church St
Belfast, ME 04915



Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

Salmon farming

2 messages

Emma Macaillen <em.macaillen@hotmail.com>

Fri, Apr 13, 2018 at 10:57 AM

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

To the Belfast City Council:

Please do not allow the zoning change for the purpose of salmon farming. We cannot add more pollution to the already compromised bay or support the mega use of drinking water for this purpose.

Time to preserve the beauty and resources of one of the most amazing places in Maine, beautiful and forward thinking Belfast. Please keep its integrity over the almighty dollar. Destruction of the bay will not serve your city nor will the depletion of your aquifer. They are irreplaceable not only to our quality of life, but to our survival.

We must be far sighted now and protect our waters.

Emma Macaillen
Orono, Me (upstream and working to minimize pollution here, to also benefit y'all downstream)

Sent from my iPhone

Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

Fri, Apr 13, 2018 at 11:00 AM

To: Emma Macaillen <em.macaillen@hotmail.com>

Dear Ms. Macaillen

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



**City of
Belfast**

Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

Salmon Farm

2 messages

Patrick Santiago <patricksantiago@yahoo.com>
To: wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org

Fri, Apr 13, 2018 at 10:40 AM

To the Belfast City Council.

I want to voice my concerns in regard to the speed, matter, and ecological impact the salmon industry may have on our community.

I would suggest a full/professional environmental analysis before proceeding any further.

I have concerns in regards to the lack of information until the negotiations were well advanced. The full economical impact/details for the city re: tax incentives, loan, etc. need to be fully disclosed.

Sincerely,

Patrick Santiago

Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>
To: Patrick Santiago <patricksantiago@yahoo.com>

Fri, Apr 13, 2018 at 10:42 AM

Dear Mr. Santiago.

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 presented to the 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)
207-338-1605 (fax)
wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org



City of
Belfast

Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

Letter of concern NAF

2 messages

Erica Schlueter <schlueter.ERICA@gmail.com>

Thu, Apr 12, 2018 at 12:53
PM

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

To city of Belfast Maine planning office, mayor and city council members,

The more I learn about the Nordic Aquafarm (NAF) project the more concerned I am about the potential negative impact on the environment and the city of Belfast. The amount of water that would be used by NAF is daunting and the long-term impact on the residents of Belfast is unclear at this time. The size of the facility and the largely experimental aspect of the project is also concerning.

Please slow down. I strongly urge the vote to change the zoning from residential to industrial be postponed for at least 6 months to have time to thoroughly gather information on all the aspects of the project (environmental impact on the land the harbor and fresh water sources, jobs, housing for lower wage earners, traffic, who will really benefit financially, who could it cause the most damage to, etc...) Perhaps the city council could work with a committee of citizens to do the research needed to be sure this project is a good fit for Belfast and it's citizens for the decades to come.

Thank you for your consideration,

Erica Schlueter, Belfast, ME

Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

Fri, Apr 13, 2018 at 10:26 AM

To: Erica Schlueter <schlueter.ERICA@gmail.com>

Dear Mr. Schlueter

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.

Wayne

[Quoted text hidden]

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Wayne Marshall
Director, Code & Planning
City of Belfast



**City of
Belfast**

Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

SALMON FARM

2 messages

Tracey Lindelof. <tracey.lindelof@gmail.com> Fri, Apr 13, 2018 at 9:46 AM
To: "wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org" <wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org>

Good morning Mr. Marshall,

Our family, who have lived here since the early 1970s, also have concerns regarding the proposed salmon farm.

We share all of the concerns expressed in the TRJ's editorials this week.

Of particular concern is the huge level of water consumption & what the mass output is going to do to the bay & how it could effect the fragile local lobster fishing industry. Slight changes in ocean acidification & warmer water temps have hugely affected the lobster industry slightly south of us.

We are not necessarily against salmon farming, but this project seems way to huge for the beautiful Little River site.

The Lindelof family
Swanville, Belfast, Northport & Islesboro Maine

Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>
To: "Tracey Lindelof." <tracey.lindelof@gmail.com>

Fri, Apr 13, 2018 at 10:08 AM

To the Lindelof Family

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 Council in advance of the hearing.

Wayne

[Quoted text hidden]

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Wayne Marshall
Director, Code & Planning
City of Belfast



Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

Nordic Aquafarms

2 messages

Lesli D <leslidodgeharrer@gmail.com>
To: wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org

Thu, Apr 12, 2018 at 4:39 PM

Mr. Marshall.

As a resident of Belfast and a voter I have some concerns regarding the Nordic Salmon farm. I was at the first meeting and didn't come away with answers to many of my questions.

One of my main concerns is the Zoning changes that are being considered. 50 foot buildings in such a rural area with lights and noise pollution just doesn't seem like a good change. What other business might want to come here attracted by these changes? How will they change the town in irreversible ways?

It also doesn't seem like the home owners of Belfast will be benefiting from this new industry. Will our taxes go down as we put up with more traffic, noise, light pollution?

What exactly will be pumped out in to the waters around Belfast? I am an avid swimmer and wonder about attracting large fish to an area that used to have them when we had the chicken industry here.

Water.....Belfast Water District has agreed to sell Nordic Farms an amount that is nothing like the amount they will be using.....can our aquifer stand the strain? Will wells run dry? Will there be compensation for wells that fail near the Farm?

I am told that Nordic Farms will hire young people and that will keep them here yet we already have many jobs that go unfilled right here in town. How about a Community College here in Belfast, where Midcoast residents can obtain higher education and build their own businesses, get hired by their neighbors and stay where they grow up.

I have heard the phrase " too much, too fast" and I agree with it. Let's take a step back and get more information to the people concerned about this enormous industrial development.

Thank you for your time.

Lesli Dodge-Harrer
17 Condon St.

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Approach everything with love, every person with respect and every new situation with an open mind.

Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>
To: Lesli D <leslidodgeharrer@gmail.com>

Thu, Apr 12, 2018 at 5:27 PM

Dear Ms. Dodge-Harrer.

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

I also offer a few comments regarding some of the concerns that you raised, and note that most would be considered by the Belfast Planning Board if Nordic Aquafarms submits a permit to develop the project. Also, Nordic Aquafarms, like any applicant, will not be submitting extensive specific project information until they submit a site plan permit to the Planning Board for their review. .

- 1) Nordic Aquafarms plans to construct a building that the noise level outside of the building is 40 decibels or less. This is less than the decibel level of normal conversation. While there will be some activities that will be louder than this level, such as people driving their car to work, this is considerably less than our maximum noise standard of 65 decibels.
- 2) The wells that Nordic Aquafarm plans to drill and use occur in the last reaches of the Little River watershed, which is not a sand/gravel aquifer. The locations of these deep water wells should have no impact on Belfast's overall public water supply that is located in another watershed; Goose River. Also, the City, during the Planning Board review process for any permit application that is filed, will use its own

expert to review the well data produced by Nordic Aquafarms to determine if their wells have any likelihood of creating an adverse impact on private homeowner wells that may be located near the property.

3) The amount of traffic associated with this project is less than many existing employers in Belfast, such as Mathew Brothers or Ducktrap Seafoods, and also is less than is generated by houses located on many City streets, such as Cedar Street or Bayview Street, or in a Subdivision such as the Seaside Heights project on Ryan Road or the Co-housing project on Tufts Road.

4) Nearly all company operations will occur inside the buildings where the fish will be raised and they do not have significant needs for outside lighting.

I acknowledge the concerns you have raised. I also believe that the City can effectively address many of these issues during Planning Board review of a permit application that Nordic Aquafarms may submit.

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>

NAF fish farm

3 messages

Gef Flimlin <flimlin@scarletmail.rutgers.edu>

Thu, Apr 12, 2018 at 8:10 PM

To: Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

Cc: Mike Hurley <Mike@pilut.com>, Mary Mortier <marym@92-92main.com>

Hello Wayne,

I would greatly appreciate if my note and comments would be distributed to the Mayor and Members of City Council to read before their meeting next week.

Thank you very much.....Gef

--

Gef Flimlin

Professor Emeritus

Commercial Fisheries and Aquaculture

Past President, US Aquaculture Society

530 East Jimmie Leeds Road

Galloway NJ 08205

Cell 609-892-4585

"We are all One."

 **Letter to City Council re NAF.docx**
132K

Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

Fri, Apr 13, 2018 at 10:05
AM

To: Gef Flimlin <flimlin@scarletmail.rutgers.edu>

Cc: Mike Hurley <Mike@pilut.com>, Mary Mortier <marym@92-92main.com>

Hello Gef

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

I also offer a few comments.

1) The City is adopting standards to provide the City the authority, in addition to the authority that DEP has, to regulate significant groundwater wells, including their impact on other private wells in the area. The approach the City would use during Planning

Board review of a permit application would be to require Nordic Aquafarms to submit information regarding the quality and quantify of water to be obtained from the wells and to document the impact on area wells. The City Planning Board, similar to what is done for traffic and stormwater impacts, would engage the services of a 3rd party professional to do a peer review of the data and to issue their professional opinion to the Planning Board regarding the conclusions/analysis performed by Nordic's professionals. Nordic would be responsible for paying the cost of this work, but the City would hire the consultant, the information would be provided to the City, and the Planning Board would review all responses: Nordic's, our consultant, and public comments, to determine if Nordic satisfied City standards.

2) You raised concern regarding the impact on the public water supply. Chapter 90, Site Plan, Standard 90-242(3), reads as follows: 3) *Municipal water supply. The proposed development will not cause an unreasonable burden on an existing municipal water supply, if one is to be used.* In short, the Planning Board, during the public review process of a permit application, is required to make a finding on this issue. If they make a negative finding, the project cannot proceed. The Board will consider information from the Belfast Water District, information from Nordic, and information from the public, and if needed, can engage an independent party to make an assessment if this project will have an adverse ability on the district to meet public water needs. I do note that the Water District has paid for an analysis by a third party, A.E. Hodson Engineers, and this engineering firm (in their report) has concluded that the District can provide the maximum amount of water contractually obligated to Nordic (262 million gallons per year), the full amount of water needed to satisfy the existing customer demand in Belfast, and have significant reserve supplies for future growth. This work was done by the District and paid for by the District as part of their due diligence before entering into a water sales agreement with Nordic as part of the purchase and sale. Also, I do not have any personal knowledge of why there were water service delivery problems in the past, but I would note that some of that could have been related to the delivery/distribution system for the District as opposed to the source of the well water. By sheer chance, I just had an unexpected conversation with Keith Pooler as I was writing this email. Keith stated that there were some past distribution system concerns, mostly pressure, however, those problems have since been corrected. Keith also noted that the new A.E. Hodson report also looked at the District's ability to distribute water if the Nordic project happens and that no issues were identified.

3) With respect to the designation of the activity; agriculture vs. industrial. I clearly recognize that the State license is being issued by the Dept of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and that they intend to license the growing/propagation of fish as an agricultural activity. That said, most aspects of this operation are more similar to an industrial use, and many of the accessory uses that they may operate would qualify as industrial activities vs. agricultural activities; potential of making smoked fish products like Ducktrap, perhaps flash freezing fish for shipping, production of fertilizer and such. Continuing, our intent is to regulate impacts regardless of how the use is classified. And, with the sunset provision in the Ordinance, if Nordic does not proceed, this land will revert to the former zoning.

Hope that this information helps respond to some of your concerns.

52 Perkins Road
Belfast Maine 04915
April 11, 2018

Mayor and Council
City of Belfast
131 Church Street
Belfast Maine 04915

Dear Mayor and Council,

I would like to provide some comments on the proposed zoning change for the Belfast Water District land where the Nordic Aquafarm (NAF) land based salmon farm may be sited.

First, I would suggest that there was originally a reason for that land to be zoned the way it is. It was not zoned as an industrial area and it has served as an ecological respite for wildlife and recreation. Perhaps that is still a wise choice.

However, if the Council decides that a zoning change should be considered, I would reiterate my suggestion at the March 19 City Council meeting where I opined that if the zoning was to be changed that it should not be Industrial. The reasoning is that last fall the State of Maine decided that land-based aquaculture should be zoned as Agriculture, although the City's decision can override that. At the end of the meeting Mr. Marshall offered that even if the zoning changed to Industrial one of the permitted uses would still be Agriculture. However, my suggestion of making it Agriculture should exclude an Industrial use by other entities if Nordic Aquafarms does not proceed. Belfast already has a designated Industrial area that could still use more tenants.

With respect to the process that the City is now examining, I will echo the sentiments of others I have heard that this process is moving too fast. There is no reason why the City needs to respond to this NAF request before all of the questions that the residents want are addressed. If the Council decides to change the zoning at the April 17 meeting, then NAF can proceed to acquire its permits from the various agencies that oversee operations of this type. But once that is done and the permits are in hand, there is no recourse to not allowing NAF to proceed with construction.

Yesterday (April 11) Erik Heim and Elizabeth Ransom met with me at my place on Perkins Road for over an hour. I have been in correspondence with Erik since the project was originally showcased by the Governor. Our communications have been mostly directed to the physical parameters of the Recirculation Aquaculture System (RAS) and the buildings that would be constructed on the Belfast Water District land. Our conversation yesterday focused on the fact that Norway has had RAS systems for the early life stages of salmon because that is how much of the smolt used in the net pen operations are reared in RAS systems. So the technology exists

and there have likely been numerous mistakes made along the way, as happens with most aquaculture processes, so that the technology has gotten better and better. The difference here is that this is not just a smolt operation in fresh water but a full grow out where salt water from Penobscot Bay will be needed.

I had suspected, and had corresponded with a colleague from the Maine Center for Cooperative Aquaculture Research in Franklin ME, that the fish would be raised in full seawater. My colleague thought they might be using water at about 27 to 29 ppt (parts per thousand....full seawater is about 32 ppt). However, in our conversation yesterday, Erik mentioned that they would raise the salmon in water that would be about 16 to 18 ppt. The reason why this is critical is that although the fingerlings and smolt are raised in fresh water and then the salinity is increased, if the full growout is done at a lower level than full seawater, the need for fresh water increases. Essentially the water from Penobscot Bay would have to be diluted by half with fresh water to get to the salinity that NAF is suggesting.

Why is this important?

During our conversations, I asked Elizabeth Ransom how the well testing for water was going. She had a bit of a hesitation and said that she thought that there would be enough water to get the process started. She mentioned problems with the drilling at this time of year and that they had to use a 4" drill instead of a larger 6" drill. This it seems does not produce sufficient flow to truly determine water volumes. A 6" drill may have given more information. This led me to wonder if her statement meant that they had enough water to start construction, but perhaps not to go to the full size of the operation that was originally planned or whether she was just being cautious.

Regardless, with the information about the source of the water on the property and the difference in the salinity for the growout, it makes me concerned about the fresh water requirements. The Water District has said that NAF would purchase at least 100 million gallons per year and the option of going up to 263 million gallons. This seems to be based on the historical usage said by the District of what was used when the chicken processing operations were in full swing years ago. But one of the neighbors here on Perkins Road who has lived his whole life here mentioned that when the processing plants were fully operational, there was not enough city water for the residents of this area and there was a sort of rationing since they could not get regular city water during the weekdays.

Also, Maine is one of only three states (Indiana and Texas also) that have a common law of capture of water. This means that land owners can pump as much water as they want from under their property and that usage cannot be contained. If NAF so desires, it can pump as much fresh water from under that property without regard to others using the same water source.



Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

Salmon Farm

2 messages

Jay Peters <jpeters@maine.edu>
To: wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org

Fri, Apr 13, 2018 at 9:20 AM

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

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

To: Jay Peters <jpeters@maine.edu>

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

This needs to be fully investigated now if the City is suggesting an upper limit for the purchase of water. So there are several unknowns when it comes to fresh water usage.

I would suggest that the City hire an independent environmental consultant with good knowledge of aquaculture. This consultant should have access to the design features of the NAF proposed system and where the buildings would be located. If Ransom Consulting is ready to apply for state and federal permits, they obviously have the information that a consultant could review to see if the physical parameters of the operation would have any significant impact on the City's water supply or local environment. The consultant would also need to have access to the proposed build out of the operation over time that the District now owns and how it would impact those living in the immediate area. Once that information is attained, the City Council would have adequate data to make the decision as to whether this complex would fit within the strategic plan for Belfast. Without this, decisions would be made without appropriate facts.

Sincerely,

Gef Flimlin

Gef Flimlin
Professor Emeritus, Rutgers Cooperative Extension

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

Mail Delivery Subsystem <mailer-daemon@googlemail.com>

Fri, Apr 13, 2018 at 10:05 AM

To: planner@cityofbelfast.org



Address not found

Your message wasn't delivered to **marym@92-92main.com** because the domain 92-92main.com couldn't be found. Check for typos or unnecessary spaces and try again.

The response was:

DNS Error: 3331178 DNS type 'mx' lookup of 92-92main.com responded with code NXDOMAIN Domain name not found: 92-92main.com

Final-Recipient: rfc822; marym@92-92main.com

Action: failed

Status: 4.0.0

Diagnostic-Code: smtp; DNS Error: 3331178 DNS type 'mx' lookup of 92-92main.com responded with code NXDOMAIN

Domain name not found: 92-92main.com

Last-Attempt-Date: Fri, 13 Apr 2018 07:05:11 -0700 (PDT)

----- Forwarded message -----

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

[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>

Fri, Apr 13, 2018 at 10:19
AM

To: Judy Williams <bythesea584@gmail.com>

Dear Ms. Williams

Thank you for submitting your comment. It will be included as 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 the Belfast Planning Board is not and should not be involved in the public process associated with the review of the proposed Ordinance amendments. The Planning Board will only become involved if City zoning is amended and if Nordic Aquafarms chooses to submit a permit application. The Planning Board must serve as an administrative review body regarding the permit application, thus, it is inappropriate to engage them in the public review process regarding the proposed Ordinance amendments. I also note that the City discussed this concern with the Planning Board and City Council immediately after Nordic Aquafarms made their public announcement in late January.

I hope that this information helps.

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

LETTER TO BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Dear Councilors;

Thank you for your service to our community.

I am a resident of ^{Northport} Belfast and I've just recently heard about the proposal to bring a land-based salmon farming operation into our city.

In the brief time that I've had to think about the proposal and to talk with other Belfast residents, I've found we have many questions and concerns that don't seem to have answers.

Before moving forward with such a large development, please take the time to consider all the implications that this decision will have on our city.

My primary concerns/questions are:

Where will the workforce come from? Are there sufficient people available to take these jobs?

Without a real comparison on environmental impact, how do you know what something like this will do?

Slow Down! If this is a good deal, it can stand to take some time to do

Thank you.

^{it right.}
Name James W Atkinson III
Address 11 Oak St, Northport
Date 4/13/18
Signature





**City of
Belfast**

Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

Salmon Farm Project

2 messages

Judy Williams <bythesea584@gmail.com>

Thu, Apr 12, 2018 at 10:31 PM

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

Planning Board Members:

I am writing to encourage the planning board to slow the process down for approval of the Salmon Farm Project. I do not feel that sufficient opportunities for public hearings on such a large project have been offered that would warrant the planning board moving to a vote as early as 4/17.

My concerns center on environmental risks from the project, especially given the size of the project and the lack of a proven track record at this level with the Norwegian firm.

Please do not bring the matter to a vote this week. Instead, work with the Norwegian firm to hold additional public hearings to ensure that all concerns have been voiced and put to rest.

Sincerely,

Judy Williams

Sent from Mail for Windows 10



Virus-free. www.avg.com

LETTER TO BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Dear Councilors;

Thank you for your service to our community.

I am a resident of Belfast and I've just recently heard about the proposal to bring a land-based salmon farming operation into our city.

In the brief time that I've had to think about the proposal and to talk with other Belfast residents, I've found we have many questions and concerns that don't seem to have answers.

Before moving forward with such a large development, please take the time to consider all the implications that this decision will have on our city.

My primary concerns/questions are:

Do we have enough resources? Water? Sewage? etc
What happens to the trees and wildlife in that area when a large building is put up. Rain run off? Trees cut down?
Wild spaces turned into lawn? Recreation space lost? Noise?
Traffic on RT 1 - adding more large trucks - noise, accidents, air pollution?

Discharge into river?

How much will Belfast actually gain in jobs, taxes, etc.

Just a few of the very many questions that have not been answered in the specifics. To move forward with zoning changes without more details sounds dangerous and potentially detrimental to Belfast.

Thank you.

Name

Address

Date

Signature

Please think very carefully about this.

Marilyn J. Boyer

LETTER TO BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Dear Councilors;

Thank you for your service to our community.

I am a resident of Belfast and I've just recently heard about the proposal to bring a land-based salmon farming operation into our city.

In the brief time that I've had to think about the proposal and to talk with other Belfast residents, I've found we have many questions and concerns that don't seem to have answers.

Before moving forward with such a large development, please take the time to consider all the implications that this decision will have on our city.

My primary concerns/questions are:

slow DOWN!!!!
Why is Bucksport & Belfast needed.
Chemicals to environment?? Sea Lice Yuk
Can we hurt our local ocean/waters?
Why is the plant not in their own country?

Thank you.

**Name
Address
Date**

Sue Garrett (Sue Garrett)
61 Springbrook Dr. Apt 2A Belfast ME
04/0

LETTER TO BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Dear Councilors;

Thank you for your service to our community.

I am a resident of Belfast and I've just recently heard about the proposal to bring a land-based salmon farming operation into our city.

In the brief time that I've had to think about the proposal and to talk with other Belfast residents, I've found we have many questions and concerns that don't seem to have answers.

Before moving forward with such a large development, please take the time to consider all the implications that this decision will have on our city.

My primary concerns/questions are:

*environmental
and traffic*

Thank you.

Name

Address

Date

*Lindsay Moore
46 Charles St, Apt 1, Belfast, ME 04915
4/13/18*

LETTER TO BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Dear Councilors;

Thank you for your service to our community.

I am a resident of Belfast and I've just recently heard about the proposal to bring a land-based salmon farming operation into our city.

In the brief time that I've had to think about the proposal and to talk with other Belfast residents, I've found we have many questions and concerns that don't seem to have answers.

Before moving forward with such a large development, please take the time to consider all the implications that this decision will have on our city.

My primary concerns/questions are:

What actual plan for sustaining the health of the "crop" and environment that this company can demonstrate

Has the community received concrete details regarding prior attempts at this venture elsewhere.

Many more questions and hope that this team takes a measured perspective before becoming involved in something of such scale.

Thank you.

Name

Alana Rose

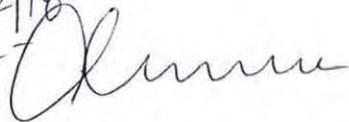
Address

355 Weymouth Rd Manil ME 04952

Date

4/12/18

Signature



LETTER TO BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Dear Councilors;

Thank you for your service to our community.

I am a resident of Belfast and I've just recently heard about the proposal to bring a land-based salmon farming operation into our city.

In the brief time that I've had to think about the proposal and to talk with other Belfast residents, I've found we have many questions and concerns that don't seem to have answers.

Before moving forward with such a large development, please take the time to consider all the implications that this decision will have on our city.

My primary concerns/questions are:

Environmental Impact.

Has there been an Environmental Impact Study?

Thank you.

Name

Address

Date

Jane Mangan
1a Village Rd, Belfast ME 04915
4/13/18

LETTER TO BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Dear Councilors;

Thank you for your service to our community.

I am a resident of Belfast and I've just recently heard about the proposal to bring a land-based salmon farming operation into our city.

In the brief time that I've had to think about the proposal and to talk with other Belfast residents, I've found we have many questions and concerns that don't seem to have answers.

Before moving forward with such a large development, please take the time to consider all the implications that this decision will have on our city.

My primary concerns/questions are:

hey, man, slow down!
I have major concerns with the ecological impact
of the salmon farms. There is simply not enough
information available to the people at Waldo court
to put this kind of massive structure
in place. Potentially have a tremendous ecological
impact in the Belfast area.

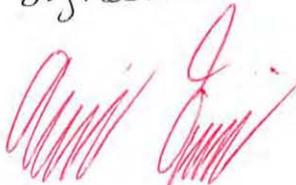
Thank you.

Name

Address

Date

Signature



LETTER TO BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Dear Councilors;

Thank you for your service to our community.

I am a resident of Belfast and I've just recently heard about the proposal to bring a land-based salmon farming operation into our city.

In the brief time that I've had to think about the proposal and to talk with other Belfast residents, I've found we have many questions and concerns that don't seem to have answers.

Before moving forward with such a large development, please take the time to consider all the implications that this decision will have on our city.

My primary concerns/questions are:

Please be conscientious and gather information adequate to make responsible decisions.

Thank you.

Name

Chak Hylton

Address

Marval

Date

Signature

Chak Hylton

LETTER TO BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Dear Councilors;

Thank you for your service to our community.

I am a resident of Belfast and I've just recently heard about the proposal to bring a land-based salmon farming operation into our city.

In the brief time that I've had to think about the proposal and to talk with other Belfast residents, I've found we have many questions and concerns that don't seem to have answers.

Before moving forward with such a large development, please take the time to consider all the implications that this decision will have on our city.

My primary concerns/questions are:

1. The city should not sell any land on the water, it should always belong to residents.
2. Waste effluent must be carefully managed and monitored. This is a big project and the effects are going to be amplified.

Thank you.

Name

Jim Kosinski

Address

20 Bayview St

Date

4/13/18

Signature



LETTER TO BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Dear Councilors;

Thank you for your service to our community.

I am a resident of Belfast and I've just recently heard about the proposal to bring a land-based salmon farming operation into our city.

In the brief time that I've had to think about the proposal and to talk with other Belfast residents, I've found we have many questions and concerns that don't seem to have answers.

Before moving forward with such a large development, please take the time to consider all the implications that this decision will have on our city.

My primary concerns/questions are:

1. Impact on the aquifers.
2. Impact on the bay
3. The paving of such a large piece of land for industrial use.
4. Most important - farmed salmon is not a healthy food given all the antibiotics and other chemicals used

Thank you.

Name

Address

Date

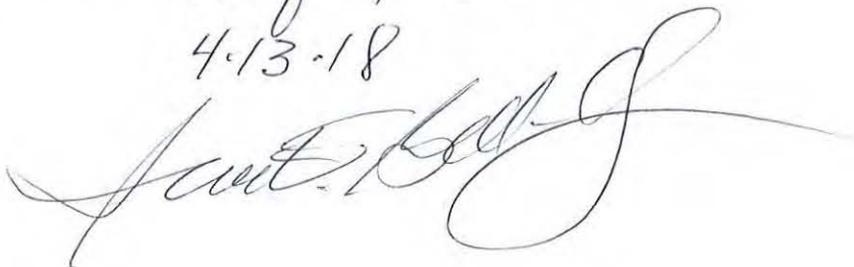
Signature

Ieva Bell-Shippee

246 High St. #102

Belfast, ME 04915

4.13.18



LETTER TO THE CITY COUNCIL

Dear Councilors;

Thank you for your service to our community.

I am a resident of Belfast and I've just recently heard about the proposal to bring a land-based salmon farming operation into our city.

In the brief time that I've had to think about the proposal and to talk with other Belfast residents, I've found we have many questions and concerns that don't seem to have answers.

Before moving forward with such a large development, please take the time to consider all the implications that this decision will have on our city.

My primary concerns/questions are:

SIZE - TRAFFIC - LIVING QUARTERS
WASTE IN BELFAST BAY
DON'T SURE FISH WOULD BE GOOD.

Thank you.

Name

Address

Date

Leather Wilson
40 Bridge St 04915
04.13.18

LETTER TO THE CITY COUNCIL

Dear Councilors;

Thank you for your service to our community.

I am a resident of Belfast and I've just recently heard about the proposal to bring a land-based salmon farming operation into our city.

In the brief time that I've had to think about the proposal and to talk with other Belfast residents, I've found we have many questions and concerns that don't seem to have answers.

Before moving forward with such a large development, please take the time to consider all the implications that this decision will have on our city.

My primary concerns/questions are:

Concern about the environmental impact
Concern about Fish farms using antibiotics
also concern about waste & destroying
the natural environment

Thank you.

Name Judy Cohen
Address 853 Woodmen's Mill Rd. Mantville ME
Date 4/13/18

LETTER TO THE CITY COUNCIL

Dear Councilors;

Thank you for your service to our community.

I am a resident of Belfast and I've just recently heard about the proposal to bring a land-based salmon farming operation into our city.

In the brief time that I've had to think about the proposal and to talk with other Belfast residents, I've found we have many questions and concerns that don't seem to have answers.

Before moving forward with such a large development, please take the time to consider all the implications that this decision will have on our city.

My primary concerns/questions are:

- How will this effect the water in our area?
- How will this impact people who are considering moving here?
- I don't want to lose the resources ~~that~~ of the forest impacted

Thank you.

Name Amy McDonagh

Address

Date 4/13/18

LETTER TO THE CITY COUNCIL

Dear Councilors;

Thank you for your service to our community.

I am a resident of Belfast and I've just recently heard about the proposal to bring a land-based salmon farming operation into our city.

In the brief time that I've had to think about the proposal and to talk with other Belfast residents, I've found we have many questions and concerns that don't seem to have answers.

Before moving forward with such a large development, please take the time to consider all the implications that this decision will have on our city.

My primary concerns/questions are:

IF THERE ARE TO BE NO CONCERNS ABOUT WASTE + REFUSE FROM THE FACILITY, HOW IN THE SAME BREATH CAN WE BE APPRAISED FOR BEING A GREAT LOCATION FOR A FISH FARM BECAUSE OF OUR GREAT WATER? I WOULD PREFER TO KEEP OUR WATER AS WONDERFUL FOR US + OUR DESCENDANTS AS IT IS.

Thank you.

Name ELIZABETH HOGG
Address 15 LEDGE CAYUS
Date 09.13.18

LETTER TO BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Dear Councilors;

Thank you for your service to our community.

I am a ^{past} resident of Belfast and I've just recently heard about the proposal to bring a land-based salmon farming operation into our city. I currently live in Cape Elizabeth.

In the brief time that I've had to think about the proposal and to talk with other Belfast residents, I've found we have many questions and concerns that don't seem to have answers.

Before moving forward with such a large development, please take the time to consider all the implications that this decision will have on our city.

My primary concerns/questions are:

1. Focusing on the health of our rivers and oceans instead of increasing salmon farming to compensate for loss of fisheries.
2. Concerned about infection + health of fish
3. Concerned that salmon are meant to swim distances, not be penned + forced into unhealthy living conditions and fed other than natural foods,

Thank you.

Name Barbara Egan
Address 20 Waterhouse Rd Cape Elizabeth, ME 04107
Date 4/13/14

Signature -

LETTER TO THE CITY COUNCIL

Dear Councilors;

Thank you for your service to our community.

I am a resident of Belfast and I've just recently heard about the proposal to bring a land-based salmon farming operation into our city.

In the brief time that I've had to think about the proposal and to talk with other Belfast residents, I've found we have many questions and concerns that don't seem to have answers.

Before moving forward with such a large development, please take the time to consider all the implications that this decision will have on our city.

My primary concerns/questions are:

Cruelty: taking a species that are natural predators that roam free for thousands of miles and forcing them to live in an unnatural concrete pool, eating man-made food and unable to reproduce naturally. Also, Norway has just become the first nation on Earth to ban deforestation and these Norwegians want to clear cut 30 acres of mature forests here!

I am also concerned about potential traffic problems at what is a dangerous hill and curve on the

Thank you. Rte 1 location they are proposing.

Name Christopher Groden
Address 28 Merriam Rd #203
Date April 13th, 2018

LETTER TO THE CITY COUNCIL

Dear Councilors;

Thank you for your service to our community.

UNION

I am a resident of Belfast and I've just recently heard about the proposal to bring a land-based salmon farming operation into our city.

In the brief time that I've had to think about the proposal and to talk with other Belfast residents, I've found we have many questions and concerns that don't seem to have answers.

Before moving forward with such a large development, please take the time to consider all the implications that this decision will have on our city.

My primary concerns/questions are:

CITY COUNCILMAN + CITY MANAGER
ARE CATERING TO CORPORATE FUNDING
RATHER THAN RESIDENT/TAX-PAYER INPUTS

~~RESID~~ AN OPEN FORUM IS NEEDED TO ENSURE
CONSTITUENTS CAN BE HEARD, AND
ASK QUESTIONS WHY THE URGENCY
TO CHANGE ZONING FOR
SWIFT CORPORATE BUILD.

Thank you.

Name SUSAN GENETT
Address P.O. BOX 26
Date FREEDOM ME 04941

LETTER TO THE CITY COUNCIL

Dear Councilors;

Thank you for your service to our community.

I am a ^{future} resident of Belfast and I've just recently heard about the proposal to bring a land-based salmon farming operation into our city.

In the brief time that I've had to think about the proposal and to talk with other Belfast residents, I've found we have many questions and concerns that don't seem to have answers.

Before moving forward with such a large development, please take the time to consider all the implications that this decision will have on our city.

My primary concerns/questions are:

the loss of ground water
loss of public access to hiking trails
run off to the Bay

Thank you.

Name Andrew Duzs
Address 147 S college st caulsk MA
Date 13/April /18

LETTER TO THE CITY COUNCIL

Dear Councilors;

Thank you for your service to our community.

I am a resident of ^{Morrill} Belfast and I've just recently heard about the proposal to bring a land-based salmon farming operation into our city.

In the brief time that I've had to think about the proposal and to talk with other Belfast residents, I've found we have many questions and concerns that don't seem to have answers.

Before moving forward with such a large development, please take the time to consider all the implications that this decision will have on our city.

My primary concerns/questions are:

- i don't want to lose the great resources and material available to us now.
- I frequently use the hiking trail & would hate to see it destroyed.
- ~~the~~ wildlife and surrounding habitats will be disturbed which is not good for the environment

Thank you.

Name KAYLEN OTTMAN
Address Whiggins Hill Road Morrill ME 04952
Date 04/13/2018

LETTER TO BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Dear Councilors;

Thank you for your service to our community.

Brooksville

I am a resident of ~~Belfast~~ and I've just recently heard about the proposal to bring a land-based salmon farming operation into our city.

In the brief time that I've had to think about the proposal and to talk with other Belfast residents, I've found we have many questions and concerns that don't seem to have answers.

Before moving forward with such a large development, please take the time to consider all the implications that this decision will have on our city.

My primary concerns/questions are:

Thank you.

Name

Address

Date

Signature

Sara Stone

*Sara Stone
106 Ash Grove Rd.
Brooksville
ME*

LETTER TO BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Dear Councilors;

Thank you for your service to our community.

I am a resident of Belfast and I've just recently heard about the proposal to bring a land-based salmon farming operation into our city.

In the brief time that I've had to think about the proposal and to talk with other Belfast residents, I've found we have many questions and concerns that don't seem to have answers.

Before moving forward with such a large development, please take the time to consider all the implications that this decision will have on our city.

My primary concerns/questions are:

Thank you.

Name Julie Rose
Address 249 HIGH ST.
Date BELFAST ME 04915 4/13/18
Signature 

LETTER TO BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Dear Councilors;

Thank you for your service to our community.

Thornhill

I am a resident of Belfast and I've just recently heard about the proposal to bring a land-based salmon farming operation into our city.

In the brief time that I've had to think about the proposal and to talk with other Belfast residents, I've found we have many questions and concerns that don't seem to have answers.

Before moving forward with such a large development, please take the time to consider all the implications that this decision will have on our city.

My primary concerns/questions are:

What about the source + disposal of all the water?

Thank you.

Name

Address

Date

Signature

*Wini Ajoys
81 Webb Rd
Thornhill*

Wini Ajoys

LETTER TO BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Dear Councilors;

Thank you for your service to our community.

I am a resident of Belfast and I've just recently heard about the proposal to bring a land-based salmon farming operation into our city.

In the brief time that I've had to think about the proposal and to talk with other Belfast residents, I've found we have many questions and concerns that don't seem to have answers.

Before moving forward with such a large development, please take the time to consider all the implications that this decision will have on our city.

My primary concerns/questions are:

WATER! OVERSIGHT!

Thank you.

George F. Mangum

Name

195 W. SIDE DRIVE

Address

VERONA ISLAND, ME

Date

04416

Signature

George F. Mangum

LETTER TO BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Dear Councilors;

Thank you for your service to our community.

I am a resident of Belfast and I've just recently heard about the proposal to bring a land-based salmon farming operation into our city.

In the brief time that I've had to think about the proposal and to talk with other Belfast residents, I've found we have many questions and concerns that don't seem to have answers.

Before moving forward with such a large development, please take the time to consider all the implications that this decision will have on our city.

My primary concerns/questions are:

1. Huge Infrastructure.
2. WATER ISSUES
- etc.

Thank you.

Name

Address

Date

Signature

Jack Sully
30 Washington St.
Belfast, ME 04915

LETTER TO BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Dear Councilors;

Thank you for your service to our community.

I am a resident of Belfast and I've just recently heard about the proposal to bring a land-based salmon farming operation into our city.

In the brief time that I've had to think about the proposal and to talk with other Belfast residents, I've found we have many questions and concerns that don't seem to have answers.

Before moving forward with such a large development, please take the time to consider all the implications that this decision will have on our city.

My primary concerns/questions are:

Contamination of water -
and land.

Thank you.

Name Cyrene Stegona
Address 4 Cobb Road, Belfast ME 04915
Date April 13, 2013
Signature

LETTER TO THE CITY COUNCIL

Dear Councilors;

Thank you for your service to our community.

I am a resident of Belfast and I've just recently heard about the proposal to bring a land-based salmon farming operation into our city.

In the brief time that I've had to think about the proposal and to talk with other Belfast residents, I've found we have many questions and concerns that don't seem to have answers.

Before moving forward with such a large development, please take the time to consider all the implications that this decision will have on our city.

My primary concerns/questions are:

Damage to our environment/ecosystem
is permanent, where as human ^{monetary} greed
and human life is only temporary.

Thank you.

Name KATRINA HOHOWSKI
Address 41 KINGDOM RD MONTVILLE ME 04941
Date 4/13/18



City of
Belfast

Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

Regarding the proposed Salmon Farm

2 messages

Marco the Explorer <marcbubar@gmail.com>

Fri, Apr 13, 2018 at 3:04 PM

To: wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org

Greetings Wayne and Belfast City Council members,

I am a local resident of Northport, just up Rocky Rd. about 10 minutes from Belfast. I am writing you today to urge you and the rest of the City Council to place a 12 month moratorium on any zoning changes related to the Nordic Aquafarms building proposal. I will try to keep my words clear and simple here for you now. I am in complete and total opposition to this fish farm in every way. This is my opinion, anyone can disagree with it, and I will respect them. But I can't respect any decision that is made by the City without due diligence and a thorough process of investigation including extended periods of public comment into this very large scale, long-term project that could affect this region for decades to come. I will state the reasons for my opinions at the end here. But placing a moratorium on this decision is something that I think folks of any persuasion on this topic could agree on. Here is why:

We need this moratorium because this entire process is moving too fast. There are many unanswered questions that need to be seriously addressed before permanent changes are made. Some that come to my mind are:

1) The issue of the tax revenue coming in from this project and how that will actually affect this area in real terms. How realistic are the touted benefits?

2) What will the potential 2.08 Billion liters of fresh water needed to fill the fish tanks do to our aquifer? Have serious scientific studies been done to get conclusive answers to this? This is a serious human welfare issue, not just a leftist environmental issue. What are we without local fresh water?

3) How many people that live in this area are actually in favor of this project? There are quite a few consequences that will be immediate and more that will come further down

the road. Have these all been discussed with the public and given their fair share of "air-time?"

4) This is a hugely experimental project. We all know this is the largest proposed land-based salmon farm in the world, being proposed by a foreign company who has not built anything close to this size or scale. The unanswered question here is: why does it seem like Belfast City Council and you yourself, Wayne, are rushing into this project? Why the rush? Are you worried people will reject it? Are you simply looking for those tax revenues sooner? Is there some other push that isn't obvious?

A decision of this size, scale, and potential to impact the land, water, traffic, sound quality, night sky quality, and economy of this region deserves a long and thorough discussion. Please do not rush into this. We very well might all regret it.

I hope my statements above have illustrated why a moratorium coupled with much more public comment time are necessary and prudent for this decision making process.

As I stated earlier, I am in opposition to this project based on my personal opinions (which may be ill-informed, I will admit. I am seeking more information all the time.) And just in case you are curious, here is why I am in opposition:

1) The information I have seen shows that this plant will eventually be producing an additional 526 billion kgs of greenhouse gasses, contributing to climate change even further. When our federal officials continue to deny the existence of climate change and its impacts, it is up to small communities to do what they can to study and mitigate the impact of climate change. This fish farm will be a step in the wrong direction.

2) With droughts in Maine becoming a more serious issue every year, we simply can not afford - in the long term - any project that will require the level of fresh water that this project will require. Water that will go to producing a product that most people in this community will not want nor be able to afford.

3) There is plenty of evidence that land-based salmon farming is a poor method. The International Salmon Farming Association's study of land-based salmon farming concludes that "farming Atlantic salmon in their natural habitat - the ocean - is the responsible way to farm."

4) I respect Belfast's decisions to support medium and small-scale development. Its part of why I moved here. This fish farm is in opposition to nearly everything that makes Belfast have such a high quality of life, in my opinion.

5) The location of this site on any watershed is irresponsible and inexcusable. Clearcutting on the Little River Watershed for this building site would be a disaster in my backyard and I do not support it.

6) The increased traffic from construction and from the facility itself will lower my quality of life here and it will make me think twice about going to Belfast for the things I need. Currently I come into Belfast to buy groceries and supplies every week. Its out of my way from where I work (Rockland). If this project begins, instead I might as well buy the things I need in Rockland on my way home and not have to deal with more traffic going out of my way to Belfast. I may not visit Belfast at all anymore. I love Belfast and I don't want to stop visiting. This fish farm will not change Belfast for the better.

Thank you very much for your time in reading this and passing it on to the other City Council members.

Marc Bubar

Northport, ME

Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>
Draft To: Marco the Explorer <marcbubar@gmail.com>

Fri, Apr 13, 2018 at 3:10 PM

Dear Mr. Bubar

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

Wayne

[Quoted text hidden]

--

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



City of
Belfast

Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

Slow down deliberations on the salmon farm, please

2 messages

HDR <tays01@gmail.com>

Fri, Apr 13, 2018 at 3:59 PM

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

Dear Mr. Marshall,

Please consider slowing down the decision making process on this important issue to give everyone in the town a chance to attend at least one hearing on the subject. Several public hearings should be held before any final decision is made.

It seems we are all extremely concerned that our town maybe giving up, or losing forever, some of what makes it special - in return for what is not at all clear.

Thank you,
Hannah Tays
17 Searsport Ave
Belfast

Sent from my iPhone

Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

Fri, Apr 13, 2018 at 4:02 PM

Draft To: HDR <tays01@gmail.com>

Dear Ms. Tays

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

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>

Potential zoning change for salmon farm

2 messages

Dana Williams <dlwill53@hotmail.com>

Fri, Apr 13, 2018 at 12:54 PM

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

Hello Wayne,

I'm writing today to add my voice to those who are concerned about proposed changes to the city's zoning of the property being considered for a salmon farm. There are a variety of questions that would seem to be appropriate to have answered before such an entity establishes itself in Belfast. Chief among those is, "Does a fledgling business like Nordic Farms have the experience to dependably and responsibly steward the natural resources in the area it plans to do occupy?" It does not appear that they have, given their history and the difference in size of their proposed business and the projects they have already been involved with. The property they are seeking for their business is one of the loveliest in the city, with its reservoir, river, ocean, and trails. The waste alone from a salmon farm could sully this area, to say the least.

One also wonders whether the amount of water they will need to do business will compromise the aquifer from which it will be drawn. And, of course, how would the significant increase in traffic in that area, which would impact not only the plant itself, but likely a length of roadway both north and south of it, affect traffic flow and safety?

These are just a few thoughts, Wayne. If I am unable to attend the meeting on Tuesday, I would be grateful if you would pass them along. I think that the Planning Board does a wonderful job considering the "larger picture" on projects such as these, and I have no doubt that will be the case with this one. I also know by my own experience that the Planning Board welcomes and considers input from the city residents. We are fortunate to have this kind of representation.

Sincerely,

Dana Williams
25 Fahy Street
Belfast, ME 04915
20-338-1852

Sent from my iPad

Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

Fri, Apr 13, 2018 at 1:08 PM

To: Dana Williams <dlwill53@hotmail.com>

Dear Ms. Williams

Thank you for submitting your comment. It will be included in the public record for the April 17 public hearing and will be provided to the Council in advance of the hearing. Also, written/email comment is given the same 'weight' as verbal comment so it is okay that you cannot attend the hearing on the 17th.

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 to City Council - NAF Salmon Farm

2 messages

Wendy Watson <wswatson8@gmail.com>

Fri, Apr 13, 2018 at 11:03 AM

To: Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

Dear Wayne,

Please find the attached letter regarding the NAF Salmon Farm project. Thank you for ensuring my letter is forwarded to the members of the City Council and be a part of the public record.

Sincerely,

Wendy Watson
Belfast, ME 04915

NAF Salmon Farm Concerns W.Watson 4.13.18.pdf
45K

Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

Fri, Apr 13, 2018 at 2:01 PM

To: Wendy Watson <wswatson8@gmail.com>

Hello Wendy

I have received your letter. It will be part of the formal record for the upcoming April 17 public hearing and I will be providing copies to the Council via email today and in print in advance of the meeting.

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

Nordic Aquafarms Salmon Farm Concerns

Size of the Project and Limited Experience

- The Nordic Aquafarms (NAF) Salmon Farm project would be the world's largest land based salmon farm in the world, 33 million tons of fish produced at full production. It would be 16 times larger than this company's initial project in Norway (still not at full production capacity). No company, including NAF, has ever done something on this scale before in the world. We are basing the decision to move forward with the NAF project based on their theoretical modeling, not on actual experience.
- NAF only incorporated in 2014 and has been actively in business just two years, with only one plant in production, the first harvest in Dec. 2017 being yellowtail kingfish and not salmon. Do we want to be the town that they experiment on?

Proposed Zoning Changes Are Inadequate to Protect Community Resources

- A 50' set back (with 40' vegetative) is not enough, especially to protect neighbor's and Rt. 1 views, including light pollution and noise encroachment. It should be at least 100' (with 75' vegetative) or even more along Rt. 1 and abutting neighbor's property.
- Compared to Mathew's Bros. 27-30' building height, NAF's 50' building height is too high for the surrounding residential area. It should be no higher than 30' (without the solar panels).
- Given the proximity to the Little River watershed and Penobscot Bay, allowing 70% impervious surface for buildings and paving (28 of 40 acres) is too high and should be much lower. Maybe this higher amount would be acceptable if this project were being built in an area already zoned industrial area.

Location of the Project

- The siting of a large, industrial factory fish farm along the BWD Little River Reservoir and hiking trail will destroy a pristine, wooded area that is habitat to a lot of wildlife and enjoyed by many hikers. The City seems to be willing to sacrifice the area to be clear cut, built and paved (minus 250' along the reservoir for the existing trail) vs. considering the siting of this project in the business park or the potential reuse of another industrial area.
- Increased traffic congestion along Rt. 1 with tractor trailer trucks coming and going on a daily basis, combined with a 7 year of construction period for a project this size, will be significant.

Environmental Impact

- One significant concern is that there is no fish meal currently being produced at the volume that will be needed, which is considered organic. Testing of current sources of fish meal have been found to be dangerously high in concentrations of dioxins, PCB's, heavy metals and other toxins such as Ethoxyquin (a chemical pesticide used to prevent rancidity of the fish meal, and a possible carcinogen).
- 100% of the waste produced in a land based RAS Salmon system can neither be contained nor eliminated. We also don't have adequate information about the discharge volume and what will be in the discharge after filtering. NAF only promises that it will be "clean."
- We have not been given adequate information from NAF about the actual amount of water they will need for a project this size. Based on the 2017 International Salmon Farmers Association (ISFA) report, it has been estimated that a facility this size would require **60 BILLION gallons of water annually** from our local aquifer and Bay.
- We should be asking for a guarantee from NAF to not use any water outside of it's 40 acre site, to protect neighbor's wells and the local aquifer. We should also be asking that NAF conduct an environmental impact study, given a project of this size.

Energy Use and Fish Health

- Energy consumption for land based aquaculture is very intense. Consider that for every pound of fish produced there is an impact of 263 pounds of carbon emissions. According to the ISFA report, that due to such high energy and infrastructure cost, in order to make land based salmon fish farms profitable, fish must be raised in much higher densities than in net pen marine systems, which creates stress on the system and the fish in it.
- Even in land based aquaculture systems challenges still remain like pathogens getting into the system and once there, the whole system has to be depopulated of fish and then disinfected, and tanks refilled and repopulated with fish again. In addition, fish escapes can and do happen due to human error and handling.
- A recent report by the Scottish Salmon Producers Organization (SSPO) concluded that land based RAS for fish farming for all grow out stages, is neither financially viable given the high energy use and the resulting high carbon footprint that makes for an environmentally unfriendly choice.

Tax Revenue and Job Growth

- Do we actually have detailed figures to prove the NAF promise of cutting our mil rate in half? If so, then that information should be public knowledge.
- Historically our property taxes have not declined in the two decades since I've lived here in Belfast even with such large employers and businesses that have come to Belfast, like MBNA, athenahealth, Front St. Shipyard, etc.
- Large-scale growth can increase tax revenues, but mil rates do not stay reduced as budgets must increase, as the state now wants to reduce subsidies that are property evaluation based.
- Of the 60 jobs being promised, do we know how many would actually benefit local citizens or will they most be highly technical and skilled jobs for the well-educated? Many local employers have said they are experiencing a lack of qualified candidates to fill current job openings, along with an affordable housing crisis that both Wayne Marshall and the City has acknowledged and is trying to grapple with currently.

Speed of the Project

- The NAF Salmon Farm project has been on a fast track since it was first announced to the public in Feb. of this year and the fast pace has hampered public input. We need more detailed plans from NAF for a project this size, in order for both the City Council and the public to conduct their due diligence.
- Given the magnitude and impact of the proposed NAF Salmon Farm on citizens and the environment alike, I respectfully ask that this process and the related zoning changes be slowed down and not voted on April 17, until we have more specific information and detailed plans from NAF. Taking some additional time upfront now, will assist both the City Council and the citizens you represent, to be able to make sound decisions that will have long-standing implications and impact to Belfast and the region.

Wendy Watson
Belfast, ME



**City of
Belfast**

Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

Concerns regarding Nordic Aqua-Farms Salmon Farm Proposal

2 messages

Ridgely Fuller <ridgelyfuller@gmail.com>
To: wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org

Fri, Apr 13, 2018 at 12:26 PM

Hi Wayne,

Thank you for making sure my attached letter of concerns become part of the public record and is shared with the City Councilors.

Have a great weekend!

Ridgely Fuller
47 Village Rd
Belfast, ME
508-333-6230



Letter to Belfast City Councilors with Respect to Nordic Aqua Farm's Proposal.docx

154K

Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>
To: Ridgely Fuller <ridgelyfuller@gmail.com>

Fri, Apr 13, 2018 at 1:13 PM

Hello Ridgely,

I have received your letter and will ensure that it is provided to Councilors in advance of the upcoming April 17 public hearing.

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

Dear City Councilors,

I appreciate you taking the time to review the following concerns I have with respect to the Nordic Farms Aqua-Farm's proposal for a land based salmon factory scaled farm in the Little River area of Belfast .

Speed of the project: This project was first unveiled to the public in early Jan. 2018 and is moving forward so fast that it has prevented adequate public understanding, deliberation and input.

Scale of the project: The land-based fish farm being planned by Nordic Aqua Farms (NAF) would be the largest such facility in the world, raising up to 33,000 tons of salmon a year at full production. This facility is 16 times larger in scope than NAF's initial project in Norway, which is not yet at full production. In short, many questions that have been raised concerning the operation of such a facility can only be answered in theoretical models. A project of this magnitude has never been accomplished before. The scale is simply too large for Belfast, where locally-owned and locally-operated businesses play a key role in our community and our small-town way of life.

Siting of the project: Adjacent to the Little River reservoir, trail and adjoining 40 acres of woodlands: prime recreational and wildlife habitat location in Belfast. These 40 acres of woodlands are destined to be clear-cut and the new proposed zoning changes would allow up to 70% of it paved, to make way for pipes, vehicles, buildings, tanks. Millions, perhaps, even billions of gallons of water pulled from aquifers by proposed deep-water wells NAF plans to drill throughout the area . Although City says it will take control to preserve the trail on a 250' wide shore land strip, it also acknowledges it can grant rights for NAF to dig deep water wells

Nordic Aquafarms has very limited experience: Established in 2014, and 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. NAF is still waiting for a 4,000-ton salmon farm permit from Norway. Shouldn't we be learning from Norwegian caution?

Use of our water sources: Unsustainable water use as Water District agrees to sell NAF water. There remain questions as to the impact of this sale on our community water resources. Test wells are being drilled in early spring, resulting in skewed measures that do not take our summer droughts into account, especially given climate change. What will be the impact of deep ground wells on neighboring wells? How can neighbors be guaranteed that the water drawn on the 40 owned acres will not effect their wells? It is estimated that it will initially require **484 million gallons of water** to fill the tanks and then more during the lifecycle of the fish

Health and quality of fish: There is huge concern over the toxic contaminants in the feed that all farm based fish are currently given and I have yet to find any information on availability (let alone affordability of organic feed. This is such an issue that financial forecasters in fish industry are concerned about its eventual market value. Norway prohibits organic labeling for land based salmon. Many nutritionists argue that all farmed salmon raised on pellets does not provide the omega 3 and other benefits found in wild salmon. There are concerns about animal welfare of the fish including density in tanks and issues of waste which lead to disease among the fish. There have been instances of fish in land based tanks becoming sick necessitating a complete kill; draining and cleaning of tanks to eliminate cause of disease.

Increase traffic congestion: NAF's proposed facility will have only one point of entry: at the entrance current entrance to the Water District on Rt1 (unless other access is acquired on Perkins Road).. The construction is expected to take seven years, over which time Belfast can expect an increase in construction vehicle traffic in that area. Should the plant become fully operational, 25 tanker trucks are estimated to enter and exit the facility every day. NAF acknowledges that construction will increase the noise level in the area.

Zoning Changes proposed by City are inadequate to protect community: 50' height allowance and all proposed set back and vegetative planting requirements are inadequate for what is essentially a residential zoned area with extensive recreational opportunities as well as important wild life habitat.. There exists no provision to ensure scenic viewscape along Route 1. Although City will take over 250' of

shore land to include Little River Trail, it is unacceptable that deep water ground water wells can be dug in this area which isn't wide enough given need to redirect trails when erosion becomes a concern. There is no guarantee that the current use of the trail will not become restricted.

I understand that Belfast City Officials have claimed that increased job-growth and property-tax revenue justifies inviting a relatively inexperienced multinational corporation to build the world's largest salmon farm at the expense of our natural resources and small-town way of life., but...

Job growth: local businesses, at the recent 2018 Job Fair held in Belfast universally claimed there are plenty of jobs in Belfast and vicinity. The problem, they stated is too small a labor force- one company offered that NAF would, in effect be competing with existing local businesses for similar employees; another company suggested it would like to grow and "be showered by the same municipal attention awarded NAF". All stated the small labor force problem is due to insufficient affordable housing that would attract more employees to our community. Matthews Brothers stated they are looking to fill 50 jobs in the next month. This is more than Nordic Aqua Farm is offering our community over the next 7 years! Should we not be focusing on helping our local businesses achieve their goals rather than on an international corporation that will by definition be taking its profits out of our community?

Tax revenue: We are repeatedly reminded that Belfast property taxes have not declined despite MBNA, athenahealth, Front Street Shipyard and other large businesses locating in our community. We do also realize that the issue of property taxes are closely linked to issues in our state government and should be resolved at that level. Moreover, despite the promises of NAF to pay property taxes, it now seems more apparent that such will depend on the amount of TIF (tax incremental financing) negotiated through which property taxes can be reduced for purported community investment. This mechanism is highly complicated and even more controversial as often it becomes simply a rebate to the company <http://www.theforecaster.net/policy-wonk-maine-tifs-are-not-created->

[equal/.www.pressherald.com/2014/02/19/maines-tif-law-allows-businesses-to-avoid-paying-for-local-services-schools/](http://www.pressherald.com/2014/02/19/maines-tif-law-allows-businesses-to-avoid-paying-for-local-services-schools/)

In summary, I believe the NAF permitting process needs to slow down. Zoning changes should be delayed pending formation of a citizen taskforce to have transparent and respectful conversations with city officials around a proposal of this magnitude. Residents of Belfast want to learn and to help develop a community-wide understanding of the benefits and costs of this project. Finally, an independent financial analysis and an independent environmental impact study should be conducted before any zoning changes are made or additional agreements with NAF negotiated.

Thank you for your attention,
Ridgely Fuller
47 Village Road
Belfast



**City of
Belfast**

Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

(no subject)

2 messages

tom moore <tmoore41@gmail.com>

Thu, Apr 12, 2018 at 1:42 PM

To: wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org

Dear Belfast City Councilors:

I was at first very enthusiastic about the Nordic Aquafarms project, but I no longer am.

1. I am concerned about the amount of water they will draw from the aquifer. No one knows when the limit may be reached.
2. I am concerned about the jobs/workers required. There have been help wanted signs up at Matthews Brothers and Penobscot McCrum for many months. There are not enough people to fill current positions and no low-cost housing for any new workers.
3. I am concerned about Nordic Aquafarms' track record. They have only been in business since 2014. No one knows how reliable they are. Belfast should be more cautious.

I think we should know more before we proceed.

Sincerely,

Thomas R. Moore
20 Huntress Ave.
Belfast

Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

Fri, Apr 13, 2018 at 10:31 AM

To: tom moore <tmoore41@gmail.com>

Dear Mr. Moore

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

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>

Salmon farming

2 messages

Emma Macaillen <em.macaillen@hotmail.com>

Fri, Apr 13, 2018 at 10:57
AM

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

To the Belfast City Council:

Please do not allow the zoning change for the purpose of salmon farming. We cannot add more pollution to the already compromised bay or support the mega use of drinking water for this purpose.

Time to preserve the beauty and resources of one of the most amazing places in Maine, beautiful and forward thinking Belfast. Please keep its integrity over the almighty dollar. Destruction of the bay will not serve your city nor will the depletion of your aquifer. They are irreplaceable not only to our quality of life, but to our survival.

We must be far sighted now and protect our waters.

Emma Macaillen
Orono, Me (upstream and working to minimize pollution here, to also benefit y'all downstream)

Sent from my iPhone

Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

Fri, Apr 13, 2018 at 11:00 AM

To: Emma Macaillen <em.macaillen@hotmail.com>

Dear Ms. Macaillen

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

Wayne

[Quoted text hidden]

--

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



Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

Salmon Farm

2 messages

Patrick Santiago <patricksantiago@yahoo.com>
To: wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org

Fri, Apr 13, 2018 at 10:40 AM

To the Belfast City Council.

I want to voice my concerns in regard to the speed, matter, and ecological impact the salmon industry may have on our community.

I would suggest a full/professional environmental analysis before proceeding any further.

I have concerns in regards to the lack of information until the negotiations were well advanced. The full economical impact/details for the city re: tax incentives, loan, etc. need to be fully disclosed.

Sincerely,

Patrick Santiago

Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>
To: Patrick Santiago <patricksantiago@yahoo.com>

Fri, Apr 13, 2018 at 10:42 AM

Dear Mr. Santiago.

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 presented to the Council in advance of the hearing.

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 of concern NAF

2 messages

Erica Schlueter <schlueter.ERICA@gmail.com>

Thu, Apr 12, 2018 at 12:53
PM

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

To city of Belfast Maine planning office, mayor and city council members,

The more I learn about the Nordic Aquafarm (NAF) project the more concerned I am about the potential negative impact on the environment and the city of Belfast. The amount of water that would be used by NAF is daunting and the long-term impact on the residents of Belfast is unclear at this time. The size of the facility and the largely experimental aspect of the project is also concerning.

Please slow down. I strongly urge the vote to change the zoning from residential to industrial be postponed for at least 6 months to have time to thoroughly gather information on all the aspects of the project (environmental impact on the land the harbor and fresh water sources, jobs, housing for lower wage earners, traffic, who will really benefit financially, who could it cause the most damage to, etc...) Perhaps the city council could work with a committee of citizens to do the research needed to be sure this project is a good fit for Belfast and it's citizens for the decades to come.

Thank you for your consideration,

Erica Schlueter, Belfast, ME

Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

Fri, Apr 13, 2018 at 10:26 AM

To: Erica Schlueter <schlueter.ERICA@gmail.com>

Dear Mr. Schlueter

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.

Wayne

[Quoted text hidden]

--

Wayne Marshall
Director, Code & Planning
City of Belfast



City of
Belfast

Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

SALMON FARM

2 messages

Tracey Lindelof. <tracey.lindelof@gmail.com> Fri, Apr 13, 2018 at 9:46 AM
To: "wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org" <wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org>

Good morning Mr. Marshall,

Our family, who have lived here since the early 1970s, also have concerns regarding the proposed salmon farm.

We share all of the concerns expressed in the TRJ's editorials this week.

Of particular concern is the huge level of water consumption & what the mass output is going to do to the bay & how it could effect the fragile local lobster fishing industry. Slight changes in ocean acidification & warmer water temps have hugely affected the lobster industry slightly south of us.

We are not necessarily against salmon farming, but this project seems way to huge for the beautiful Little River site.

The Lindelof family
Swanville, Belfast, Northport & Islesboro Maine

Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>
To: "Tracey Lindelof." <tracey.lindelof@gmail.com>

Fri, Apr 13, 2018 at 10:08 AM

To the Lindelof Family

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 Council in advance of the hearing.

Wayne

[Quoted text hidden]

--

Wayne Marshall
Director, Code & Planning
City of Belfast



Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

Nordic Aquafarms

2 messages

Lesli D <leslidodgeharrer@gmail.com>
To: wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org

Thu, Apr 12, 2018 at 4:39 PM

Mr. Marshall.

As a resident of Belfast and a voter I have some concerns regarding the Nordic Salmon farm. I was at the first meeting and didn't come away with answers to many of my questions.

One of my main concerns is the Zoning changes that are being considered. 50 foot buildings in such a rural area with lights and noise pollution just doesn't seem like a good change. What other business might want to come here attracted by these changes? How will they change the town in irreversible ways?

It also doesn't seem like the home owners of Belfast will be benefiting from this new industry. Will our taxes go down as we put up with more traffic, noise, light pollution?

What exactly will be pumped out in to the waters around Belfast? I am an avid swimmer and wonder about attracting large fish to an area that used to have them when we had the chicken industry here.

Water.....Belfast Water District has agreed to sell Nordic Farms an amount that is nothing like the amount they will be using.....can our aquifer stand the strain? Will wells run dry? Will there be compensation for wells that fail near the Farm?

I am told that Nordic Farms will hire young people and that will keep them here yet we already have many jobs that go unfilled right here in town. How about a Community College here in Belfast, where Midcoast residents can obtain higher education and build their own businesses, get hired by their neighbors and stay where they grow up.

I have heard the phrase " too much, too fast" and I agree with it. Let's take a step back and get more information to the people concerned about this enormous industrial development.

Thank you for your time.

Lesli Dodge-Harrer
17 Condon St.

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Approach everything with love, every person with respect and every new situation with an open mind.

Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>
To: Lesli D <leslidodgeharrer@gmail.com>

Thu, Apr 12, 2018 at 5:27 PM

Dear Ms. Dodge-Harrer.

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

I also offer a few comments regarding some of the concerns that you raised, and note that most would be considered by the Belfast Planning Board if Nordic Aquafarms submits a permit to develop the project. Also, Nordic Aquafarms, like any applicant, will not be submitting extensive specific project information until they submit a site plan permit to the Planning Board for their review. .

- 1) Nordic Aquafarms plans to construct a building that the noise level outside of the building is 40 decibels or less. This is less than the decibel level of normal conversation. While there will be some activities that will be louder than this level, such as people driving their car to work, this is considerably less than our maximum noise standard of 65 decibels.
- 2) The wells that Nordic Aquafarm plans to drill and use occur in the last reaches of the Little River watershed, which is not a sand/gravel aquifer. The locations of these deep water wells should have no impact on Belfast's overall public water supply that is located in another watershed; Goose River. Also, the City, during the Planning Board review process for any permit application that is filed, will use its own

expert to review the well data produced by Nordic Aquafarms to determine if their wells have any likelihood of creating an adverse impact on private homeowner wells that may be located near the property.

3) The amount of traffic associated with this project is less than many existing employers in Belfast, such as Mathew Brothers or Ducktrap Seafoods, and also is less than is generated by houses located on many City streets, such as Cedar Street or Bayview Street, or in a Subdivision such as the Seaside Heights project on Ryan Road or the Co-housing project on Tufts Road.

4) Nearly all company operations will occur inside the buildings where the fish will be raised and they do not have significant needs for outside lighting.

I acknowledge the concerns you have raised. I also believe that the City can effectively address many of these issues during Planning Board review of a permit application that Nordic Aquafarms may submit.

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>

NAF fish farm

3 messages

Gef Flimlin <flimlin@scarletmail.rutgers.edu>

Thu, Apr 12, 2018 at 8:10 PM

To: Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

Cc: Mike Hurley <Mike@pilut.com>, Mary Mortier <marym@92-92main.com>

Hello Wayne,

I would greatly appreciate if my note and comments would be distributed to the Mayor and Members of City Council to read before their meeting next week.

Thank you very much.....Gef

--

Gef Flimlin

Professor Emeritus

Commercial Fisheries and Aquaculture

Past President, US Aquaculture Society

530 East Jimmie Leeds Road

Galloway NJ 08205

Cell 609-892-4585

"We are all One."

 **Letter to City Council re NAF.docx**
132K

Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

Fri, Apr 13, 2018 at 10:05 AM

To: Gef Flimlin <flimlin@scarletmail.rutgers.edu>

Cc: Mike Hurley <Mike@pilut.com>, Mary Mortier <marym@92-92main.com>

Hello Gef

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

I also offer a few comments.

1) The City is adopting standards to provide the City the authority, in addition to the authority that DEP has, to regulate significant groundwater wells, including their impact on other private wells in the area. The approach the City would use during Planning

Board review of a permit application would be to require Nordic Aquafarms to submit information regarding the quality and quantify of water to be obtained from the wells and to document the impact on area wells. The City Planning Board, similar to what is done for traffic and stormwater impacts, would engage the services of a 3rd party professional to do a peer review of the data and to issue their professional opinion to the Planning Board regarding the conclusions/analysis performed by Nordic's professionals. Nordic would be responsible for paying the cost of this work, but the City would hire the consultant, the information would be provided to the City, and the Planning Board would review all responses: Nordic's, our consultant, and public comments, to determine if Nordic satisfied City standards.

2) You raised concern regarding the impact on the public water supply. Chapter 90, Site Plan, Standard 90-242(3), reads as follows: 3) *Municipal water supply. The proposed development will not cause an unreasonable burden on an existing municipal water supply, if one is to be used.* In short, the Planning Board, during the public review process of a permit application, is required to make a finding on this issue. If they make a negative finding, the project cannot proceed. The Board will consider information from the Belfast Water District, information from Nordic, and information from the public, and if needed, can engage an independent party to make an assessment if this project will have an adverse ability on the district to meet public water needs. I do note that the Water District has paid for an analysis by a third party, A.E. Hodson Engineers, and this engineering firm (in their report) has concluded that the District can provide the maximum amount of water contractually obligated to Nordic (262 million gallons per year), the full amount of water needed to satisfy the existing customer demand in Belfast, and have significant reserve supplies for future growth. This work was done by the District and paid for by the District as part of their due diligence before entering into a water sales agreement with Nordic as part of the purchase and sale. Also, I do not have any personal knowledge of why there were water service delivery problems in the past, but I would note that some of that could have been related to the delivery/distribution system for the District as opposed to the source of the well water. By sheer chance, I just had an unexpected conversation with Keith Pooler as I was writing this email. Keith stated that there were some past distribution system concerns, mostly pressure, however, those problems have since been corrected. Keith also noted that the new A.E. Hodson report also looked at the District's ability to distribute water if the Nordic project happens and that no issues were identified.

3) With respect to the designation of the activity; agriculture vs. industrial. I clearly recognize that the State license is being issued by the Dept of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and that they intend to license the growing/propagation of fish as an agricultural activity. That said, most aspects of this operation are more similar to an industrial use, and many of the accessory uses that they may operate would qualify as industrial activities vs. agricultural activities; potential of making smoked fish products like Ducktrap, perhaps flash freezing fish for shipping, production of fertilizer and such. Continuing, our intent is to regulate impacts regardless of how the use is classified. And, with the sunset provision in the Ordinance, if Nordic does not proceed, this land will revert to the former zoning.

Hope that this information helps respond to some of your concerns.

52 Perkins Road
Belfast Maine 04915
April 11, 2018

Mayor and Council
City of Belfast
131 Church Street
Belfast Maine 04915

Dear Mayor and Council,

I would like to provide some comments on the proposed zoning change for the Belfast Water District land where the Nordic Aquafarm (NAF) land based salmon farm may be sited.

First, I would suggest that there was originally a reason for that land to be zoned the way it is. It was not zoned as an industrial area and it has served as an ecological respite for wildlife and recreation. Perhaps that is still a wise choice.

However, if the Council decides that a zoning change should be considered, I would reiterate my suggestion at the March 19 City Council meeting where I opined that if the zoning was to be changed that it should not be Industrial. The reasoning is that last fall the State of Maine decided that land-based aquaculture should be zoned as Agriculture, although the City's decision can override that. At the end of the meeting Mr. Marshall offered that even if the zoning changed to Industrial one of the permitted uses would still be Agriculture. However, my suggestion of making it Agriculture should exclude an Industrial use by other entities if Nordic Aquafarms does not proceed. Belfast already has a designated Industrial area that could still use more tenants.

With respect to the process that the City is now examining, I will echo the sentiments of others I have heard that this process is moving too fast. There is no reason why the City needs to respond to this NAF request before all of the questions that the residents want are addressed. If the Council decides to change the zoning at the April 17 meeting, then NAF can proceed to acquire its permits from the various agencies that oversee operations of this type. But once that is done and the permits are in hand, there is no recourse to not allowing NAF to proceed with construction.

Yesterday (April 11) Erik Heim and Elizabeth Ransom met with me at my place on Perkins Road for over an hour. I have been in correspondence with Erik since the project was originally showcased by the Governor. Our communications have been mostly directed to the physical parameters of the Recirculation Aquaculture System (RAS) and the buildings that would be constructed on the Belfast Water District land. Our conversation yesterday focused on the fact that Norway has had RAS systems for the early life stages of salmon because that is how much of the smolt used in the net pen operations are reared in RAS systems. So the technology exists

and there have likely been numerous mistakes made along the way, as happens with most aquaculture processes, so that the technology has gotten better and better. The difference here is that this is not just a smolt operation in fresh water but a full grow out where salt water from Penobscot Bay will be needed.

I had suspected, and had corresponded with a colleague from the Maine Center for Cooperative Aquaculture Research in Franklin ME, that the fish would be raised in full seawater. My colleague thought they might be using water at about 27 to 29 ppt (parts per thousand....full seawater is about 32 ppt). However, in our conversation yesterday, Erik mentioned that they would raise the salmon in water that would be about 16 to 18 ppt. The reason why this is critical is that although the fingerlings and smolt are raised in fresh water and then the salinity is increased, if the full growout is done at a lower level than full seawater, the need for fresh water increases. Essentially the water from Penobscot Bay would have to be diluted by half with fresh water to get to the salinity that NAF is suggesting.

Why is this important?

During our conversations, I asked Elizabeth Ransom how the well testing for water was going. She had a bit of a hesitation and said that she thought that there would be enough water to get the process started. She mentioned problems with the drilling at this time of year and that they had to use a 4" drill instead of a larger 6" drill. This it seems does not produce sufficient flow to truly determine water volumes. A 6" drill may have given more information. This led me to wonder if her statement meant that they had enough water to start construction, but perhaps not to go to the full size of the operation that was originally planned or whether she was just being cautious.

Regardless, with the information about the source of the water on the property and the difference in the salinity for the growout, it makes me concerned about the fresh water requirements. The Water District has said that NAF would purchase at least 100 million gallons per year and the option of going up to 263 million gallons. This seems to be based on the historical usage said by the District of what was used when the chicken processing operations were in full swing years ago. But one of the neighbors here on Perkins Road who has lived his whole life here mentioned that when the processing plants were fully operational, there was not enough city water for the residents of this area and there was a sort of rationing since they could not get regular city water during the weekdays.

Also, Maine is one of only three states (Indiana and Texas also) that have a common law of capture of water. This means that land owners can pump as much water as they want from under their property and that usage cannot be contained. If NAF so desires, it can pump as much fresh water from under that property without regard to others using the same water source.



Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

Salmon Farm

2 messages

Jay Peters <jpeters@maine.edu>
To: wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org

Fri, Apr 13, 2018 at 9:20 AM

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

Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

Fri, Apr 13, 2018 at 10:14 AM

To: Jay Peters <jpeters@maine.edu>

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

This needs to be fully investigated now if the City is suggesting an upper limit for the purchase of water. So there are several unknowns when it comes to fresh water usage.

I would suggest that the City hire an independent environmental consultant with good knowledge of aquaculture. This consultant should have access to the design features of the NAF proposed system and where the buildings would be located. If Ransom Consulting is ready to apply for state and federal permits, they obviously have the information that a consultant could review to see if the physical parameters of the operation would have any significant impact on the City's water supply or local environment. The consultant would also need to have access to the proposed build out of the operation over time that the District now owns and how it would impact those living in the immediate area. Once that information is attained, the City Council would have adequate data to make the decision as to whether this complex would fit within the strategic plan for Belfast. Without this, decisions would be made without appropriate facts.

Sincerely,

Gef Flimlin

Gef Flimlin
Professor Emeritus, Rutgers Cooperative Extension

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

Mail Delivery Subsystem <mailer-daemon@googlemail.com>

Fri, Apr 13, 2018 at 10:05 AM

To: planner@cityofbelfast.org



Address not found

Your message wasn't delivered to **marym@92-92main.com** because the domain 92-92main.com couldn't be found. Check for typos or unnecessary spaces and try again.

The response was:

DNS Error: 3331178 DNS type 'mx' lookup of 92-92main.com responded with code NXDOMAIN Domain name not found: 92-92main.com

Final-Recipient: rfc822; marym@92-92main.com

Action: failed

Status: 4.0.0

Diagnostic-Code: smtp; DNS Error: 3331178 DNS type 'mx' lookup of 92-92main.com responded with code NXDOMAIN

Domain name not found: 92-92main.com

Last-Attempt-Date: Fri, 13 Apr 2018 07:05:11 -0700 (PDT)

----- Forwarded message -----

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

[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>

Fri, Apr 13, 2018 at 10:19
AM

To: Judy Williams <bythesea584@gmail.com>

Dear Ms. Williams

Thank you for submitting your comment. It will be included as 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 the Belfast Planning Board is not and should not be involved in the public process associated with the review of the proposed Ordinance amendments. The Planning Board will only become involved if City zoning is amended and if Nordic Aquafarms chooses to submit a permit application. The Planning Board must serve as an administrative review body regarding the permit application, thus, it is inappropriate to engage them in the public review process regarding the proposed Ordinance amendments. I also note that the City discussed this concern with the Planning Board and City Council immediately after Nordic Aquafarms made their public announcement in late January.

I hope that this information helps.

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

LETTER TO BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Dear Councilors;

Thank you for your service to our community.

I am a resident of ^{Northport} Belfast and I've just recently heard about the proposal to bring a land-based salmon farming operation into our city.

In the brief time that I've had to think about the proposal and to talk with other Belfast residents, I've found we have many questions and concerns that don't seem to have answers.

Before moving forward with such a large development, please take the time to consider all the implications that this decision will have on our city.

My primary concerns/questions are:

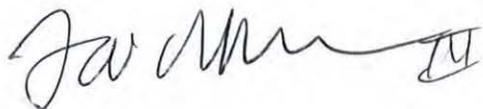
Where will the workforce come from? Are there sufficient people available to take these jobs?

Without a real comparison on environmental impact, how do you know what something like this will do?

Slow Down! If this is a good deal, it can stand to take some time to do

Thank you.

^{it right.}
Name James W Atkinson III
Address 11 Oak St, Northport
Date 4/13/18
Signature





**City of
Belfast**

Wayne Marshall <planner@cityofbelfast.org>

Salmon Farm Project

2 messages

Judy Williams <bythesea584@gmail.com>

Thu, Apr 12, 2018 at 10:31 PM

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

Planning Board Members:

I am writing to encourage the planning board to slow the process down for approval of the Salmon Farm Project. I do not feel that sufficient opportunities for public hearings on such a large project have been offered that would warrant the planning board moving to a vote as early as 4/17.

My concerns center on environmental risks from the project, especially given the size of the project and the lack of a proven track record at this level with the Norwegian firm.

Please do not bring the matter to a vote this week. Instead, work with the Norwegian firm to hold additional public hearings to ensure that all concerns have been voiced and put to rest.

Sincerely,

Judy Williams

Sent from Mail for Windows 10



Virus-free. www.avg.com

LETTER TO BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Dear Councilors;

Thank you for your service to our community.

I am a resident of Belfast and I've just recently heard about the proposal to bring a land-based salmon farming operation into our city.

In the brief time that I've had to think about the proposal and to talk with other Belfast residents, I've found we have many questions and concerns that don't seem to have answers.

Before moving forward with such a large development, please take the time to consider all the implications that this decision will have on our city.

My primary concerns/questions are:

Do we have enough resources? Water? Sewage? etc
What happens to the trees and wildlife in that area when a large building is put up. Rain run off? Trees cut down?
Wild spaces turned into lawn? Recreation space lost? Noise?
Traffic on RT 1 - adding more large trucks - noise, accidents, air pollution?

Discharge into river?

How much will Belfast actually gain in jobs, taxes, etc.

Just a few of the very many questions that have not been answered in the specifics. To move forward with zoning changes without more details sounds dangerous and potentially detrimental to Belfast.

Thank you.

Name

Address

Date

Signature

Please think very carefully about this.

Marilyn D. Boyer

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Before moving forward with such a large development, please take the time to consider all the implications that this decision will have on our city.

My primary concerns/questions are:

slow DOWN!!!!
Why is Bucksport & Belfast needed.
Chemicals to environment?? Sea Lice Yuk
Can we hurt our local ocean/waters?
Why is the plant not in their own country?

Thank you.

**Name
Address
Date**

Sue Garrett (Sue Garrett)
61 Springbrook Dr. Apt 2A Belfast ME
04/0

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Before moving forward with such a large development, please take the time to consider all the implications that this decision will have on our city.

My primary concerns/questions are:

*environmental
and traffic*

Thank you.

Name

Address

Date

*Lindsay Moore
46 Charles St, Apt 1, Belfast, ME 04915
4/13/18*

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My primary concerns/questions are:

What actual plan for sustaining the health of the "crop" and environment that this company can demonstrate.

Has the community received concrete details regarding prior attempts at this venture elsewhere.

Many more questions and hope that this town takes a measured perspective before becoming involved in something of such scale.

Thank you.

Name

Alana Rose

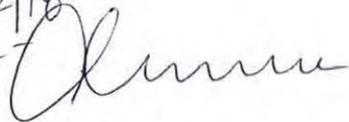
Address

355 Weymouth Rd Natick MA 04952

Date

4/12/18

Signature



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Before moving forward with such a large development, please take the time to consider all the implications that this decision will have on our city.

My primary concerns/questions are:

Environmental Impact.

Has there been an Environmental Impact Study?

Thank you.

Name

Jane Mangan

Address

1a Village Rd, Belfast ME 04915

Date

4/13/18

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Before moving forward with such a large development, please take the time to consider all the implications that this decision will have on our city.

My primary concerns/questions are:

hey, man, slow down!
I have major concerns with the ecological impact
of the salmon farms. There is simply not enough
information available to the people at Waldo court
to put this kind of massive structure
in place. Potentially have a tremendous ecological
impact in the Belfast area.

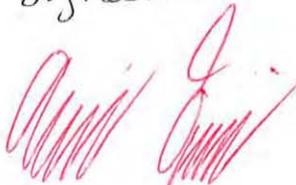
Thank you.

Name

Address

Date

Signature



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Before moving forward with such a large development, please take the time to consider all the implications that this decision will have on our city.

My primary concerns/questions are:

Please - be conscientious and gather information adequate to make responsible decisions.

Thank you.

Name

Orak Hysni

Address

Maval

Date

Signature

Orak Hysni

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Before moving forward with such a large development, please take the time to consider all the implications that this decision will have on our city.

My primary concerns/questions are:

1. The city should not sell any land on the water, it should always belong to residents.
2. Waste effluent must be carefully managed and monitored. This is a big project and the effects are going to be amplified.

Thank you.

Name

Jim Kosinski

Address

20 Bayview St

Date

4/13/18

Signature



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My primary concerns/questions are:

1. Impact on the aquifers.
2. Impact on the bay
3. The paving of such a large piece of land for industrial use.
4. Most important - farmed salmon is not a healthy food given all the antibiotics and other chemicals used

Thank you.

Name

Address

Date

Signature

Ieva Bell-Shippee

246 High St. #102

Belfast, ME 04915

4.13.18

