

#### City of Keene, New Hampshire

## **Historic District Commission**

#### **AGENDA**

Thursday, December 28, 2017

3:00 PM

2<sup>nd</sup> floor Committee Room

- 1. Call to Order and Roll Call
- 2. Role of the Historic District Commission
- 3. Public Hearing

COA 2011-13 Modification 6 – 34 Cypress Street - Monadnock Food Coop Expansion – Applicant, Monadnock Food Coop, on behalf of owner, Cypress Street Development LLC, proposes a 5,700 square foot addition to the 13,200± square foot Monadnock Food Coop building at 34 Cypress Street (TMP#023-04-027-8000) that would extend onto the 0.33 acre parcel to the east at 51 Railroad Street #G (TMP#023-04-027-1100). The project will include the installation of an 11-space parking area and a community amphitheater. Both parcels are located in the Central Business Zoning District.

#### 4. Adjourn

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#### <u>City of Keene</u> New Hampshire

# HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, November 15, 2017

4:30 PM

2nd Floor Conference Room,

City Hall

**Members Present:** 

**Staff Present:** 

Hanspeter Weber, Chair Joslin Kimball Frank Nancy Proctor Hans Porschitz Councilor Thomas Powers Tara Kessler, Planner

#### **Members Not Present:**

Andrew Weglinski Peter Poanessa

#### 1) Call to Order & Roll Call

Chair Weber called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM and Ms. Kessler conducted roll call.

#### 2) Minutes of Previous Meeting – September 20, 2017

Ms. Kimball Frank made a motion to approve the minutes of September 20, 2017, which was seconded by Councilor Powers.

Ms. Kimball Frank noted a correction to the minutes: in the third paragraph on page eight, she was speaking about the cement board siding color, not the window color.

The motion to approve the minutes of September 20, 2017 as amended carried unanimously.

#### 3) Advice & Comment

a. Monadnock Food Coop Proposed Expansion – 34 Cypress Street – Katie Sutherland of KCS Architects and Rob Hitchcock of SVE Associates will present on concept designs for a proposed expansion of the Monadnock Food Coop at 34 Cypress Street, TMP# 023-04-027-8000, which is in the Central Business District.

Ms. Kessler noted this Commission has the capacity to provide advice and comment on plan design and concepts that will come before the Commission. It is an opportunity for applicants and Commission members to ask questions and give feedback; this discussion is non-binding and the applicant can change their designs before returning to the Commission. Ms. Sutherland and Mr. Hitchcock are seeking advice on the expansion of the Monadnock Food Coop and plan to return for a public hearing in December.

Mr. Hitchcock showed the existing Coop layout on a map as well as the proposed 5,700sf expansion. There has been a temporary gravel parking lot next to the Coop for many years that will be used for the expansion along with the existing concrete patio. This will better connect the Coop to the oval shaped are to the rear of the Coop building. This oval area is shaped by the

HDC Meeting Minutes November 15, 2017

Coop building, the Courtyard Marriot, and the building at 51 Railroad Street. The new area will be landscaped with four to five trees and shrubbery. There are currently two pole mounted lights and they do not anticipate adding any others, though they may add four or five bollard lights for the walkway. They are also considering linear planter boxes to divide the new patio area from the walkway.

Ms. Sutherland continued that a steel pergola is planned over an elevated concrete platform on the north side of the building; this will facilitate a stage, film screening, and picnic area. The building will extend in the same line as the south entry façade with the addition of some punched brick openings of similar scale to other buildings on Main Street. The canopy over the new patio door on the east side will be smaller than the main entrance canopy. This expansion will also allow for signage facing the bike path. She said the expansion was designed to respect the existing building (a Non-Contributing Resource), for which the HDC provided a Certificate of Appropriateness in 2011. She believes the plans are consistent with the HDC design standards for a Non-Contributing Resource; the character of the building will remain unchanged – a brick and aluminum framed storefront.

Chair Weber asked if this expansion is anticipated to meet future growth and demand, including parking. Michael Faber, Coop General Manager, replied that parking is encompassed in the plan; there are 20 spaces on the east side of the lot currently used by Cheshire Medical. The hope is to relocate those parking spaces to the Wells Street Parking Garage. In total, 30 parking spaces will be added, which is more than the size of the building's demands. The store has doubled in sales since opening in 2013 and that has created many challenges, particularly for office space (some have had to relocate to other buildings), and challenges are now arising for retail space. This additional space will alleviate these challenges.

Ms. Kessler noted this application would also go before the Planning Board so this Commission only needs to focus on HDC standards.

Chair Weber asked if the expansion would be two stories. Ms. Sutherland replied no, although the appearance will be similar with a 20-ft parapet wall and screening of mechanical equipment; but there will be no mezzanine or second level. Ms. Proctor asked if they still plan on outdoor seating. Ms. Sutherland replied yes, they estimate 17 tables as opposed to the current 10.

Councilor Powers noted that there are no parking related requirements at this location because it is in the Central Business District. Chair Weber recognized Jack Dugan who went before the City Finance Committee the previous week to recommend leasing parking spaces in the Wells Garage to Cheshire Medical. He noted that this will hopefully be approved by Council the week following this meeting. He thinks this is an ideal situation for everyone as it creates more spaces for the Coop, Cheshire Medical staff and patients can park closer to their building, and the City will gain a long-term lease in an underutilized parking structure. Councilor Powers thinks this is a good approach to meet customer demand because of the high parking turnover at the Coop and Cheshire Medical.

Ms. Kessler asked about the timeline of the expansion. Mr. Dugan replied that a component of funding this project is a \$1.5 million federal Community Development Block Grant. There is still grant money available this calendar year, but the grant has been eliminated entirely from the proposed 2018 federal budget. Thus, there is a time crunch to apply for these funds before the end of the year, which is why they are seeking advice before formally applying in December. The grant application will likely not be approved until February, then it will go to the Governor and Executive Council in April; construction will not begin before summer 2018.

Chair Weber said he liked the look of the expansion and that it will match the MoCo Arts building. Ms. Sutherland noted MoCo is promoting the stage area for art events. Mr. Dugan added the pergola area will hopefully increase Coop activity levels. Chair Weber added the work that has already been done to improve the parking lot is better, safer, and more inviting. He asked if interior café size will increase as well. Mr. Faber replied they hope to expand it as well as the outdoor patio.

Ms. Sutherland said if the HDC supports this plan it would be helpful if they indicated that to the Planning Board, which will review this application before the HDC in December. The Commission provided the following comments about these conceptual designs, recognizing that is a non-binding session and that the applicant may change their conceptual plans and that a formal review will be required at a noticed public hearing.

- Landscaping, greenery, and shade trees are important.
- The proposed expansion respects the aesthetics of the current building and the surrounding Downtown.
- The back of the Coop along the oval will be better utilized.
- The continuity of overall architectural materials and design will make the expansion look like it has always been there.
- Extensive windows on the south and east sides will help with thermal performance and natural light. Although, the south façade looks like a lot of glass in the drawings, the punched brick framing will help to break up that glass.
- The pergola appears to be an excellent opportunity for entertainment, picnics, and to expand Coop events.
- The Commission is familiar enough with the building materials and the applicants do not need to bring samples to the public hearing unless there are major design changes between now and then.

Ms. Kessler will follow-up with Commission members individually about their status as memberowners of the Coop, which they will have to disclose or recuse themselves if they feel it presents a conflict of interest. It will be important to make sure there is a quorum at the December meeting so the applicants can apply for their grant.

#### 4) Resource Ranking Update

Ms. Kessler said this item has come up and been pushed aside many times. When formed, the HDC initially ranked each building in the Historic District with a scoring system to determine if the property is a Primary, Contributing, Non-Contributing (no historic contribution or less than 50 years old), or Incompatible Resource based on the value and significance of the structure. Per HDC regulations, these rankings should be revisited every five years, but this exercise has not taken place since the Commission was established. Ms. Kessler and Chair Weber suggested forming a working group to look at the resource rankings. The Planning Department has the original calculations and scores for each building. There are a few properties new to the district that have not been ranked and some buildings that were originally ranked have been significantly rehabilitated since. This does not need to be a full review of all properties in the District, just new additions and significantly altered buildings. Chair Weber, Ms. Kimball Frank, and Mr. Porschitz volunteered for a brief 30 minute meeting with Ms. Kessler to look at the documents and determine their willingness to be in the working group. Ms. Kimball Frank may be willing to help but wants to understand the rankings better first. Ms. Kessler will follow-up to schedule an early morning or evening meeting.

## 5) Staff Updates

Ms. Kessler had no updates.

- 6) Next Meeting December 20, 2017
- 7) Adjournment

Hearing no further business, Chair Weber adjourned the meeting at 5:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted by, Katie Kibler, Minute Taker

Reviewed and edited by, Tara Kessler, Planner

#### STAFF REPORT

#### COA-2011-13 MOD. 6 - 34 CYPRESS STREET (MONADNOCK FOOD COOP EXPANSION)

#### **Request:**

Applicant, Monadnock Food Co-op, on behalf of owner, Cypress Street Development LLC, proposes a 5,700 square foot addition to the 13,500 square foot Monadnock Food Coop building at 34 Cypress Street (TMP#023-04-027-8000) that would extend onto the 0.33 acre parcel to the east at 51 Railroad Street #G (TMP#023-04-027-1100). The project will include the installation of an 11-space parking area and a community amphitheater. Both parcels are located in the Central Business Zoning District.

#### **Background:**

The Monadnock Food Co-op is a community-owned marketplace that was constructed in 2013 as part of the second phase of redevelopment of the former rail yard in Keene's downtown known as the Railroad Land. In 2011, a Certificate of Appropriateness was issued by the Historic District Commission (HDC) for the construction of this 13,500 square foot building and adjacent 101-space parking area. Since this time, several minor modifications to the site have approved by the Commission, including the installation of a roof-mounted solar array and a dumpster enclosure.

The Monadnock Food Co-op is seeking to expand its existing building to accommodate existing and future space constraints. The Applicant is proposing to construct a 5,700 square foot addition that would extend to the east of the existing building, in the location of the existing outdoor dining area. The Applicant proposes to install a 1,755 square foot patio adjacent to the addition and to install a 11-space parking lot to the east of this patio area. In addition, the Applicant proposes to install a steel pergola structure to the north of the addition, in the oval-shaped outdoor area that is intended to serve as an amphitheater.

A resource ranking has not yet been established for the building, which was built in 2013; however, it is outside of the period of significance, which is fifty years past from the present day.

According to Section III.D.1 ("Additions to a new building or structure"), Section III.D.13 ("Installation of new paving") and Section III.D.2 ("Installation of decks, patios or pools") of the HDC Regulations this work is classified as a "Major Project" for review by the HDC.

#### **Completeness:**

Staff recommends accepting this application as complete.

#### **Application Analysis:**

This staff report represents a review of the HDC Standards as they apply to this project. The relevant standards of the HDC Regulations are included below.

#### Section XV.D.1.c)1)

"Additions shall reflect the context of surrounding historic buildings or structures and not detract from the overall character of the historic district."

The proposed 5,700 square foot addition would continue the design and visual appearance of the existing Food Co-op, which is a tall one-story brick building with large storefront windows. The Food Co-op was designed to complement the architecture of surrounding buildings, which are predominantly brick and multi-storied, while providing a contemporary storefront aesthetic. Although these adjacent buildings, which include the Courtyard Marriot, 51 Railroad Street, and Railroad Square Senior Housing, were developed within the last ten years, they are reminiscent of Keene's historic downtown commercial buildings.

## STAFF REPORT

The existing Food Co-op is approximately 22-feet and 8-inches high. Although this structure is one-story, its height makes it more consistent with the taller buildings to its north and south. The proposed addition will extend east from the existing building, along the same line of the Co-op's main entry, which has a lower height of approximately 15-feet and 5-inches. The addition transitions into a taller (22-feet, 8-inches) brick façade further east that is similar to the Co-op's existing north and west facades. On the east-facing façade, a lower glass and cement board storefront angles out from the taller brick portion of the addition. The variation of height and architectural detailing provide for a scale and visual appearance that is complementary to the surrounding site and existing building.

The north-facing façade of the addition completes the southern curvature of the oval-shaped open space to the rear of the Co-op. The addition includes a fourth curved wall on the north side of the building that is intended to define a community amphitheater space. The Applicant is proposing to install a protruding steel pergola between the two curved walls on the Co-op's north side to better frame an amphitheater stage, which is concrete. The original intent for this oval area, as described to the HDC in 2011, was to create a community amphitheater. The addition of a fourth curved wall and pergola will serve to support this use and frame a stage/performance area.

#### Section XV.D.1.c)2)

"Materials used for siding on additions shall be compatible with existing materials on the building and shall be those that are common in the district. Acceptable materials include brick, stone, terra cotta, wood, metal, and cement clapboard."

The Applicant proposes to use materials that match the materials on the existing Co-op building. These materials include clear glass windows in an aluminum storefront system, steel lintels, "concord blend" brick veneer by Redland Brick Inc., cement board panels, and wall-mounted LED lights that match the existing. These materials are consistent with those used in this area of the Historic District.

#### Section XV.A.4.b)6)

"For new construction...every effort shall be made to locate parking behind the building(s). Parking shall be located to the rear of the backline of the building or the backline of the main building, as applicable."

The Applicant is proposing to install an 11-space asphalt parking lot to the east side of the Co-op, adjacent to the proposed addition and outdoor patio. This parking area would supplement the Co-op's existing 101-space parking lot, which is located to the south of the Co-op's main entrance. The Applicant notes that the Co-op needs this extra parking to accommodate its proposed expansion and future growth. At present, there are few options for expanding parking in the area of the Co-op. It would not be possible to expand the existing parking lot further south or east without impacting existing development. If this new parking lot were to be located to the rear of the Co-op building, it would impact the oval-shaped amphitheater/open space. The Applicant is proposing to locate this new parking area to the east where there is currently a vacant gravel space. This parking lot would be less visible from Eagle Court and Cypress Street than the existing Co-op parking lot.

#### Section XV.A.4.b)4)

"New onsite parking, if required, shall be unobtrusive, with appropriate screening and landscaping, and shall preserve any character defining features of the site..."

The Applicant is proposing to screen this parking area with a diverse mix of landscaping including perennial shrubs and trees. The types of plants surrounding the parking area include groundcover sumac, viburnum, inkberry, silver grass, spirea, groundcover sumac, sweet fern, liriope, Austrian pine, oak trees and elm trees.

#### STAFF REPORT

#### Section XV.A.5.b)1)

"On commercial and industrial buildings, mechanical equipment, such as compressor units, shall be set back on the roof of the building, so as to be minimally visible, or ground-mounted toward the rear of the building, with appropriate screening to minimize visibility."

The Applicant proposes to install all mechanical equipment on the roof of the building. The Applicant proposes a 4-foot, 6-inch parapet wall on the addition's roof edge to screen any roof-mounted equipment.

#### **Recommendation:**

If the HDC is inclined to approve this application, a sample motion is as follows:

Approve COA-2011-13 Mod.6 for the installation of a 5,700 square foot addition, 11-space parking lot, and 1,755 square foot patio at 34 Cypress Street as presented on the plans "Proposed Site Plan Monadnock Food Co-op Expansion 34 Cypress St Keene, NH" prepared by SVE Associates on 11/20/17 at a scale of 1"=10' and "Proposed Exterior Elevations Monadnock Food Coop 34 Cypress Street Keene, NH 03431" prepared by KCS Architects on 11/28/17 at a scale of 1/8" = 1' submitted to the Planning Department on December 1, 2017.

## HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION



# MAJOR PROJECT APPLICATION

P	Project Name:		For Staff Use Only:	
A		Date	Received: 12/1/7	
Monadnock Food Co-op Expansion		Planning Department File # COA 2011-13 Wood		
Tax Map P	arcel number(s)	Project Address:		
023-0	4 - 0 2 7 0 0	34 Cypress Street		
-		Square Footage of Parcel: 404,237		
		Zoning Dis	strict: Central Business District	
	Name: Monadnock Food Co-op		Name: Cypress Street Development llc, c/o MEDC	
Applicant	Address: 34 Cypress Street	Owner	Address: 51 Railroad Street	
	Telephone/Email: (603) 283 - 5400		Telephone/Email: (603) 352 - 4939	
	gm@monadnockfood.coop		jdugan@monadnock-development.org	
	Signature:		Signature:	
	Date: 11/29/2017		Date: 11/29/2017	
В	✓ Type of alteration	Exemptions Requested (for materials not submitted) Circle one:  YES  NO		
	Reason for alteration	(If YES see		
Descriptive Narrative	Location of alteration	For Staff Use	e Only:	
Including:	✓ Material selection	Date of Pre-A	application Meeting	
	✓ Site features ✓ Landscape features	Date Applica	tion is Complete	
		catures		
	A complete application must include the follo	owing:	Copies of any Zoning Board of Adjustment actions	
	Two (2) copies of completed application forms	<u> </u>	Three (3) copies of site plan (see Section D)	
	Two (2) copies of Descriptive Narrative	izi	Three (3) color copies of architectural elevations	
	FEES covering the costs of processing, legal notice, advertising the public hearing, mailing notices out to abutters		(see Section E)	
	☑ Signed and Notarized Abutters List	X	Scale and Massing Depictions (see Section F)	
i	Two (2) sets of Mailing Labels for abutters		Material Examples (see Section G)	

# kcs architects

310 MARLBORO STREET = 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, KEENE, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03431, (603) 439-6648, katie@kcs-architects.com

November 28, 2017

Monadnock Food Corop Expansion - Project Narrative

Overview:

The Monadnock Food Co-op is cooperatively owned and operated by people in our community, and exists to meet our community's need for:

- An accessible, community-owned downtown food market
- A marketplace that welcomes and connects community
- A healthy, sustainable food system.
- The support of local farmers and producers
- Appropriate education and training for the community
- A strong, sustainable and improving local economy

The Co-op is proposing a 5,700 SF building expansion project onto their existing location to meet their growing needs. The project is dependent on a long term lease of roughly 20 parking spaces in the Wells Street garage and an additional 11 spaces to the east of the addition... Since their doors opened in 2013, the Co-op's growth has been extremely positive, allowing them to sell more local products, support our local farms and provide more healthy food choices. A market study has been commissioned, and indicates that a larger store with increased parking will enable the Co-op to successfully grow. The expansion will address existing and future space constraints, improve the co-op's selection of local offerings, and make the co-op more accessible to the downtown and broader community it serves. In order to be eligible for a Community Block Development Grant to help fund the project, the grant application needs to be submitted by the end of this 2017. We are seeking local approvals for this project in order to be eligible for the grant funding.

#### Community Minded Site Design:

The Monadnock Food Co-op is located on the Railroad Property, which is a large former rail yard that is bounded by Railroad Street to the north, Cypress Street to the west, and Dunbar and Water Streets to the south. The site has been undergoing redevelopment since 2006, including the new Courtyard by Marriott Hotel, 51 Railroad Street (a mixed-use building of commercial and residential spaces), and the current Monadnock Food Co-op. A bicycle and pedestrian path follows the old rail lines and goes between these buildings and around an ovular outdoor community space that has been envisioned at this location. This outdoor community amphitheater can now be completed with the proposed expansion of the co-op. Part of the expansion project will include the last curved wall of the oval. An elevated concrete slab currently exists at the "stage" of the oval. The fourth curved wall proposed on the North side of the Co-op Expansion will complete the architectural definition of this community space. We are also proposing a proscenium type pergola between the two curved walls of the Co-op to better frame the stage. We have reached out to local groups such as MoCo and Keene Music Festival about using this pergola to make the stage more functional for community music or camp performance events. We have also reached out to MONIFF about using the new backdrop for projecting seasonal outdoor movie and picnic nights in the Oval. On the east side of the expansion, we are proposing a landscaped area to be used as an outdoor café by the Co-op. There will be a northsouth pathway adjacent to the café, connecting the pedestrian path at the Oval to the south side of the Co-op Building and Community Way. Also proposed is a small extension of the site parking, which will provide eleven additional parking spaces. This is also an outdoor space that will be used for community events hosted by the Co-op, such as their annual Earth Day event and regular Truck Load Sales.

#### Architectural Design of Buildings:

Most of these Railroad Development building projects (51 Railroad Street, Courtyard by Marriot and Southwestern Community Services' Senior Housing Building) were built prior to the Historic District Commission reviewing applications. The Monadnock Food Co-op received a Certificate of Appropriateness from Keene's Historic District Commission in 2011.

The proposed expansion is on the east side of the Food Co-op Building and uses the same architectural narrative as the original building. The Food Co-op was designed as a sister building to 51 Railroad Street and the Marriot Hotel. Each of these buildings was designed as part of a larger site plan referenced above. The buildings are organized on site by the two lines of Railroad Street, the first part of the road being perpendicular to Main Street, and then angling east. This geometry defines a square taller brick portion of the buildings, and then a lower, more contemporary storefront portion of the buildings. The lower storefronts shift the building volumes to a more pedestrian scale around the bike path. The curved walls of each of these buildings tie them together visually while also creating a central community oval between them.

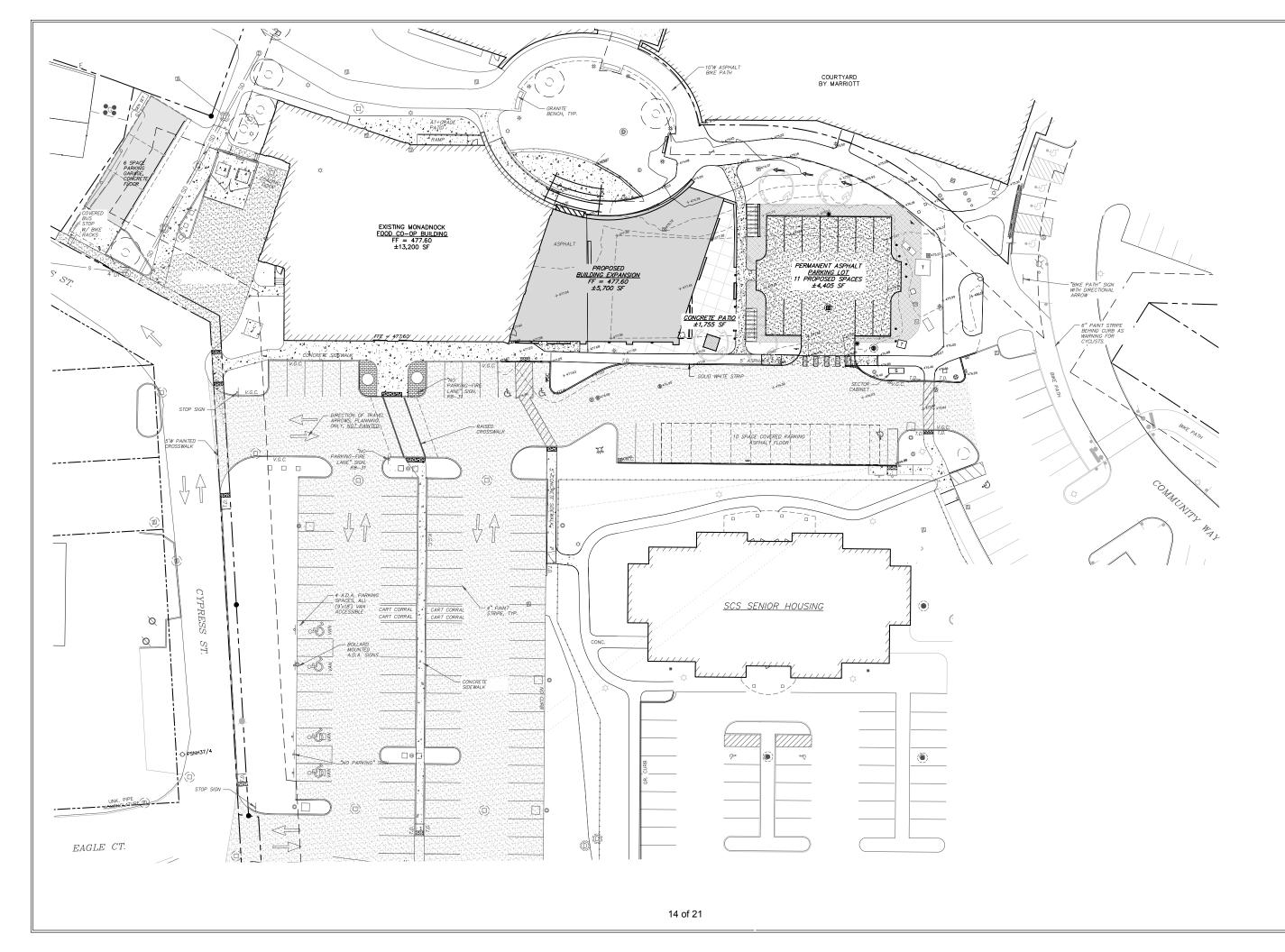
The proposed expansion design of the Monadnock Food Co-op takes its cues from this community space and the architectural vocabulary already in play. The tall brick construction with large storefront openings is consistent in proportion and scale to other buildings in the Historic District. The lower storefront sections of the building are more contemporary, and complement the older storefronts of our downtown without mimicking them.

On the south face of the Co-op building, we are proposing to extend that contemporary lower storefront east, along the same line of the entry façade. It would abut a taller brick façade that will anchor the east corner of the addition. This brick façade will be similar to the existing north and west facades of the building. It is taller with a parapet wall above the roof that can screen mechanical equipment and a future rooftop photovoltaic system, increasing the capacity of the current rooftop PV system. The parapet is 4'-6" higher than the lower roof, which creates an overall building height of 22'-8", closer in scale to a 2-story building.

On the east façade, the lower storefront angles out again from the brick, lowering the scale of the volume to the more pedestrian scale of the café. The storefront system allows for more glazing between the indoor and outdoor cafes as well. The panels that are not glazed will be a light-colored cement board to match the existing panels on the south elevation, providing a backdrop for signage on that northeast part of the wall, visible from the bike path and Community Way.

The north façade is about the community stage, and completing the Oval. The fourth and final curved wall to match the other three bounds the building on the north. A backdrop with proscenium pergola is framed by the two curved walls and the existing raised slab stage.

There are no changes proposed to the west side of the building.





SCALE: 1"=20'



DESCRIPTION	DATE
MISC. EDITS	12/7/17

DESIGNED BY: AJS
CHECKED BY: RH
DATE PLAN: 11/20/2017
DATE SURVEY: N/A
PROJECT NO.: K2610
CAD NO.: K2610-SITE1

## SVE Associates

Surveying

Landscape Architecture

Planning

47 Marlboro Street

Keene. NH 03431

47 Marlboro Street Keene, NH 03431 Phone (603) 355-1532 Fax (603) 355-2969 website: www.sveassoc.

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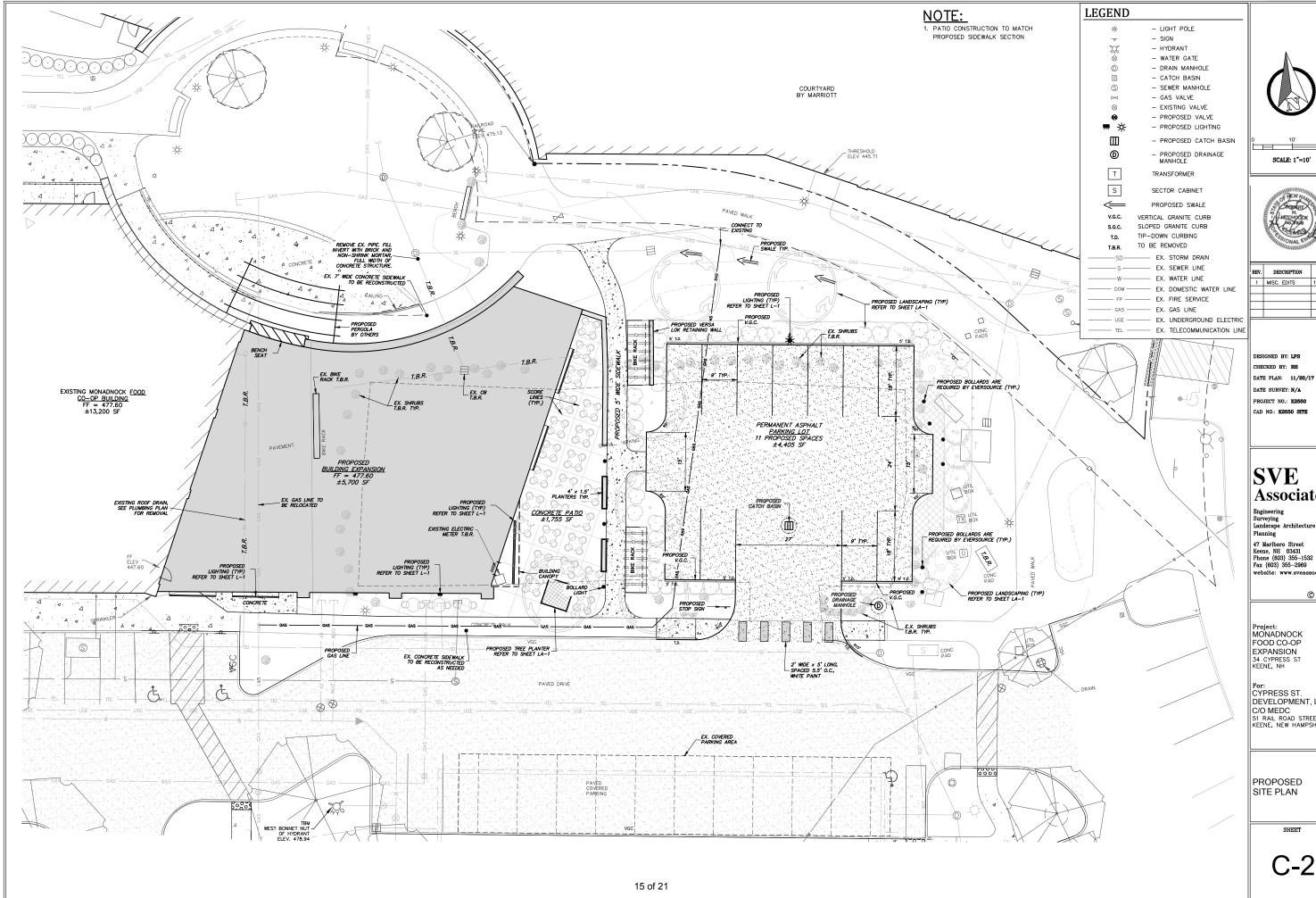
Project: MONADNOCK FOOD CO-OP EXPANSION 34 CYPRESS ST KEENE, NH

For: CYPRESS ST. DEVELOPMENT, LLC C/O MEDC 51 RAIL ROAD STREET KEENE, NEW HAMPSHIRE

GENERAL LAYOUT PLAN

SI

C-1



SCALE: 1"=10'



REV.	DESCRIPTION	DATE
1	MISC. EDITS	12/7/17

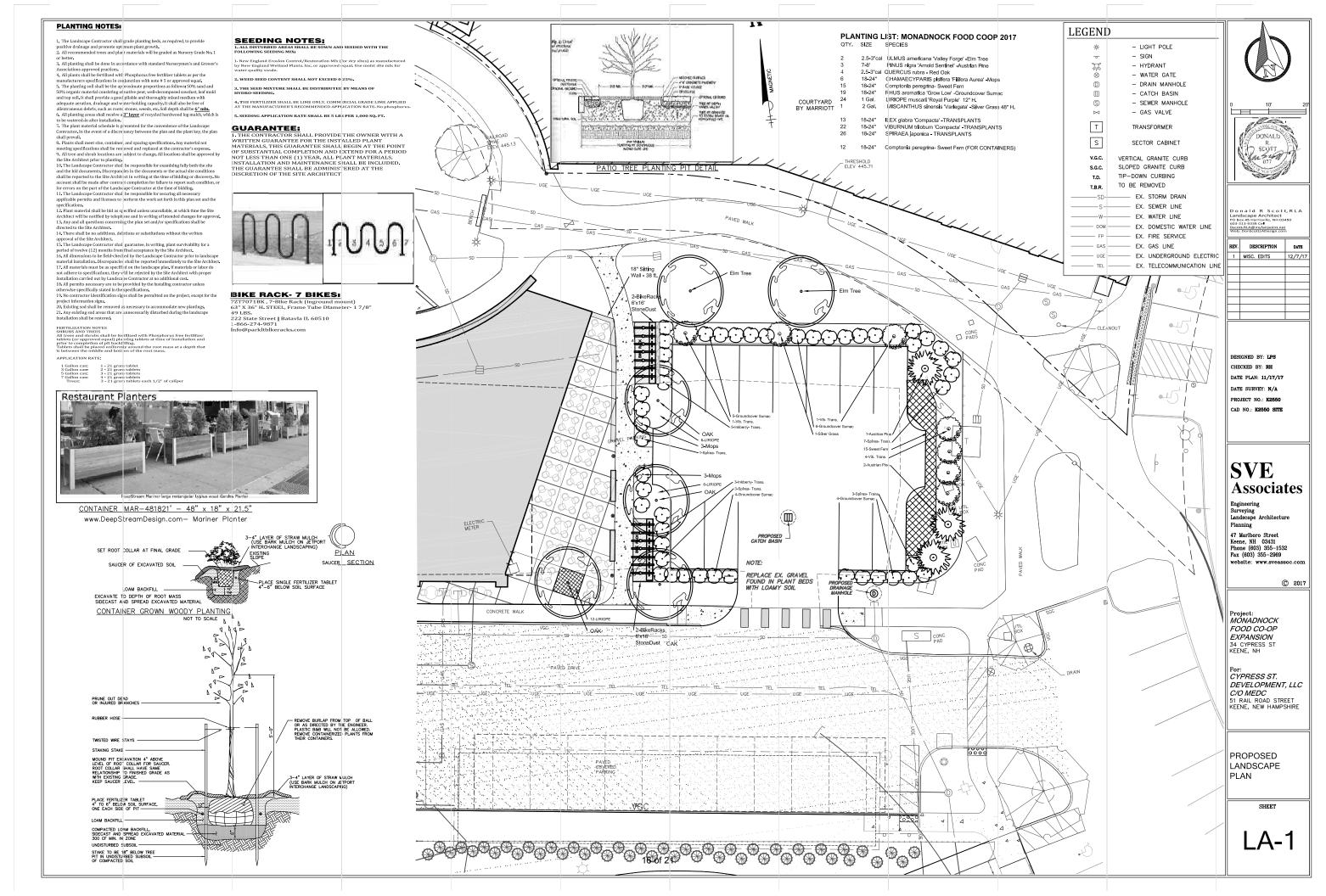
DATE PLAN: 11/20/17

# **Associates**

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For: CYPRESS ST. DEVELOPMENT, LLC C/O MEDC
51 RAIL ROAD STREET
KEENE, NEW HAMPSHIRE

C-2



P./project/K2610 MEDC-Co-op Expansion/Dwg/Consultants/Don Scott LA Design\11-20-17 landscape design plan/K2610-LA-1- REV 1 EDITS dwg, 12/8/2017 10:57:45 AM



December 5, 2017

Planning Board City of Keene 3 Washington Street Keene, NH 03431

Attn: Tara Kessler, Planner

Dear members of the Planning Board,

My name is Reagan Messer and I am the Executive Director of MoCo Arts in Keene at 76 Railroad St./38 Roxbury St. I am a community supporter of the Monadnock Food Coop. I would like to express my support of the Monadnock Food Coop Expansion project on its current site in downtown Keene. We are looking forward to a larger and more accommodating downtown grocery, that will also complete the community oval, with a design that is focused on increased community use of this outdoor space. MoCo Arts would be able to use the OVAL stage for our multi-arts camps during the summer and school vacations. MoCo will continue to look at the space when completed so we are able to continue to spread the arts throughout our community.

We think the proposed design of the expansion complements its surroundings beautifully, and that it will bring life to the outdoor oval space it completes.

Sincerely yours,

Reagan Messer

Executive Director/Artistic Director of Dance

cc. Katie Cassidy Sutherland, KCS Architects

cc. Michael Faber, General Manager





December 5, 2017

Historic District Commission City of Keene 3 Washington Street Keene, NH 03431

Attn: Tara Kessler, Planner

Dear members of the Historic District Commission,

My name is Reagan Messer and I am the Executive Director of MoCo Arts in Keene at 76 Railroad St./38 Roxbury St. I am a community supporter of the Monadnock Food Coop. I would like to express my support of the Monadnock Food Coop Expansion project on its current site in downtown Keene. We are looking forward to a larger and more accommodating downtown grocery, that will also complete the community oval, with a design that is focused on increased community use of this outdoor space. MoCo Arts would be able to use the OVAL stage for our multi-arts camps during the summer and school vacations. MoCo will continue to look at the space when completed so we are able to continue to spread the arts throughout our community.

We think the proposed design of the expansion complements its surroundings beautifully, and that it will bring life to the outdoor oval space it completes.

Sincerely yours,

Reagan Messer

Executive Director/Artistic Director of Dance

cc. Katie Cassidy Sutherland, KCS Architects

cc. Michael Faber, General Manager



25 ROXBURY STREET SUITE 207 KEENE, NH 03431 603.522.7190 www.moniff.org

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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**Kelly Dodge** 

**Apex Nonprofit Solutions** 

Dee Fitzgerald

W.S. Badger Company

**Brenda Hambleton** 

**BLH Strategy Associates** 

Sabrina Ross Lee

Documentary Filmmaker

**Justin Murray** 

KSC Film Society

**Anna Schierioth** 

**HKS Associates** 

**Tom Sintros** 

**Environmental Activist** 

Dianna Costello

**Executive Director** 

December 11, 2017

Historic District Commission City of Keene 3 Washington Street Keene, NH 03431

Attn: Tara Kessler, Planner

Dear members of the Historic District Commission,

My name is Dianna Costello and I run the Monadnock International Film Festival (MONIFF). My office is based at the Hannah Grimes Center on Roxbury Street, plus I'm also a resident of Keene and live in the downtown area.

As a community friend of the Monadnock Food Co-op, I'd like to express my support of the Monadnock Food Co-op Expansion project on its current site in downtown Keene. I look forward to having a larger and more accommodating downtown grocery, that will also complete the community oval, with a design that is focused on increased community use of this outdoor space. Of particular interest to MONIFF is the possibility of holding free outdoor film screenings there in the summertime.

We think the proposed design of the expansion is a beautiful complement to its surroundings and will offer our community the opportunity to enjoy more cultural activities within the outdoor oval space it completes.

Sincerely yours,

Dianna Costello Executive Director

#### Paula Sousa

22 Middle Street. Keene, NH 03431

603-357-4797 • paulasousa@aol.com

December 11, 2017

Planning Board City of Keene 3 Washington Street Keene, NH 03431

Attn: Tara Kessler, Planner

Dear members of the Planning Board,

My name is Paula Sousa and I am a downtown resident of Keene. I'm writing to express my support for the Monadnock Food Co-op expansion project. It is an asset to the city of Keene to have a grocery store downtown, and this store in particular. The Monadnock Food Co-op is doing great – lots of customer support, a beautiful building, helpful staff. I've been an active customer since the beginning and my impression is that the expansion would be happily met by the community. A larger café area and more parking would be especially welcome!

In addition, I fully support finishing the outdoor OVAL stage for community groups and others to use. The outdoor area, with Nicola's patio close by, is a wonderful place to spend warm days. The more healthy activity we encourage in downtown Keene, the better!

Sincerely yours,

Paula Sousa



#### Tara Kessler

From: Chris Marseilles <cmmeast@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2017 4:19 PM
To: Tara Kessler; michele.chalice@gmail.com

**Cc:** Katie Sutherland

**Subject:** Co-op expansion public comments

#### Good afternoon.

I would like to express my strong support for the completion of the original design for the Co-op, Marriott, 51 Railroad and remaining lot, most notably the central green space that forms the entire Railroad area's heart and hub.

My wife and I lived at 51 Railroad from June, 2013 until August, 2017, when we moved across the street to the Carriage House. One of the reasons why we choose to stay in this neighborhood is the way in which the entire Railroad Square area has been carefully designed to offer beautiful and interesting open and green space for residents and visitors. I walk my dog, go for walks and jogs, and attend public events in this space that Keene is lucky to have.

In so many cities similar to Keene, spaces like this were developed with only costs and convenience in mind.

At the heart of the Railroad area, this circular green space offers a truly unique hub for human and commercial activities. I have enjoyed watching musicians taking advantage of the acoustics to practice (always attracting listeners). It has been a great space for the Co-op's cookouts, the Keene Music Festival and other public events.

The circular walls, that simultaneously reflect on the area's history as a rail yard and also present an aspirational, upward orientation, offer opportunities for all. This is a favorite place for children to play while their parents eat at the Co-op throughout the year. And semi-circular concrete pad has been used as a stage, seating for events, and a picnic area.

It is spaces like this, where leisure, commerce and art weave together, that distinguish great communities from the ordinary.

I sincerely hope that the very carefully considered original design is completed. When a significant part of a building's or an area's design is removed or changed without appropriate consideration for the original vision, the entire project often falls flat. Given the amount of planning, thought and design that has been put into this project and its central hub, I believe that it would be a terrible mistake to cast it aside in favor of an ad hoc alternative.

Thank you, Chris Marseilles 37 Church Street, # 7