Town of East Hampton
300 Pantigo Place – Suite 105
East Hampton, New York 11937-2684

Planning Department
JoAnne Pahwul
Director

Telephone (631) 324-2178
Fax (631) 324-1476

September 28, 2020

TO: Planning Board

FROM: Fabiha Mubassirah FM
Planner

RE: Accabonac Grove Cemetery Expansion II – Site Plan
310 Old Stone Highway
Springs, NY
SCTM#300-103-2-4.10

Last Review Date: September 16, 2020

Items and Date Received: Site Plan revised by George Walbridge Surveyors, P.C. dated September 17, 2020; and a letter submitted by Jewish Center of the Hamptons dated May 20, 2020.

Background Information: The subject 374,997 square foot parcel is utilized as a cemetery currently containing 1,178 plots. Application is made for a second expansion to consist of an increase of 369 plots, consisting of 319 standard and 60 cremains plots, with 10 plots to be abandoned, resulting in a total of 1,547 plots.

The subject parcel is zoned A5: Residence and is within the Accabonac Harbor Critical Environmental Area. The parcel is part of an oak woodland that is partially cleared of natural vegetation and contains lawn and artificial ponds. It is entirely surrounded by residential property and preserved open space.

In the last Planning Board's meeting on September 16, 2020, the Board considered relaxing the clearing restrictions in the subject parcel due to the fact that the applicant has provided scenic and conservation easements on the remaining portions of the property that will prevent future expansion/clearing.

Issues for Discussion:
Additional Easement
The applicant has submitted a revised site plan with an additional scenic easement "D" between Section F and G of 2,567 sq.ft. of area, defining all the sections of scenic easement totaling 130,168 sq.ft. of an area. Also, the applicant added a conservation easement with an area of 15,718 sq.ft. over the area at the center of the parcel containing the pond.

Embalming fluid
There was a discussion in the previous meeting regarding the use of embalming fluids that are suspected to cause impacts on the soil and the groundwater, as the site is located within the Accabonac Harbor Critical Environmental Area. The applicant has submitted a letter from the Jewish Center of the Hamptons, dated May 26, 2020 where they stated that the use of autopsies and embalming fluids are forbidden by the Jewish faith. The letter from the Jewish Center of the Hamptons is attached with the memo.

SEQRA
The Planning Department has amended the previous short Environmental Assessment Form (EAF) Part II. No significant adverse impacts have been identified and a negative declaration pursuant to SEQRA and Chapter 128 of the Town Code is recommended.

Conclusion
In conclusion, if the Planning Board finds the revisions to be acceptable, they should review the attached revised EAF and make a SEQRA declaration. The project is complete and ready to be scheduled for a public hearing.

FM

Planning Board Consensus

The Planning Board should review the attached EAF and make a SEQRA declaration.
Additional comments: _____
_____
_____

The Board should determine whether the application is complete and ready to be scheduled for a public hearing.

Additional comments: _____
_____
_____

Additional Board Comments:
_____
_____
_____

Agency Use Only [If applicable]

Project: Accabonac Grove Cemetery Expansion II

Date: 09/24/2020

Short Environmental Assessment Form
Part 2 - Impact Assessment

Part 2 is to be completed by the Lead Agency.
Answer all of the following questions in Part 2 using the information contained in Part 1 and other materials submitted by the project sponsor or otherwise available to the reviewer. When answering the questions the reviewer should be guided by the concept "Have my responses been reasonable considering the scale and context of the proposed action?"

	No, or small impact may occur	Moderate to large impact may occur
1. Will the proposed action create a material conflict with an adopted land use plan or zoning regulations?	☑	☐
2. Will the proposed action result in a change in the use or intensity of use of land?	☑	☐
3. Will the proposed action impair the character or quality of the existing community?	☑	☐
4. Will the proposed action have an impact on the environmental characteristics that caused the establishment of a Critical Environmental Area (CEA)?	☑	☐
5. Will the proposed action result in an adverse change in the existing level of traffic or affect existing infrastructure for mass transit, biking or walkway?	☑	☐
6. Will the proposed action cause an increase in the use of energy and it fails to incorporate reasonably available energy conservation or renewable energy opportunities?	☑	☐
7. Will the proposed action impact existing: a. public / private water supplies?	☑	☐
b. public / private wastewater treatment utilities?	☑	☐
8. Will the proposed action impair the character or quality of important historic, archaeological, architectural or aesthetic resources?	☑	☐
9. Will the proposed action result in an adverse change to natural resources (e.g., wetlands, waterbodies, groundwater, air quality, flora and fauna)?	☑	☐
10. Will the proposed action result in an increase in the potential for erosion, flooding or drainage problems?	☑	☐
11. Will the proposed action create a hazard to environmental resources or human health?	☑	☐

PRINT FORM

Agency Use Only [If applicable]
Project: Accabonac Grove Ceme
Date: 09/24/2020

Short Environmental Assessment Form
Part 3 Determination of Significance

For every question in Part 2 that was answered "moderate to large impact may occur", or if there is a need to explain why a particular element of the proposed action may or will not result in a significant adverse environmental impact, please complete Part 3. Part 3 should, in sufficient detail, identify the impact, including any measures or design elements that have been included by the project sponsor to avoid or reduce impacts. Part 3 should also explain how the lead agency determined that the impact may or will not be significant. Each potential impact should be assessed considering its setting, probability of occurring, duration, irreversibility, geographic scope and magnitude. Also consider the potential for short-term, long-term and cumulative impacts.

Project Description:
Site plan application has been made for a second expansion to consist of an increase of 369 plots, consisting of 319 standard and 60 cremains plots, with 10 plots to be abandoned, resulting in a total of 1,547 plots.

The subject 374,997 square foot parcel is utilized as a cemetery of currently containing 1,178 plots. The subject parcel is zoned A5: Residence and is within the Accabonac Harbor Critical Environmental Area. The parcel is part of an oak woodland that is partially cleared of natural vegetation and contains lawn and artificial ponds. It is entirely surrounded by residential property and preserved open space.

The Board requested that the applicant move the proposed plots concentrating in one area, to preserve the open space in the property and preventing sprawl during any future expansion. The applicant has moved the plots accordingly and has provided 127,601 sf. area of scenic easement as requested by the Planning Board. The applicants have stated that Tall Fescue Blend grasses will be used, which are native and are improved with heat, drought and disease-resistance that require less watering and mowing. Also, the existing irrigation will be extended to the new gravesites. The sprinkler system will utilize a number of water-saving measures such as a fully programmable schedule, high efficiency sprinkler heads, and soil-moisture and rain sensors that prevent the sprinklers from running during periods of high moisture. Moreover, the Jewish Center of the Hamptons stated in a letter that embalming fluids will not be used on the bodies, as a concern was raised by the Board that the embalming fluids might cause potential impacts on the soil and the groundwater.

Based upon the aforementioned mitigation measures, the Planning Board does not find the potential for any significant averse environmental impacts and a negative declaration is hereby made.

☐ Check this box if you have determined, based on the information and analysis above, and any supporting documentation, that the proposed action may result in one or more potentially large or significant adverse impacts and an environmental impact statement is required.

☑ Check this box if you have determined, based on the information and analysis above, and any supporting documentation, that the proposed action will not result in any significant adverse environmental impacts.

East Hampton Planning Board	09/16/2020
Name of Lead Agency	Date
Samuel Kramer	Chairman
Print or Type Name of Responsible Officer in Lead Agency	Title of Responsible Officer
	[signature]
Signature of Responsible Officer in Lead Agency	Signature of Preparer (if different from Responsible Officer)

PRINT FORM

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JEWISH CENTER OF THE HAMPTONS

May 26, 2020

Mr. Samuel Kramer, Chairman
Planning Department
Town of East Hampton
300 Pantigo Place, Suite 105
East Hampton, NY 11937-2684

Re: Accabonac Grove Cemetery Expansion II Site Plan
SCTM #300-103-2-4.10

Dear Mr. Kramer,

In response to the East Hampton Town Planning Board review of our application at its May 6, 2020 meeting, please be advised of the following:

- Jewish law requires that the body, in its entirety, be returned to the earth. For this reason, autopsies and embalming are forbidden. The natural process of decomposition must occur so that the body can reunite with the soil from which it was formed.

- Jewish law requires unnecessary delay in burial because of the prohibition against of any chemicals in storing, transporting or preserving the body.

I trust this information alleviates the Planning Board concerns. If you have any questions, or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Diane Wiener

Diane Wiener
Director of Development

RECEIVED
SEP 18 2020
PLANNING BOARD

THE JEWISH CENTER OF THE HAMPTONS 44 WOODS LANE PO BOX 5107 EAST HAMPTON, NY 11937
(631) 324-9858 Fax (631) 329-6654 office@jcoh.org www.jcoh.org