



TOWN OF WARNER

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Planning Board Meeting Minutes

December 15, 2025 7:00 PM

Lower Meeting Room, Warner Town Hall, 5 E Main St

I. OPEN MEETING: Chair Karen Coyne called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited

II. ROLL CALL

Planning Board Member	Present	Absent
Karen Coyne, Chair	✓	
James Gaffney	✓ via Zoom	
Pier D'Aprile		✓
Barak Greene, Vice Chair	✓	
Ian Rogers	✓	
Mike Smith – Select Board	✓ via Zoom	
John Leavitt	✓	
Bob Holmes – Alternate	✓	
Micah Thompson – Alternate	✓	

Karen Coyne announced that the Conceptual Consultation application for Bradley Merring & Jordan Merring has been withdrawn.

James Gaffney joined via Zoom at 7:03 PM. Karen Coyne asked if he would like to be a voting member, James Gaffney confirmed.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Conceptual Consultation WITHDRAWN

Applicant: Bradley Merring & Jordan Merring

Owner: Julie & Wayne Beals

Address: Map 15, Lot 38-1, 99 Mason Hill Rd

District: R-3

Proposed Use: Residential

Details: Details associated with building an ADU

B. Conceptual Consultation

Applicant: Nicholas Kimberly

Owner: Didi Perhouse

Address: Map 15, Lot 12, 71 Old Pumpkin Hill Rd

District: R-3

Proposed Use: Business

Details: Vine farming, winemaking, winery with tasting room

Nicholas Kimberly also known as Nico, explained that after a recent conversation with the building inspector and further research, he believes his agricultural visions and intentions do not require a review but he wanted to share their background and dream with the Planning Board. He spoke about their community engagement

1 and meaningful connections with people in Warner. Nico Kimberly explained that this conceptual plan is
2 based on land that they do not own but wherever they do find land they welcome public engagement and he
3 hopes to share their dream to make organic grape farming fit into the future of Warner. Nico Kimberly
4 explained that he loves fermentation and land-based living. He got started as a cheese maker and went on to
5 grape growing.

6
7 Ruth Roudiez (Nico's fiancé) recapped her background of being a plant person with experience in farming
8 and landscaping. She stated that she owns her own ecological landscaping business. She is a certified
9 permaculture designer. She is a member of the Kawasiwajo Community Land Trust and the Warner Housing
10 Committee.

11
12 Nico Kimberly explained that currently they farm 9 acres of leased land and approximately 8000 grapevines.
13 He stated that they sell grapes to other wine makers. He explained that they harvest, ferment, and bottle the
14 wine. He advised the Planning Board that they operate a wine tasting room located in Hooksett, NH. He
15 explained that they need more production space and are looking for a location that would support a vineyard
16 and production of the wine.

17
18 Nico Kimberly stated the principle use would be agricultural and they would plant 3.5 acres of vines. He
19 stated that the building would be utilized for the production of the grapes, streamlining the workflow. The
20 building would be a single floor with a basement for wine storage. The main floor would be used for the
21 processing of the grapes and a tasting room and retail. Nico Kimberly stated that the land is ideal for
22 growing grapes. He highlighted the agricultural activity in the area. He presented an overview of the area to
23 depict the layout of the winery, vineyard and sketches of the building depicting layout.

24
25 Nico Kimberly summarized, explaining that New England is emerging as a wine region with 32 wineries in
26 the state of NH. Nico Kimberly reiterated that making the wine on site is the best model by reducing the
27 logistics that have to be managed therefore improving workflow. He stated that they are open to
28 conversations with anyone who is interested in talking to them.

29
30 Karen Coyne opened the floor to the Planning Board. James Gaffney requested the slide presentation. Ian
31 Rogers congratulated Nico and Ruth for the impressive presentation. Micah Thompson stated that he has
32 sampled the wine and it is fantastic.

33
34 Ian Rogers asked if there are any challenges or obstacles that might come up. Nico Kimberly spoke about
35 their search for suitable land which has been the biggest challenge. Micah Thompson asked if they would
36 continue with the other farming locations or would it be moved to this site. Nico Kimberly explained that it
37 takes approximately 5 years to for a successful harvest, he stated that he would continue farming the other
38 locations until the first harvest. Karen Coyne asked about wine retail. Nico Kimberly confirmed that they do
39 sell their wine and direct to consumer is the most effective model for them. Barak Greene inquired about the
40 wine tastings. Nico Kimberly advised that the State of NH requires them to have a wine manufacturer's
41 license that gives them the ability to operate a tasting room out of the same facility that they produce the
42 wine in. He explained that they are allowed to serve up to two five ounce glasses to an individual or one
43 tasting flight and one five ounce glass. Nico Kimberly stated that they have to have food available to do that.
44 He explained that bottle sales are off-premise only.

45
46 Ian Rogers asked for an estimate of employees. Nico Kimberly estimated two employees in the tasting room,
47 the vineyard would require 2 or 3, and harvest season would require additional people.

48
49 Karen Coyne explained that the R-3 would require a special exception from the ZBA. She questioned if the
50 wine sales would be permitted. Bob Holmes stated that there are many RSA's dealing with agriculture that
51 might apply. He referred to RSA 21:34-a. He stated that there is a gray area. James Gaffney stated that the

1 agricultural aspect is not in question but it starts to deviate with the sale of goods and food not produced by
2 the establishment. Nico Kimberly clarified that the State requires them to have food available. He stated
3 that they are not licensed to be a food establishment. Mike Smith stated that he as a selectmen is excited
4 about this but he can see James Gaffney's point. Micah Thompson stated that the lavender farm in town does
5 offer food, he questioned what type of license the lavender farm was issued. Ian Rogers referenced section 5
6 of RSA 21:34 -a "(5) agritourism, which means attracting visitors to a farm to attend events or activities that are accessory
7 uses to the primary farm operation, including, but not limited to, being provided a meal, making overnight stays, enjoyment of the
8 farm environment" He stated that his interpretation, because food is required by the State, is that the food is an
9 accessory of the wine which is produced on the farm.

10
11 John Leavitt stated that the state's requirement is to have food available but it does not require it to be sold.
12 Nico Kimberly confirmed that the food would be sold. Barak Greene referred to the uses for retail and
13 services table. Barak Greene stated that they would not be principally selling food, they would be selling
14 prepackaged snacks as a side to their agricultural product. John Leavitt stated that he does not have a
15 problem with the food he was trying to satisfy the concern expressed by James Gaffney.

16
17 Barak Greene stated that a site plan review would be required. He noted run off from the parking lot would
18 need to be considered. He stated that a survey would also be required.

19
20 James Gaffney explained his question was not a judgement rather he raised the question of the food because
21 the topic will come as part of the site plan review. He stated that this is an opportunity for the applicant to
22 consider these questions in advance and to come prepared to the site plan review.

23
24 John Leavitt raised the question of traffic. Barak Greene explained that traffic impact is not considered until
25 100 end of day cycle of cars. He doubts there will be over 100 cars. Barak Greene cautioned about the
26 design and size of the parking lot. Nico Kimberly explained that they can manage that by reservations. John
27 Leavitt stated that Old Pumpkin Hill Road is lightly traveled road and he encouraged the applicant to be
28 prepared to address neighbors' concerns. Barak Greene inquired about the hours of operation. Nico
29 Kimberly stated that currently their hours are 12-5:00 or 6:00 PM on the weekends. Micah Thompson spoke
30 about a septic plan that would be needed.

31
32 Nico Kimberly asked for clarification on the need for a site plan review. Karen Coyne explained that it
33 would not be needed for solely growing a grape vineyard, but the business (winery) could. James Gaffney
34 pointed out that it is a change in use. Karen Coyne questioned if it would be if it is going from residential use
35 to agricultural use. Bob Holmes referenced the RSA 21:34-a, that states that at least 35% of the product sales
36 in dollar volume is attributable to products produced on the farm or farms of the stand owner it would not be
37 considered a commercial property. Ian Rogers referenced the site plan regulation relative to change in use
38 section 5 letter B 1b "*any change or expansion in use of a site or structure when such change is materially or*
39 *substantially different from the previous use such that there is a significant effect on the quantitative or qualitative*
40 *requirements of these regulations or the zoning ordinance*". He stated that this is going from a residential
41 building to a farm. Ian Rogers stated that typically when the Planning Board holds a site plan review it is the
42 different types of commercial buildings or multi-family. He believes the change from residential to a farm
43 would change the use under the zoning ordinance and would trigger a site plan review. Barak Greene noted
44 that other areas in the regulation also apply and would trigger a site plan review. Barak Greene asked if other
45 wines would be sold at the winery. Nico Kimberly explained that grapes from his other locations would be
46 brought and processed at this location. Ian Rogers read from the RSA 21:34 -a "Marketing or selling at
47 wholesale or retail, regardless of the manner or form of the transaction, any livestock or products derived principally
48 from the production of the farm, including, but not limited to items listed in subparagraph (a), whether on-site or off-
49 site..."

James Gaffney asked if wine is sold at the other locations/operations and he asked if there will be a packaging and shipping operation from this location. Nico Kimberly explained that he is licensed to have one production facility and one place to sell that wine direct to consumer on site. He clarified that he only has one winery. He stated that he is permitted to sell outside of New Hampshire. He confirmed that he would ship wine a few times a year but it is a very small percentage of the business. He stated that a truck would arrive and his staff would load the wine, it is a very small production 3% of sales. He reiterated that the focus is agritourism.

Barak Greene recommends a full site plan review, and he believes the Planning Board would approve this as an agricultural use. He stated that he does not think there is a need to go to the ZBA. Bob Holmes referenced RSA 674:32-c says that the Town must waive rules that unreasonably block farming. Micah Thompson asked about the farm house on the property. Ruth Roudiez stated that the plan is to keep it as a residence and fix it up. Nico Kimberly thanked the Planning Board for their time and input.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. ADU Ordinance Edits: Continued from 12/1/25

Barak Greene made a motion seconded by Karen Coyne to postpone the discussion on the ADU Ordinance edits until the next meeting. Roll Call Vote Rogers YES Leavitt YES Greene YES Thompson YES Gaffney YES Smith YES Coyne YES

Discussion on the motion: Ian Rogers cautioned that the deadline for public hearings is coming up (first regular Planning Board meeting in January). Karen Coyne clarified that it does not have to be a regular meeting it could be done during a work session.

Karen Coyne suggested the first meeting in January should be dedicated to completing the edits and hold the public hearings during a work session. James Gaffney noted that they could meet on a different day they are not held to just Mondays. The Planning Board agreed to dedicate the January 5, 2026 meeting to complete the edits, January 12, 2026 will be the first public hearing and February 2, 2026 will be the second public hearing. Chrissy Almanzar asked about the second public hearing for the site plan review edits on January 12, 2026.

VI. REVIEW MINUTES November 17, 2025 and December 1, 2025

Barak Greene made a motion seconded by John Leavitt to approve the November 17, 2025 Planning Board meeting minutes as amended. Roll Call Vote Rogers YES Leavitt YES Greene YES Thompson YES Gaffney YES Smith ABSTAIN Coyne YES

December 1, 2025

Barak Greene made a motion seconded by Ian Rogers to approve the December 1, 2025 Planning Board meeting minutes as amended. Roll Call Vote Rogers YES Leavitt YES Greene YES Thompson YES Gaffney YES Smith ABSTAIN Coyne YES

VII. COMMUNICATIONS

Karen Coyne stated that the conceptual consultation packet will be sent to the Planning Board members.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ed Mical asked the Planning Board to speak up and clearly so that the audience can hear them. James Gaffney suggested a using a microphone. Mike Smith explained that it is possible.

IX. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 8:16 PM

DRAFT