

**Town of Pittston  
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**Appeals Board Meeting Minutes  
September 9, 2021, 5:30 p.m.**

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Appeals Board in attendance:

Becky Symes, Autumn DeVries, Lisa Veregge, Paula Work (by phone)

Also in attendance:

Marlene Colvin, Jane Hubert, Terry Sheperd, Dan Taggart, Greg Bickford

A quorum was established.

Meeting purpose:

The Appeals Board heard from the Planning Board on their decision making process relative to the five (5) car limitation on the approved Business Application for Greg Bickford.

Discussion:

Terry and Dan discussed how the Planning Board is generally in support of Mr. Bickford's business. Then they described the approval process. Meetings with the Code Enforcement Officer determined that the lot is non-conforming – not meeting minimum area and frontage requirements of the Building Code of the Town of Pittston. As such, there was concern about the size of the lot relative to the business of automotive repair. Terry, Dan, and Greg then debated previous discussions about the number of vehicles on property. Mr. Bickford participated in these discussions and asserted that the 5 car limit is impractical and unnecessary.

In further review, Marlene described consultation with the Maine Municipal Association. It was determined that the business is not prohibited under the Business Development Ordinance or the Building Code of the Town of Pittston. As such, the Planning Board is able to approve Mr. Bickford's business application.

Members of the Planning Board expressed concern about the impact on the community of many un-registered vehicles on a non-conforming lot. So, in consideration of the community the Planning Board has the authority to impose conditions on the approval of an application. In their best judgement, the limit of "five (5) vehicles in the parking lot being worked on at the same time."

Becky explained that the Appeals Board needs to understand the reasoning behind the 5 car limitation to determine the appropriateness of the limitation.

Respectfully submitted by Autumn DeVries, Appeals Board secretary.