

10/1/22

Letter to the Editor:

The town of Lovell, Maine has been tested in the past year by outside corporations who have tried to benefit from our zoning.

On October 20th, the Lovell Board of Appeals will hear from Bridgton Investment Fund, LLC on the issue of whether a self-storage facility is a type of warehouse.

This company had originally been approved for a three-building facility under our old zoning rules that allowed their facility to be considered a warehouse since self-storage was not in our zoning ordinances. The Town then passed more restrictive verbiage that expressly states what may or may NOT be allowed. Self-Storage is NOT on the list of land uses. Their hope is to triple the size of their footprint and that only works if the Appeals Board determines that it is indeed a warehouse.

Common sense should prevail here. The facility is advertised as self-storage; displays business signs calling it self-storage but since it's not allowed now in our town; it's suddenly a warehouse.

A warehouse is a huge facility that houses numerous customers wares, has employees that handle, sort, contain and deliver these products at a price to customers and vendors. Self-storage is rented based on the size needed and used by individuals for their own possessions, which they handle themselves.

Our CEO (Code Enforcement Officer) determined that this expansion was not allowed under our current ordinances.

I understand Mr. Lopez's determination to upgrade and expand his business but not at the expense of Lovell citizens.

Lis Bender

Lovell, Maine