



To: Windham Town Council and Planning Board

The Windham Raymond School Age Child Care Program is a non-profit organization that currently operates a before/after school childcare program. Our program exceeds the State of Maine childcare licensing requirements. With the ever-growing need for quality childcare in not only the Windham community but other surrounding communities, this program has made a commitment to expand to offer care for infants, toddlers and preschool age children.

The program recently purchased a 2.5-acre parcel on Pope Road (near the junction of Route 202), close to several of the Windham schools. There is an opportunity to apply for a grant through the State of Maine, the Start Up Facility Child Care Grant, which could assist with startup costs up to \$250,000. There are two major requirements to begin the grant application: 1) The program must have land identified, and 2) The town in which the land is located must verify via a letter that a childcare center can be built on the land. This letter is what we will need from the Town of Windham by March 1, 2023.

We understand there are several possibilities for zoning changes [Windham Center zone ordinance change which could be several months out, Contract Zoning where the timing would also be too close to call for the grant application, and a change to existing zoning in a business corridor for daycare center use].

We would ask that the existing zoning law be amended to allow for a zone change in a business corridor for daycare center use within 800 feet of Route 202. The Windham Raymond School Age Child Care Program comes to the Town Council with an urgent request to get this on the Town Council agenda ASAP so we can meet this March 1, 2023, application timeline.

A childcare center with proximity to the schools will help ease childcare needs and assists those families with multiple children for drop off/pick up. Our plan is for one building with a fenced in playground, and parking area as required by town. This building could house from 50 to 75 children, depending on state licensing requirements. With typical business operating hours during the Monday-Friday work



WINDHAM-RAYMOND SCHOOL AGE CHILD CARE

week and full day operations, the surrounding neighbors should experience very limited/no nighttime or weekend impacts.

As of now, we have the land and plans for our building. We are ready to start the financial process with or without the grant, but the grant would certainly help with this startup endeavor. We need this zone change before we can go further with the grant application process.

Please consider helping us make our community a better place by providing quality care for our children.

Windham-Raymond School Age Child Care Board of Directors

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