



MEMORANDUM
Town of Nags Head
Planning & Development Department

To: Planning Board
From: Michael Zehner, Director of Planning & Development
Date: June 10, 2021
Subject: Preliminary Discussion on Amendments to Allow Temporary Accommodations for Outdoor Dining

The Board of Commissioners discussed temporary outdoor dining at their meeting on May 5, 2021, indicating their support to allow for the continued issuance of Temporary Use Permits until November 28, 2021 should the declared state of emergency be lifted. The Board additionally asked Staff to work on a text amendment to allow temporary allowances for outdoor dining regardless of a declared state of emergency, a topic that the Board discussed in the later part of 2020 and earlier in 2021. Generally, the Board discussed the possibility of amending the UDO to allow outdoor dining on a temporary or seasonal basis in a more flexible and simplified manner, allowing this where parking was not reduced below that which is required and/or seating not increased in excess of available and required parking, or in excess of wastewater capacity.

Based upon a cursory review of the UDO, Staff believes that there may be an opportunity to address this allowance through the modification of the Temporary Use Permit provisions that were adopted in 2020. At present, the issuance of a Temporary Use Permit for a temporary use or the temporary modification of a use is only eligible during a declared State of Emergency (or due to the impacts associated with a declared State of Emergency). Staff is of the opinion that the provisions could be easily modified to allow for Temporary Use Permits to be issued at all times, for limited durations, for limited use types (at least initially, outdoor dining), and subject to certain limitations (i.e. no reduction of parking, no occupancy in excess of wastewater capacity, etc.), but would appreciate the Planning Board's feedback. The operative provisions contained in the UDO are as follows:

4.11.5. Temporary Use Permit.

In the event of an emergency declared by the Mayor pursuant to Chapter 14, Emergency Management, of the Nags Head Town Code and/or NCGS 166A-19.22, or owing to impacts associated with a declared emergency, the Mayor may authorize the Town Manager and UDO Administrator, jointly, or their designees, to allow for reasonable temporary accommodations in zoning regulations consistent with and furthering the purposes of the emergency declaration and in the interests of public health, safety, and welfare. Such accommodations shall be in the form of the issuance of a Temporary Use Permit.

4.11.5.1. Applicability. Temporary accommodations eligible for the issuance of a Temporary Use Permit include:

- The allowance of uses on a temporary basis, pursuant to Section 6.4., and specifically Section 6.4.6.1.;
- The modification of uses on a temporary basis, pursuant to Section 6.4., and specifically Section 6.4.6.2.; and/or
- The waiving or varying of any applicable provision contained in Article 8, Article 9, or Article 10 of the UDO, except as limited by Section 4.11.5.2.

4.11.5.2. Prohibited Activities. The following activities or accommodations are ineligible for the issuance of a Temporary Use Permit:

- The increase of floor area and/or the construction or installation of permanent structures or buildings;
- The reduction of existing parking by greater than twenty-five percent (25%);
- The elimination of required landscaping or trees;
- The installation of more than one (1) additional temporary sign, limited in size and location pursuant to Part III., Sign Regulations, of Article 10, or signage beyond that which is necessary to provide for traffic control or public notices;
- The elimination, modification, or installation of driveways, except as necessary in the opinion of the Town Manager and UDO Administrator to accommodate the safe and efficient circulation of vehicles;
- The commencement of any water-dependent uses or activities;
- Any activity or accommodation, in the opinion of the Town Manager and UDO Administrator, that would be contrary to the purposes of the emergency declaration and/or the interests of the public health, safety, and welfare; and/or
- Any activity or accommodation that would not comply with applicable local, State, or Federal laws and regulations.

4.11.5.3. Duration and Extension. Temporary Use Permits shall be issued with an expiration date, not to exceed ninety (90) days from the date of issuance. Generally, at the discretion of the Town Manager and UDO Administrator, such temporary use permits shall expire upon the termination of the declaration of emergency, the end of the circumstances under or impacts associated with the declaration causing the need for the accommodations, or upon the timeframe set by the Mayor, whichever is

later. Upon expiration, all temporary accommodations shall cease or otherwise be considered violations of the UDO, as applicable. Subject to the same limitations and discretion, the expiration date of a Temporary Use Permit may be extended, with such requests submitted no later than ten (10) business days prior to the pending expiration date.

6.4.6. Uses or Modification of Uses with Temporary Use Permit.

As authorized under and limited by Section 4.11.5., uses may be temporarily permitted or modified on a temporary basis, subject to a Temporary Use Permit, as follows:

6.4.6.1. Temporary Use. Any use identified in Section 6.6, Table of Uses and Activities, may be temporarily permitted pursuant to Section 4.11.5. in any zoning district, except that uses not identified as Residential or Residential - Group in Section 6.6. may not be permitted in the Residential Districts or Special Districts identified in Table 6-1, Zoning Districts Established, unless otherwise permitted or allowed with a conditional use permit within such districts.

6.4.6.2. Temporary Modification of Use. Any use identified in Section 6.6., Table of Uses and Activities, as requiring a conditional use permit or being subject to supplemental regulations outlined in Article 7, Supplemental Regulations, may be temporarily modified pursuant to Section 4.11.5. in manner that would not be in compliance with any issued conditional use permit and/or supplemental standards, as applicable.