

The Exeter

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Downtown project developer gains victory

Selectmen give OK to parking deal

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EXETER — Sixteen temporary parking spaces for Citizens Bank customers only may be created along Water Street and Center Street to facilitate a faster construction process for the Squamscott Block development.

The Board of Selectmen gave conceptual approval at its Monday night meeting to developer Nathan Szanton to create 10 temporary parking spaces in front of the bank along Water Street. Szanton would also rent six spaces from the town on Center Street, at a price to be determined later.

Though not all the board members agreed with the

plan, a motion for a conceptual approval was granted with 3-1 vote. Chairman Paul Binette said he couldn't vote in favor of the motion because there are too many variables. Selectmen Joe Pace, who is employed by Citizens Bank, did not take part in the discussion or the vote.

Town Manager Russell Dean will work with Szanton to meet with the town's safety departments to discuss the proposal.

Szanton explained at the meeting that the original plan called for utilizing 14 spaces in the current Citizens Bank lot on Water Street for customers while the site was developed into an apartment and retail building and parking garage. Once the garage was completed, customers could park in the garage area while construction on the building started.

However, a new contractor suggested that the development of the parking garage could be done much faster if the entire area is available for construction. Szanton said he worked with the bank to figure out how many spaces the bank needed and how far customers were willing to

Citizens Bank said it would like at least 14 spaces with in 150 feet. ... Two temporary spaces along Water Street would be in front of the development's entrance.

walk to get to the bank.

The bank said it would like at least 14 spaces with in 150 feet of the bank.

Two temporary spaces along Water Street would be in front of the development's entrance and exit, so those spaces may not be available at all times. The proposed parking on Water Street would create new parking spaces, some of which would be tilted. The parking spaces would remain temporary for bank customers only for 90 days while the garage is constructed.