

City approves expansion at fruit repacking operation, company plans further construction



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VINELAND – KDC Group, a fruit import and distribution company based in New York, is readying an expansion of its repacking and cold storage facility here.

The facility opened at 1695 West Garden Road near North Mill Road almost three years ago. The expansion will add 9,370 square feet to the facility, which already is about 168,000 square feet.

The Planning Board unanimously approved the expansion site plan on Wednesday night. The design includes features to aid further expansions that KDC Group anticipates, according to testimony.

This expansion is specific to the repacking end of the operation. Space is an immediate need due to increased demand, company attorney Michael Fralinger told the board.

Project Engineer Steve Filippone said the addition will be built atop an existing asphalt-covered area, avoiding any storm water drainage impact.



The KDC Group fruit repacking and cold storage facility at 1695 West Garden Road in Vineland. City planners on Wednesday night approved an expansion to the repacking section. March 10, 2022. Joseph P. Smith

According to testimony, the company also has a contract to buy an adjoining, roughly 11.5-acre farmstead on West Garden Road. A large building is planned on it in the near future, the engineer said.

The development history of the property starts in January 2018, with the Planning Board approving a site plan for Buffalo Repack LLC. That company planned to build an 81,000-square-foot cold storage and repacking facility.

Buffalo Repack, based in California, had an agreement to buy the property from the city. It was renting space at the time at nearby Lucca Freezers in the industrial park and sought to expand.

However, KDC Real Estate Holdings replaced Buffalo Repack as the developer and it ended up buying the land.

In November 2018, KDC Group received site plan approval for a 90,758-square-foot addition to an 81,000-square-foot building the board had approved that January.

Joe Smith is a N.E. Philly native transplanted to South Jersey more than 30 years ago, keeping an eye now on government in South Jersey. He is a former editor and current senior staff writer for The Daily Journal in Vineland, Courier-Post in Cherry Hill, and the Burlington County Times.