

Riley, Kate

From: betsy damian <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, January 17, 2020 3:30 PM
To: Riley, Kate
Subject: Tobin School/Callahan Park project

Hello,

Last night 1/19/20, I attended a community meeting at the Tobin School. Informed and constructive comments and questions all around. I have lived on Alpine St for over 40 years, taught at the Tobin School for decades, sent my sons there for their grammar school educations, and watched them grow up playing ball at Callahan field. My kitchen window looks out at the Tobin school.

I was most impressed by the information from Sara Mae about the history of open space/school buildings. The family stories about growing up in the neighborhood. Also the input from middle school people about the innovation agenda. And a preference for functional child /teaching space design.

I am wondering if you are considering the fact that the site is in a flood zone? And that the water table here is very high. Many of the neighbors have experienced flooding in the basement, and are always aware of the possibility especially in the spring.

Over the course of the meeting many people commented that once you take away green space it will never come back. I agree. I also feel that once you put in a road it will always be there, and quite possibly the way the road is used in the future will change. The road also takes up an enormous amount of green space.

Buses currently come to the Tobin 4 times a day because of different start times for the Montessori and Upper Schools. Will they come 6 times now with the preschool? Will the road become a shortcut from Concord Ave. to Vassal Lane, as Alpine St. is currently? I will tell you straight out that I do not want a road both in front of my house and behind it. I do want a connecting pathway, and I like the idea of movement between Danehy Park, Tobin Field, and Fresh Pond Reservoir.

I am sure as you hear from other neighbors you will get a clearer picture of the impact of the new building on Traffic in the area.

Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to share my thoughts. I really do appreciate your availability, and I am looking forward to a successful project.

Betsy Damian