BOARD OF ZONING APPEAL FOR THE CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

GENERAL HEARING

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 2020

7:00 p.m.

Remote Meeting

via

831 Massachusetts Avenue Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Brendan Sullivan, Vice Chair
Janet Green
Andrea A. Hickey
Jim Monteverde
Slater W. Anderson

City Employees

Ranjit Singanayagam, Commissioner

Sisia Daglian, Assistant Building Commissioner



Precision, Speed, Reliability 617.547.5690 transcripts@ctran.com

I N D E X

CASE	<u>PAGE</u>
BZA-017283-2020 20 UNION STREET	5
BZA-017287-2020 27 KELLY ROAD	4 <u>8</u>
BZA-017286-2020 1 BRATTLE SQUARE	67
BZA-017306-2020 400 CARDINAL MEDEIROS AVENUE	82
BZA-017311-202040 THORNDIKE STREET	100
BZA-017290-2020 44 AVON HILL STREET	121
BZA-017313-2020 38-40 HIGH STREET	133
BZA-017310-2020 118R INDUSTRIAL PARK WAY	145

```
PROCEEDINGS
```

2 * * * * *

3 (6:04 p.m.)

1

- 4 Sitting Members: Brendan Sullivan, Janet Green, Andrea A.
- 5 Hickey, Jim Monteverde, Slater W. Anderson
- BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Welcome to the August 27, 2020
- 7 meeting of the Cambridge Board of Zoning Appeal. My name is
- 8 Brendan Sullivan, and I am the acting Chair for tonight's
- 9 meeting.
- This meeting is being held remotely, due to
- 11 statewide emergency actions limiting the size of public
- 12 gatherings in response to COVID-19, and in accordance with
- 13 Governor Charles D. Baker's Executive Order of March 12,
- 14 2020, temporarily amending certain requirements of the Open
- 15 Meeting Law; as well as the City of Cambridge temporary
- 16 emergency restrictions on city public meetings, city events,
- 17 and city permitted events, due to COVID-19, dated May 27,
- 18 2020.
- This meeting is being video and audio recorded,
- 20 and is broadcast on cable television Channel 22, within
- 21 Cambridge. There will also be a transcript of the
- 22 proceedings.

- 1 All Board members, applicants, and members of the
- 2 public will please state their name before speaking. All
- 3 votes will be taken by roll call.
- 4 Members of the public will be kept on mute until
- 5 it is time for public comment. I will give instructions for
- 6 public comment at that time, and you can also find
- 7 instructions on the city's webpage for remote BZA meetings.
- 8 Generally, you will have up to three minutes --
- 9 but that might change based on the number of speakers.
- 10 Andrea Hickey, are you present?
- 11 ANDREA HICKEY: Yes. Andrea Hickey is present.
- 12 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Jim Monteverde?
- 13
 JIM MONTEVERDE: I'm present, thank you.
- 14 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Slater Anderson?
- JIM MONTEVERDE: He's got it on mute. There you
- 16 go.
- 17 SLATER ANDERSON: I'm here.
- 18 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Janet Green?
- 19 JANET GREEN: Janet Green is here.
- 20 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Okay. We're all here.

21

1 * * * * *

- 2 (6:05 p.m.)
- 3 Sitting Members: Brendan Sullivan, Janet Green, Andrea A.
- 4 Hickey, Jim Monteverde, Slater W. Anderson
- 5 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: First case I'm going to call
- 6 will be Case Number 017283, 20 Union Street. If the
- 7 applicant can now unmute and begin the presentation.
- 8 EDRICK VAN BEUZEKOM: Good evening. My name is
- 9 Edrick Van Beuzekom. I am the architect for this project.
- 10 My company is EVB Design. Do you need me to spell my name,
- 11 as I usually do at the Board, or are we good, since we're in
- 12 --
- THE REPORTER: Can you spell it, please?
- Okay, sure. First name is E-d-r-i-c-k, and the
- 15 last name, Van Beuzekom is V as in Victor -a-n capital B as
- in boy, e-u-z-e-k-o-m.
- 17 Okay. My clients Dorian Thompson and Shane McMann
- 18 are also here this evening, so they will -- I will present
- 19 the project first, but then I would like to have them say a
- 20 few words as well.
- So if you can scroll to the first page of the
- 22 drawings there, the existing site plan, thank you.

- 1 So this house is on Union Street. It's a small,
- 2 single-family house one house in from the corner of
- 3 Hampshire Street. The owners have lived here for quite some
- 4 time and have a son who's in the Cambridge schools. And
- 5 they approached me about expanding the house for a number of
- 6 reasons, which I'll let them explain.
- 7 But basically, what you see in the plan here is
- 8 the house is quite close to the lot line on the left side of
- 9 the house at the bottom of the plan. At the rear of the
- 10 house is a one-story addition that was done some time ago.
- 11 The original house is a two-and-a-half story house. There's
- 12 a number of similar houses on Union Street.
- 13 If you can go to the next drawing?
- This is our proposed site plan, which basically
- 15 just gives you a quick summary of the additions here. So
- 16 one is at the front of the house; we would like to do an
- 17 addition that gives us a mudroom entry.
- 18 Basically, currently when you enter the house
- 19 you're walking in right by the stairs and into the living
- 20 room, and there's a little storage; it's pretty awkward, so
- 21 the idea is to give -- for energy purposes, for one thing.
- 22 And I do want to point out, this is not the most

- 1 recent set of drawings that we submitted on Monday. We made
- 2 a change to the front entry, which I just noticed is not
- 3 showing here. So --
- 4 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: This is Brendan Sullivan. Let
- 5 me interrupt just for the edification of the Board. The
- 6 original submittal, as you see, shows the addition to a
- 7 mudroom and entrance, and also the stairway forward of that,
- 8 which is one foot seven inches from the front lot line.
- 9 I had asked through Maria if Edward would consider
- 10 taking the stairs and putting them adjoining to the house,
- 11 just to give a little bit more room between mudroom addition
- 12 and that front yard setback -- the sidewalk line.
- So this was the original submittal, and Edward had
- 14 reworked it, which we'll see subsequently. And so, I would
- 15 ask that the Board, especially those far more knowledgeable
- 16 than I consider which one you think is more appropriate for
- 17 this particular property.
- 18 Edrick, does that sort of sum it up?
- 19 EDRICK VAN BEUZEKOM: Yes, it does.
- 20 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Okay, thank you.
- 21 EDRICK VAN BEUZEKOM: Yeah. And so, the other
- 22 scheme we have does exactly as Brendan was saying. You move

- 1 the entry ports to the side of the bump out and the stairs
- 2 coming down in front of the house there, closer to the house
- 3 so we have a little bit more space in front.
- In order to make that work, I have to push the
- 5 entry piece itself out just a tiny bit, about six inches.
- One issue is we're trying not to block windows
- 7 that are basement windows. So by pushing it out a tiny bit,
- 8 I could leave enough space to not block the basement
- 9 windows. So let me continue.
- To the rear of the house, basically, the existing
- 11 house has a sort of a lower entry space, which we are
- 12 proposing to raise that floor to bring it up level with the
- 13 rest of the first floor, which gets us the small dining area
- 14 that you showed toward the back there.
- 15 And then we wanted to add a deck on the back,
- 16 which is 30 inches off the ground. And that's -- basically
- 17 replaces what they have for a back yard, essentially, but
- 18 trying to make that back yard space very useable and
- 19 connected with the interior space as well.
- 20 If we can scroll to the next drawing? This will
- 21 give you sort of a broad view of all the things we're
- 22 proposing.

- 1 The other -- so what you see here is showing how
- 2 we calculated the FAR and showing what's new and what's
- 3 existing.
- 4 So if you look at the drawing on the right, the
- 5 first floor plan, all of that is existing FAR: We're simply
- 6 just raising the floor and one section of that, and then of
- 7 course we're reconfiguring the interior.
- 8 On the plan -- the second floor plan, what you see
- 9 there is we've added new FAR. And you can see that's a
- 10 different hatch on that section in the back, which is
- 11 basically an addition on top of that one-story section on
- 12 the back of the house, the current house.
- And then for the third floor, what we're proposing
- 14 is to basically remove the entire roof. Because the current
- 15 roof is a gable roof with a relatively shallow pitch, and it
- 16 basically has no useable space underneath it. It's less
- 17 than six feet to the ridge and inside.
- 18 So the idea is to take the roof off, reframe it at
- 19 a much steeper pitch, and add a couple dormers; one to get
- 20 headroom for a stair getting up to the third floor, and the
- 21 other to get headroom for a bathroom, and then we can get
- 22 two bedrooms up there.

- 1 This is a significant increase in FAR, but it's
- 2 all done over existing footprint, other than the front entry
- 3 mudroom.
- And I'll just run you through the other plans. We
- 5 can go to the next drawing.
- This is just the basement. We're putting a
- 7 foundation under the existing one-story addition there
- 8 that's currently on the foundation piers, it doesn't have a
- 9 proper cross wall, so it doesn't have a full basement under
- 10 it.
- It's not in great shape, so the idea is to build a
- 12 new foundation for that, which includes a new bulkhead entry
- 13 that would come in underneath the deck.
- 14 If we can go to the next page? This is the first
- 15 floor. I think I've already talked through most of what's
- 16 going on here. We can go to the next drawing.
- On the second floor, by doing the addition on the
- 18 back, we're able to make room to have a bathroom in the
- 19 middle now and get a full bedroom at the rear of the house,
- 20 so basically it picks up enough space.
- 21 And the reason for relocating the bathroom from
- 22 its current location is in order to get a stair up to the

- 1 attic, we are taking space where the existing bathroom is,
- 2 and we'll eventually scroll down to the existing drawing, so
- 3 you can see the difference there.
- And if we can scroll to the next page?
- 5 This is the third floor plan. So this is all
- 6 under the new roof. The knee walls that you see are roughly
- 7 just a little bit more than five feet high. Simply, we
- 8 could have a cathedral ceiling in these spaces. They're not
- 9 huge rooms, but very comfortable, and we're able to get a
- 10 bathroom up here as well. And as you see, the stair comes
- 11 up in under the dormer.
- 12 If we can scroll two pages down, we can go to the
- 13 elevation.
- 14 Here you see the elevation from the driveway side
- 15 of the house, and we're making some changes to windows here,
- 16 relocating to sort of make it work a little bit better for
- 17 the new configuration of space.
- 18 And then of course new windows on the first floor
- 19 in that portion where the dining room would be, which is
- 20 currently the rear entry to the house.
- One issue that has come up, which is an error on
- 22 my part: I believe we should have also filed for a special

- 1 permit for these window relocations, which I failed to do.
- 2 I was thinking that it was all covered under the variance.
- 3 So we may have to come back for that.
- We can scroll to the next drawing.
- 5 So this is the left side of the house, which is
- 6 fairly close to the lot line. We're eliminating one window
- 7 and adding two small windows to get some light into the
- 8 kitchen area, and then you see the dormer addition that
- 9 we're doing.
- The vertical line that you see on the elevation is
- 11 basically showing where the addition on the -- well, it's
- 12 actually not quite right, but it's showing approximately
- 13 where the addition is that goes up above the first floor
- 14 there. And then you can see the proposed mudroom in the
- 15 original scheme in this one as well on the right hand side.
- If we can go to the next drawing?
- 17 Here's the front of the house on the right, with
- 18 the proposed new entry. And the dashed line at the roof
- 19 shows where the existing roof is, so you can see where the
- 20 new roof line is considerably higher. We're still within
- 21 the height limits of the zoning district.
- 22 And on the left is the rear of the building, where

- 1 you can see the deck and the new windows back there.
- We can go to the next drawing. Next drawing
- 3 please? Thank you.
- 4 This is just a section through the roof, so you
- 5 get a sense of the steepness of the roof and what sort of
- 6 space we're getting up on the upper floor.
- 7 I think that should give you a pretty good sense
- 8 of what we're proposing here. I submitted a -- along with
- 9 the updated plans, I submitted a 3D rendering from the front
- 10 so you can see the alternative entry scheme.
- 11 And I think maybe we can just scroll down to the
- 12 existing drawings to show you what we have there.
- So -- yeah, so here you see -- Okay. So here's --
- 14 this is the basement. You can see where the dashed lines
- 15 are; those are just frost poles under the existing spaces
- 16 back there. So that's what we want to replace with full
- 17 foundation walls.
- 18 Next is the first floor plan. So here you can see
- 19 the portion on the rear of the house, which was an addition
- 20 done previously that has the playroom and what's labeled as
- 21 a porch. It's basically an entry from the outside. So
- 22 that's all interior space. And you can see, you know, we

- 1 have a tiny little kitchen, and how sort of cramped the
- 2 entry into the house is as well.
- 3 Next drawing?
- 4 So here's the second floor plan. And this shows
- 5 you a roof over the portion in the rear that we are
- 6 proposing to build on top of. And here you can see where
- 7 the current bathroom is, which we are proposing to relocate
- 8 in order to do the stairs going up to the third floor.
- 9 And we can just run through the elevations really
- 10 quickly, scroll down.
- 11 Yeah. Here you see the driveway side. You can
- 12 see the one-story addition on the rear of the house.
- Next drawing?
- 14 A similar thing from the other side of the house.
- 15 And then the next drawing? Here you see the front
- 16 and rear. So hopefully that gives you a pretty good sense
- 17 of the current massing of the house.
- 18 So at this point, I'd like to let Dorian and Shane
- 19 say a few words, and basically explain sort of why they want
- 20 to do this project and who they are, and just giving their
- 21 overview. Unless anyone has some questions in the meantime?
- BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Well, we'll let them speak. If

- 1 they could introduce themselves?
- DORIAN THOMPSON: Hi, this is Dorian Thompson
- 3 SHANE MCMAHON: And I'm Shane McMahon.
- DORIAN THOMPSON: Hi. Good evening, guys. Can
- 5 you hear us okay?
- 6 COLLECTIVE: Yes.
- 7 DORIAN THOMPSON: Okay. All right. We had some
- 8 audio problems at the beginning, sorry about that. So I am
- 9 -- I'm a homeowner at 20 Union Street. And Edrick, I wasn't
- 10 sure if we should talk a little bit about, you know, why we
- 11 want to make some changes, if that makes sense?
- 12 EDRICK VAN BEUZEKOM: Yes, yeah.
- DORIAN THOMPSON: All right. And I'll just say,
- 14 you know, I just -- we had a few comments, but if you guys
- 15 have any questions, just kind of feel free to jump in.
- So I have lived in Cambridge for -- and I can't
- 17 believe I'm going to say this, but almost 25 years, so the
- 18 majority of my life at this point, and been at 20 Union
- 19 Street for over 15 years.
- 20 And Shane and I lived there with our son,
- 21 Lockland, and our rescue dog, who has grown to be
- 22 dramatically larger than anticipated and expected. And so,

- 1 our son Lockland, he attends Cambridge Public Schools. He
- 2 is at Tobin.
- 3 He loves it there, when he's there. He's very
- 4 excited and anxious to return with all of his friends and
- 5 teachers and all of that normalcy, but anyway for now, he's
- 6 -- you know, happy to be going back online and getting to
- 7 see everybody, so he's excited about that.
- 8 And Shane has actually been on the Board of the
- 9 Friends of Tobin for the last few years now. So we're
- 10 pretty involved -- pretty involved at this point. And we
- 11 love it there.
- 12 And so, you know, one of the main reasons we
- 13 really want to make some of these changes is, you know,
- 14 Cambridge is really our home.
- I mean, we made -- you know, we love the
- 16 community, we love the city, we love being able to really
- 17 live in the city and sort of take advantage of all the
- 18 things there are to do in Cambridge; especially now that we
- 19 have Lockland it's kind of come to life even more for us.
- 20 But, you know, we made a really conscious effort
- 21 to -- you know -- think about where we wanted to live, and
- 22 where we wanted to raise our family. And that was -- you

- 1 know, in Cambridge.
- 2 And, you know, we've stayed -- you know, even to
- 3 the point where there have been job opportunities that come
- 4 up and, you know, we were just really not willing to
- 5 consider anything that's, you know, kind of outside of the
- 6 Boston area. That would move us.
- 7 I mean, even if it's sort of beneficial to our
- 8 career, you know, this is where we want to be. We're not
- 9 willing to leave, or we haven't been willing to leave. You
- 10 know, this is really where we hope to stay forever.
- But unfortunately, you know, there are some real
- 12 changes that are needed at our house, and they're not minor
- 13 fixes. We've got to make some changes sort of from a safety
- 14 standpoint, but also from sort of a comfort standpoint.
- 15 We have a number of issues with the house, ranging
- 16 from toilets exploding from time to time, which is fairly
- 17 unpleasant. We have flushing issues, because of the way the
- 18 pipes are configured.
- Our heating doesn't work. On a cold day, the heat
- 20 can be working really hard to get up to about 60 in our
- 21 living room -- you know, sort of best effort, while at the
- 22 same time, our bedrooms upstairs are about 85 degrees. The

- 1 cooling situation is definitely not ideal, especially on a
- 2 hot day if the sun is out.
- 3 You know, we have some window air conditioners,
- 4 which are also not efficient at all, but just have a really
- 5 tough time cooling the house, especially the bedrooms.
- 6 We have electrical wires running through our
- 7 floorboards. We have fuses that blow pretty frequently.
- 8 Our electrical box is set up next to pipes that run along
- 9 the outside wall of the house, so they are -- we've done
- 10 what we can, but they are prone to freeze and burst. And
- 11 so, not only do you get the water on the floor, but the
- 12 water floods down over the electrical box.
- Oh, and in our bedrooms, we have this issue with
- 14 this thick plaster dust, and it kind of coats the bedrooms
- 15 at all times. So obviously not the healthiest and safest
- 16 environment.
- And just in general, you know, we would like to
- 18 have an energy efficient house, which just is not possible
- 19 at this point, and it's actually it's certainly highly
- 20 inefficient with, which we're not happy with, but that's
- 21 where we are today.
- 22 And also the reality is we do need some more

- 1 space. We are hopefully growing our family, but we also
- 2 have parents and actually grandparents, who our son is very
- 3 close with his great grandmother, Zelda.
- And, you know, we need -- and Zelda likes to have
- 5 a comfortable place to stay, and we'd really like her to
- 6 stay longer term with us when she comes. She lives in Sioux
- 7 Falls, so it's a big trip. It's not a trip she can make a
- 8 quick turnaround, and so, we need a comfortable space, as
- 9 our parents and grandparents get older. So we really do
- 10 need a little bit more space.
- And also, just in general, even if that wasn't
- 12 needed, sort of -- you know, making -- we need to make some
- 13 dramatic changes to make the house safer, and to fix sort of
- 14 the energy issues we have.
- And, I mean, just in reality it's not sort of
- 16 financially viable to do that without -- you know, gaining a
- 17 little bit more space and having sort of an appropriate,
- 18 livable setup for the house.
- The other thing I would just say is that we love
- 20 our neighborhood. We have looked around in our neighborhood
- 21 to see if there was, you know, another house or, you know,
- 22 attached house that we could find, and we've been looking

- 1 for a decade.
- 2 And, you know, for the handful of houses that have
- 3 come up that have been somewhat affordable or in that range,
- 4 you know, they're gone before we get to the Open House.
- 5 There is a bidding war, and then it makes is
- 6 beyond unaffordable. We had one time where we tried to
- 7 submit a bid at asking, and we were told, "Don't even
- 8 bother." So that's been our experience in trying to find a
- 9 home.
- And I know, you know, we have really been focused
- 11 I would say on our neighborhood, we really want to stay in
- 12 the neighborhood, but, you know, I think the reality is even
- 13 being willing to sort of move out of our neighborhood and
- 14 just move somewhere else in Cambridge, unfortunately it's
- 15 just not an option for us financially.
- 16 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Right.
- 17 ANDREA HICKEY: Thanks for running through that.
- 18 Go ahead, Brendan, I'm sorry.
- 19 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Okay, Edrick, any other
- 20 comments?
- 21 EDRICK VAN BEUZEKOM: Could I ask you to -- I
- 22 don't know if it's possible to put up the revised drawings

- 1 that I had submitted, so we can see them?
- 2 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: I don't know if we have scanned
- 3 that.
- 4 EDRICK VAN BEUZEKOM: Yeah, okay.
- 5 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: It was not scanned.
- 6 EDRICK VAN BEUZEKOM: Okay. I just wanted to
- 7 point out one other change that we had made, which was in
- 8 response to one of the neighbors.
- 9 JIM MONTEVERDE: This is Jim Monteverde. The
- 10 revised drawings, I believe, are available online. Because
- 11 I'm looking at it side by side over --
- 12 EDRICK VAN BEUZEKOM: Okay.
- JIM MONTEVERDE: -- two screens. So is there --
- 14 Brendan, do you think that there's a way, can I share your
- 15 screen?
- 16 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Yeah.
- 17 JIM MONTEVERDE: I have a share screen button, but
- 18 hold on, let me try this. No, I can't. It says, "Host
- 19 disabled."
- 20 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: No, I'm not sure how I can do
- 21 that.
- 22 EDRICK VAN BEUZEKOM: That's okay. I can just

- 1 describe the other change, which is we eliminated one window
- 2 on the driveway side that faces the neighborhoods. And so,
- 3 it was at the request of the neighbor, because it sort of
- 4 lined up with their window. So we got rid of that one, so
- 5 --
- 6 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Okay.
- 7 EDRICK VAN BEUZEKOM: -- that's the only other
- 8 change.
- 9 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Well, the issue is the windows
- 10 -- this is Brendan Sullivan -- the windows, even though part
- of the plan, are not part of the relief to be granted
- 12 tonight.
- 13 EDRICK VAN BEUZEKOM: Right.
- 14 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Because they are going to
- 15 require a special permit. But Edrick, as far as the front
- 16 entryway, do you have a preference as to Plan 1 or Plan 2?
- 17 Vis-à-vis the stairs?
- 18 EDRICK VAN BEUZEKOM: Yeah. My personal
- 19 preference would be Plan 1, simply because it leaves more of
- 20 the front yard intact and doesn't run anything in front of
- 21 the basement windows.
- But, you know, both schemes are viable. I think

- 1 we're happy to do either one. I -- you know, if the Board
- 2 feels that it's better to keep --
- BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Yeah, okay.
- 4 EDRICK VAN BEUZEKOM: -- more distance to the
- 5 street, we're okay with that. Oh, here we go.
- 6 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Okay, we do have it, so --
- 7 EDRICK VAN BEUZEKOM: Excellent. There you go.
- 8 So it pulls it -- you know, it pulls it five feet away from
- 9 the lot line in front. I -- you know, I think the original
- 10 scheme is a little more attractive, but it also is, you
- 11 know, feels a little larger too. So, like I say, we're
- 12 happy to do either one, but my preference would be the
- 13 original scheme.
- BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Okay. Okay. That's the end of
- 15 your initial presentation? Edrick, yes?
- 16 EDRICK VAN BEUZEKOM: Yep, yes.
- BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Yes, okay. Let me start the
- 18 discussion. My initial review of this is that I thought
- 19 that it was a big ask, and you're going from a 0.69 to a 0.
- 20 98 in a 0.75.
- 21 EDRICK VAN BEUZEKOM: Yeah.
- 22 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: So I think it's a -- somewhat

- 1 of a big jump. Now the question is, you know, if we were to
- 2 cut back, say where do you do that? I don't have the answer
- 3 for that.
- But if we can just walk through this a little bit,
- 5 you're raising the height of the peak and you're going up
- 6 approximately 5.75 feet, is that correct?
- 7 EDRICK VAN BEUZEKOM: Yes.
- 8 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Okay. Have you done a shadow
- 9 study to whether or not that will affect the house on the
- 10 left or not?
- 11 EDRICK VAN BEUZEKOM: We did do shadow studies. I
- 12 don't think I submitted that, but I know Dorian and Shane
- 13 had that available when they met with the neighbors.
- DORIAN THOMPSON: The neighbors on that side?
- 15 EDRICK VAN BEUZEKOM: Yeah, I think they've met
- 16 with all their neighbors. They -- you know, they weren't
- 17 able to reach the landlord, because one of the buildings
- 18 adjacent to them is all rentals, I think. But they did
- 19 speak to a bunch of the renters.
- Let me change -- Dorian, if you're still on, maybe
- 21 you can just say -- talk a little bit about who you spoke to
- 22 around --

- 1 JANET GREEN: Yeah. I'd be most concerned about
- 2 the neighbors on the side where sort of shadows and shade
- 3 would increase due to the increase in height. So --
- 4 EDRICK VAN BEUZEKOM: Yeah.
- JANET GREEN: -- that's really the only neighbor
- 6 I'd be interested in hearing their feedback or whether they
- 7 were given the shadow study, and it was discussed with them.
- 8 DORIAN THOMPSON: So Alice and Andy, they actually
- 9 -- I think Alice had mentioned she might join. So I'm not
- 10 sure if she's on, but we did talk with Alice and Andy about
- 11 it. I'm not sure if they're on or not.
- JANET GREEN: And did you share that shadow study
- 13 with them?
- 14 DORIAN THOMPSON: We didn't share the shadow
- 15 study; we did talk to them about the shadows and any
- 16 concerns. They didn't have any. They actually signed -- I
- 17 think they both signed the --
- 18 EDRICK VAN BEUZEKOM: Petition.
- DORIAN THOMPSON: -- petition that we submitted.
- 20 We also talked with our neighbors in the back, Eric and
- 21 Emily. Emily's a dermatologist, so they were actually
- 22 hoping that they would get some increased shadows, but so we

- 1 did talk with them pretty thoroughly about the plans.
- 2 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Dorian, the people on the left,
- 3 what is their name?
- 4 DORIAN THOMPSON: Alice -- they're on the street
- 5 -- Alice Flaherty.
- 6 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Flaherty? Okay. Alice
- 7 Flaherty and Andy, 22 Union Street, have signed a letter of
- 8 support.
- 9 DORIAN THOMPSON: Yes.
- 10 ANDREA HICKEY: All right. Is there any reason
- 11 why you didn't share the shadow study with them?
- DORIAN THOMPSON: Honestly, just when we sat down
- 13 to talk to them we didn't have it, and it was kind of an
- 14 awkward time when we were talk to folks, because it was just
- 15 as COVID, like, was -- it was sort of becoming awkward to
- 16 have -- to put off conversations.
- 17 And we probably needed to have conversations
- 18 sooner than later, so we talked to them in early March. And
- 19 so, we were just trying to have that conversation before we
- 20 may not be able to have that conversation, honestly, and so,
- 21 we just -- we went to their house and sort of talked them
- 22 through everything.

- 1 And they were actually extraordinarily supportive.
- 2 We saw Alice last week, and she was going to try to attend
- 3 if she could.
- 4 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Okay.
- 5 ANDREA HICKEY: Could I perhaps ask Edrick to
- 6 share the results of that shadow study, since we can't see
- 7 it?
- 8 EDRICK VAN BEUZEKOM: Yes. Let me see if I can
- 9 find it. Might take me a little bit, we have it in a
- 10 sketch-up model I think is how I shared it, so. Let me
- 11 bring that up.
- JIM MONTEVERDE: While he's searching for that,
- 13 can I -- Brendan, can I offer a couple other comments?
- 14 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: If you'd introduce yourself.
- 15 JIM MONTEVERDE: Oh, sorry. This is Jim
- 16 Monteverde. He's the phantom, yeah. Jim Monteverde. I
- 17 just have a concern, and therefore just questions about the
- 18 intrusion on the front yard setback.
- 19 You know, I see the rendering. I see the photos
- 20 of the before and after. I think -- I can understand the
- 21 rationale for it, but I still think it's an intrusion on the
- 22 street and neighborhood character of the street to actually

- 1 enclose the existing porch. So I have a concern at that
- 2 end.
- And at the back end, I'm looking through the
- 4 drawings, and I think I've got it, but I can see where the
- 5 existing -- and I'm concerned about the amount of
- 6 development that's within the rear yard setback as well.
- 7 And I can see I think the profile of what, Edrick, you
- 8 described as existing.
- 9 EDRICK VAN BEUZEKOM: Yep.
- JIM MONTEVERDE: And I think it's just on a frost
- 11 wall, there's no basement below it.
- 12 EDRICK VAN BEUZEKOM: That's right.
- JIM MONTEVERDE: And then I can see the
- 14 development of the balance of the plan that doesn't exist
- 15 now on the second floor, and then the upper floor to kind
- 16 of, you know, bring all that mass out.
- 17 EDRICK VAN BEUZEKOM: Mm-hm.
- 18 JIM MONTEVERDE: So I have a similar concern just
- 19 about filling up everything in the rear yard setback behind
- 20 what's already enclosed -- the deck, et cetera, just hard up
- 21 against or close to hard up against the fence.
- I don't have the same -- I would like to see the

- 1 shadow analysis, I think that's fair, but in general,
- 2 looking at the elevation and the street view, what you're
- 3 proposing for the third floor and the dormers there I have
- 4 less of an immediate concern with.
- 5 I think my comments really are about the --
- 6 enclosing the porch in the front and, you know, what that
- 7 does just setting in the front yard setback, just for the
- 8 way it feels and the sense of it in the photographs along
- 9 the street.
- 10 EDRICK VAN BEUZEKOM: Yeah.
- JIM MONTEVERDE: And then the back -- you know,
- 12 how much you're asking for at the back of the house. So the
- 13 simple question is, could you do it out the mudroom and
- 14 basically retain the -- I appreciate changing the stair 90
- 15 degrees, but to me that doesn't help the issue of that mass
- 16 then on the front of the house facing the street. So I
- 17 would more advocate for that not being allowed.
- 18 And then in the back of the property, it's really
- 19 how much of that do you need functionally, versus what you
- 20 really have? Could that be pared back at all, so you're not
- 21 intruding so much on every floor in the rear yard setback as
- 22 well?

- 1 EDRICK VAN BEUZEKOM: Yep. Yeah. First of all,
- 2 let me just say I'm having trouble with the 3D shading
- 3 model. It's crashing on my computer here, so hopefully
- 4 it'll open up as I retry it here.
- But in the meantime, you know, for the front
- 6 entry, you know, I went down the street. If you go a little
- 7 bit farther down the street, you'll see some houses where
- 8 they do have entries that come out much closer to the street
- 9 or -- you know, that certainly the -- you know, handful of
- 10 houses adjacent to this one, you know, are more in line with
- 11 this and don't project out that much. But there is some
- 12 precedent far down.
- But, you know, I understand your concerns. I
- 14 think for us it's -- you know, it's both a space issue of
- 15 awkwardness coming in the house and having nowhere to stand
- 16 and take your coat off and hang your coat.
- 17 And it's also an energy efficiency issue for us
- 18 that, you know, when you're opening the door and you're
- 19 literally right into the stair and the living room, there's
- 20 no -- you know, there's no way to keep the cold air from
- 21 blasting into the house.
- So, you know, we really see this as important for

- 1 the energy efficiency of the house. So that's just our
- 2 reasoning for that. I mean, obviously it's not --
- 4 if you did that -- if you moved it to the opposite side of
- 5 the front of the house and did it internally?
- In other words, you've got a couple -- you've got
- 7 a small amount of space that you can come out to within the
- 8 front yard setback. If you moved it from -- I'm looking at
- 9 the front elevation from the left-hand side of the elevation
- 10 to the right-hand side of the elevation, you'd wind up
- 11 taking a bite out of the living room --
- 12 EDRICK VAN BEUZEKOM: Yeah. Which is already
- 13 pretty small.
- 14 JIM MONTEVERDE: -- to accomplish what you're
- 15 asking for.
- 16 EDRICK VAN BEUZEKOM: Yeah. I mean maybe -- I
- 17 don't know, I think that's a little more awkward in terms of
- 18 what it does to the space, because we're already pretty
- 19 small with the living room, and then you've got to travel
- 20 across the living room, rather than coming in sort of where
- 21 the main circulation pattern is.
- But I don't really see that as a viable option.

- 1 You know, we could, I don't know -- I mean, we
- 2 could try -- I mean one option might be scale it back, bump
- 3 it out to only half this dimension and not have the thermal
- 4 break.
- 5 So you wouldn't have the internal door, but it
- 6 would just give us a little bit more floor area to step into
- 7 the house there.
- 8 So, you know, these are all things we can -- we're
- 9 willing to consider. I just think that, you know, it's --
- 10 the other location for it is much more inefficient in terms
- 11 of the circulation, and eliminating it altogether would be a
- 12 shame.
- It's not -- you know, I mean obviously it's not
- 14 essential for living here, but I think it's important,
- 15 again, to the energy efficiency and the comfort of having a
- 16 place to step in, and we can put a -- you know, having
- 17 invested.
- 18 So as far as the other in the rear, you know, I
- 19 mean I suppose one place we could scale back might be to not
- 20 bring the new roof all the way back over the -- you know, we
- 21 would lose one of the bedrooms up on the third floor, but we
- 22 could go in the rear bedroom if we were to take that out and

- 1 pull the roof back where it originally extends to.
- 2 You know, that would certainly cut out a chunk of
- 3 FAR there and scale back the massing on the back of the
- 4 house there. So that's maybe one approach you could take.
- 5 DORIAN THOMPSON: And Edrick, I just -- I think
- 6 that's something we'd have to talk about.
- 7 EDRICK VAN BEUZEKOM: Yeah.
- 8 DORIAN THOMPSON: I think actually, like I was
- 9 saying, I mean at a certain point, the amount of work that
- 10 we're doing and the amount we're going to have to spend to
- 11 not be able -- to not pick up space, just, like, from a
- 12 financial standpoint, right? Like it just at a certain
- 13 point it doesn't --
- 14 EDRICK VAN BEUZEKOM: Yeah.
- DORIAN THOMPSON: -- doesn't, not financially
- 16 viable or justifiable for us to be able to do the work.
- 17 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Yeah, this is Brendan Sullivan.
- 18 It appears that there are going to be a number of issues
- 19 that probably you're going to have to go back and think
- 20 about, and possibly reconsider.
- But I think that we probably should have a full
- 22 airing of all the Board concerns, so that you can make a

- 1 list of possible areas to address --
- 2 EDRICK VAN BEUZEKOM: Yeah.
- BRENDAN SULLIVAN: -- going forward. Jim, does
- 4 that conclude your initial question?
- JIM MONTEVERDE: Yes, I'm done.
- 6 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Okay. Edrick, I just want to
- 7 sort of walk through what is existing, what is proposed. So
- 8 you're raising the height 5.75 feet, and the shadow study,
- 9 which I think is -- too bad wasn't submitted with the
- 10 application, because that would have been helpful and it
- 11 would have answered questions.
- 12 The existing basement shows an office, a bedroom
- 13 and a full bath. What is proposed in your sort of storage
- 14 area -- what is proposed is a study -- in lieu of an office,
- 15 I guess -- storage of full bathroom, and you're creating
- 16 additional storage in the basement.
- 17 The first floor there's a living room, dining
- 18 room, kitchen, playroom and an entry. Proposed is a living
- 19 room, dining room, kitchen and a half bath -- playroom,
- 20 family room. The half bath is actually a toilet room, a
- 21 powder room.
- 22 The second floor master bedroom, bedroom, studio

- 1 and a full bath. What you're proposing is a master bedroom,
- 2 full bath, bedroom, laundry room, and a half bath.
- 3 The third floor there is really no rooms per se up
- 4 there, and you're proposing 2 bedrooms and a full bath. So
- 5 the one dormer has a bathroom, the other dormer really is
- 6 for the stairway egress, code-compliant.
- 7 So in summation, the existing number of bedrooms
- 8 are three -- three existing and you're proposing one
- 9 additional one. The number of bathrooms you have existing
- 10 are twofold, and you're proposing threefold, and two powder
- 11 rooms, a toilet and a lav.
- 12 It appears to be a lot to me. And yes, it's a
- 13 substandard lot. Right now it is -- the floor area ration
- 14 actually is compliant -- 0.69 in a 0.75 and you want to
- 15 exceed that to a 0.98.
- So I think that you're really trying to pack an
- 17 awful lot into it; three full bathrooms and two powder rooms
- 18 and another bedroom -- you know, which I can understand up
- 19 on the third floor. But that's my concern, anyhow. I don't
- 20 know how the other members -- any other questions by members
- 21 of the Board?
- JANET GREEN: Yeah.

- 1 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Slater, any comments?
- JANET GREEN: I'm getting --
- 3 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Yep.
- 4 JANET GREEN: I'd like to make a comment in
- 5 agreement with Jim about the front porch, and I think that
- 6 the ask for the house I agree with all the comments that
- 7 have been made about how much of an ask it is.
- And I recognize that when you're sitting and
- 9 thinking about -- not just thinking about what do you want
- 10 today, you're trying to think, "Well, our family's really
- 11 large and we need more space at that time."
- 12 That said, it is a very big ask of what you're
- 13 doing. I would suggest that you really look at the front
- 14 part of the house, because that's the part that's really
- 15 gonna -- the neighbors and the people driving down the
- 16 street are going to feel.
- 17 I know that there are entryways like that, a
- 18 couple on the street, but most of the houses are pretty
- 19 consistent in their appearance.
- 20 And I think when you look at a street like that,
- 21 one of the things that's appealing about that house is how
- 22 it fits in with the character of the neighborhood. And I

- 1 think we want to be really careful about creating a feeling
- 2 of a very big house that's -- you know, sort of blooming out
- 3 all over, all different sides of it. You know, it's going
- 4 up, it's going in front, it's going in back.
- 5 And I think all those things needed to be looked
- 6 at, and you have to think about they are zoning dimensions
- 7 that we're talking about, and they're not -- you know, it's
- 8 not just saying that you have a problem -- I mean it's not
- 9 just saying that this is a problem that's only for you. If
- 10 we were looking at another house in the neighborhood, we'd
- 11 have to be considering these same things.
- 12 And so I think it's very important that you look
- 13 at the size of some of the changes that you're making, and
- 14 particularly that front porch.
- 15 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Thank you.
- JANET GREEN: Thank you, Mm-hm.
- 17 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Andrea, any comment or
- 18 questions at this time?
- 19 ANDREA HICKEY: No, I really want to say thanks to
- 20 Jim for articulating what was in my head about the front
- 21 porch and -- as Janet just went through -- and the massing
- 22 in the rear as well. I'm concerned with both of those

- 1 aspects.
- 2 And although the proposed height is still within
- 3 the parameters, I really want the shadow study as part of
- 4 the record. Thank you.
- 5 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Slater, any comments or
- 6 questions at this time
- 7 SLATER ANDERSON: No, I would just add that I
- 8 concur with the general sentiment of the other Board
- 9 members. I'm not sure the Zoning Board is the path to --
- 10 you know, solve the problems that the family, you know, has
- 11 with the house.
- I sympathize with the challenges they're facing,
- 13 but these are -- you know, the ask is substantial. And I
- 14 have concerns about -- you know, the appropriateness of us
- 15 approving this level of ask, so that's all.
- BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Jim, anything else to add, or
- 17 questions?
- 18 JIM MONTEVERDE: Yeah, please. Just to end on a
- 19 happier note, and looking at the glass half full, I think
- 20 there's definitely a way -- my sense is -- and I know Edrick
- 21 and Edrick's work, there's definitely a way within -- not
- 22 even within your envelope, but within a slightly modified

- 1 configuration that might be closer to achieving or
- 2 maintaining some of the setbacks, is to achieve the program
- 3 that you're looking for. I think there's definitely a way
- 4 to do that.
- I think it just -- you just need to think through
- 6 some of the pieces. I sympathize with folks who live in
- 7 smaller houses, because I live in 900 square feet myself,
- 8 and I know what it's like.
- 9 So I certainly appreciate what you're trying to
- 10 do. I think you can look at this and get a lot more out of
- 11 the footprint that you've got. That's it, thanks.
- BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Okay. At this time, let me
- 13 open it up to public comment. And any member of the public
- 14 who wishes to speak should now click the button that says,
- 15 "Participants" and then click the button that says,
- 16 "Participants." And then click the button that says, "Raise
- 17 hand." If you are calling in by phone, you can raise your
- 18 hand by pressing *9 and unmute or mute by pressing *6.
- 19 Anybody -- any member of the public would like to
- 20 call in now, please do so. Give it a few minutes, or a
- 21 minute or two. [Pause]
- It appears that nobody is calling in. We are in

- 1 receipt of a correspondence in the form of a petition, "We
- 2 the undersigned have reviewed the drawings for the proposed
- 3 addition and renovation, including the new roof with dormers
- 4 for Dorian Thompson/Shane McMahon residence at 20 Union
- 5 Street, prepared by EVB Design. We support the plans for
- 6 the proposed additions, and their application for a zoning
- 7 variance."
- 8 Signed by the residents at 18 Union Street #2, 99
- 9 Hampshire Street, #18 Union Street #1, 18 Union Street #1,
- 10 22 Union Street, 22 Union Street and 105 Hampshire Street.
- 11 Seven people in support. That is the sum and substance of
- 12 public comment. I will close public comment at this point.
- Edrick, anything you'd like to ask or chime in on?
- 14 EDRICK VAN BEUZEKOM: Yeah, a couple things. One,
- 15 I appreciate everybody's comments, and Jim in particular,
- 16 your positive comments there. You know, we're happy to take
- 17 a hard look at this and see if we can't make it work for
- 18 everybody.
- But, you know, it's tough. The substantial new
- 20 FAR is all coming from the third floor with the new framing
- 21 on the roof, you know, and it's -- again, it's not adding
- 22 footprint, and I apologize that we did not share the shadow

- 1 studies.
- 2 So I would like to request a continuance, and we
- 3 will provide shadow studies. And we will -- you know, take
- 4 a hard look at, you know, whether we think we can come up
- 5 with some changes that might be acceptable. And I think
- 6 Dorian would also like to say a few words.
- 7 DORIAN THOMPSON: I guess, you know, obviously
- 8 we're -- you know, disappointed. I was pretty nervous about
- 9 tonight, because, you know, this is kind of our last ditch
- 10 effort to try to -- you know, stay in town.
- 11 And, you know, there's been a lot of development
- 12 by developers on our start building these modern homes where
- 13 there was, you know, one home on a lot and now there's four
- 14 homes in a lot built right up front against the road.
- 15 You know, we also wanted to make sure that the
- 16 house still had that same look and feel. We wanted to make
- 17 sure we maintained some of the woodwork on the house.
- 18 Again, we were trying to be thoughtful about being
- 19 energy efficient but, you know, like, this is our one shot
- 20 to stay in the city and it's just -- you know, we spent a
- 21 long time working with Edrick and trying to make sure that
- 22 we could fix the issues that we had, but also didn't have as

- 1 dramatic an impact on our neighbors.
- 2 And we spent a lot of time reviewing those plans
- 3 with our neighbors too, and talking with them and taking
- 4 feedback where they had it, and it just -- you know, I feel
- 5 like there's a lot of talk in the city about trying to
- 6 maintain families.
- 7 And just I think it's -- you know, this was our --
- 8 I guess this was our last chance to try to stay in the city
- 9 and so I think it just -- you know, obviously it's been a
- 10 tough meeting for that, but we appreciate you guys talk
- 11 through it with us and your consideration.
- BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Well, I think that the request
- 13 for a continuance is in order. Let me make a motion, then,
- 14 to accept their request continuance from the petitioner on
- 15 the grounds that -- well, let me see when we can continue it
- 16 to.
- 17 SISIA DAGLIAN: If everyone's available, September
- 18 24 would be the earliest date.
- 19 SLATER ANDERSON: Slater is not available.
- 20 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: I think sometime in October.
- 21 SISIA DAGLIAN: October 8?
- BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Now, what has -- there are two

- 1 things that I think have to happen. 1) the continuance of
- 2 this case, you're also going to have to file the case for a
- 3 special permit.
- 4 EDRICK VAN BEUZEKOM: Yes.
- 5 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: So there is a procedure that
- 6 has to happen with that. You're going to have to file that
- 7 pretty soon, get on the docket, and we should probably hear
- 8 the both of them the same night.
- 9 This case can be heard first, and then the special
- 10 permit case can be heard on the same night. I'm not saying
- 11 right after that, but on the same night, so that we -- you
- 12 don't have to come back two nights anyhow. So some --
- 13 middle to the end of October?
- 14 SISIA DAGLIAN: Yeah, October 8 is possible. The
- 15 twenty-second is possible. Andrea are you here?
- BRENDAN SULLIVAN: October 22?
- 17 ANDREA HICKEY: Yes. I'm here on the eighth.
- 18 SISIA DAGLIAN: Okay. You're not on the -- well
- 19 maybe you are on the regular agenda -- you're not on the
- 20 continued cases for that day?
- 21 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Is everybody available on
- 22 eighth?

- 1 ANDREA HICKEY: I could do the eighth or the
- 2 twenty-second, this is Andrea.
- 3 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Okay, Jim?
- 4 JIM MONTEVERDE: Jim I could do either one.
- 5 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: All right, Slater?
- 6 SLATER ANDERSON: Yeah, I could probably do
- 7 either, yep.
- 8 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: And Janet? The eighth or the
- 9 twenty-second of October?
- JIM MONTEVERDE: You have to unmute yourself.
- 11 ANDREA HICKEY: Janet?
- 12 JIM MONTEVERDE: Janet, unmute please. There you
- 13 go.
- 14 JANET GREEN: I can do the eighth.
- 15 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Yeah. The eighth or the
- 16 twenty-second, are you available both nights?
- 17 JANET GREEN: I'm available both nights.
- 18 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Okay.
- JANET GREEN: Either one.
- 20 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Edrick, the eighth or the
- 21 twenty-second?
- 22 EDRICK VAN BEUZEKOM: I would prefer the eighth if

- 1 we can do that, and we'll get the special permit application
- 2 in immediately.
- 3 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: All right. Let me -- the
- 4 motion, then, is to continue this matter until October 8 at
- 5 -- are continuing them at 6:00, or --
- 6 SISIA DAGLIAN: No, I think 7:00.
- 7 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: At 7:00. October 8 at 7:00 on
- 8 the condition that the petitioners change the posting sign
- 9 to reflect the new date of October 8, 2020 and the new time
- 10 of 7:00 p.m.
- Also that any new submissions be forwarded to the
- 12 Board and in the record the Monday prior to October 8, by
- 13 5:00 p.m. of that Monday.
- 14 And third, that -- what is third? That the
- 15 petitioner sign a waiver of time to the statutory
- 16 requirement for rendering a decision on this matter; that
- 17 that waiver be forwarded to the Board by 5:00 p.m. by next
- 18 Monday evening.
- 19 All those in favor of granting the continuance?
- 20 ANDREA HICKEY: Excuse me for --
- BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Andrea?
- 22 ANDREA HICKEY: Sorry, I didn't mean to interrupt.

- 1 I think we need to also instruct the sign to be changed.
- 2 Did you do that?
- 3 EDRICK VAN BEUZEKOM: He did mention it.
- 4 ANDREA HICKEY: Oh, I'm sorry, okay.
- 5 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Yeah, Andrea --
- 6 ANDREA HICKEY: My apologies.
- 7 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Andrea Hickey on the
- 8 continuance?
- 9 ANDREA HICKEY: Yes, I vote in favor of the
- 10 requested continuance.
- BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Jim Monteverde?
- 12 JIM MONTEVERDE: Yes.
- BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Slater Anderson?
- 14 SLATER ANDERSON: Yes.
- JIM MONTEVERDE: Janet?
- JANET GREEN: Yes.
- 17 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Brendan Sullivan, yes.
- 18 [All vote YES]
- 19 Also, Edrick, that the shadow study be included
- 20 as part of the new submission.
- 21 EDRICK VAN BEUZEKOM: We will do that.
- 22 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Okay. The matter is continued

```
until October 8 at 7:00 p.m. See you then.
1
             EDRICK VAN BEUZEKOM: All right. Thank you very
 2
    much.
 3
 4
 5
 6
 7
 8
 9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
```

1 * * * * *

- 2 (7:00 p.m.)
- 3 Sitting Members: Brendan Sullivan, Janet Green, Andrea A.
- 4 Hickey, Jim Monteverde, Slater W. Anderson
- 5 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Okay, the Board will now hear
- 6 Case Number 017287 -- 27 Kelly Road. Mr. Van Beuzekom?
- 7 EDRICK VAN BEUZEKOM: Still here.
- BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Edrick, are you there?
- 9 EDRICK VAN BEUZEKOM: Yep. Okay. Thank you.
- 10 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: You're welcome.
- 11 EDRICK VAN BEUZEKOM: Okay, I'll introduce myself
- 12 again. I'm Edrick Van Beuzekom from EVB Design, the
- 13 architect for this project. And I'll just jump in to the
- 14 presentation?
- 15 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Yes.
- 16 SLATER ANDERSON: And then I believe my clients,
- 17 Tincay and Michelle, are also on the line too. So they'll
- 18 speak after I do.
- 19 We are -- so my clients recently purchased this
- 20 house, which is a one-story -- sorry, two-story Mansard roof
- 21 house on Kelly Road. Pretty typical little Cambridgeport
- 22 house on a tiny little lot, as you can see on the site plan

- 1 here.
- 2 Basically, if -- yeah, if you can scroll to the
- 3 next drawing. So here you can see pretty much none of the
- 4 house is conforming to the setbacks, except the front and
- 5 the left side, actually if you use the seven-foot-six
- 6 minimum complies. So -- but it's -- yeah, it's such a tiny
- 7 lot that everything's out of conformance.
- 8 What we are proposing basically, as parts of the
- 9 renovations here, we're basically doing a gut renovation of
- 10 the interior of the house. It currently was split up as a
- 11 two-family, so it has a first-floor unit and a second-floor
- 12 unit basement. The original basement stair was removed.
- 13 There's a hatch in the front entry hall to get down there.
- 14 Yeah, here you see the existing first-floor plan,
- 15 if we can go to the exhibiting basement here. Anyways, as
- 16 you can see, it's a small house.
- 17 So what we're proposing are two additions to the
- 18 house, and then reconfiguring some of the windows. One of
- 19 the additions is where there's currently a side porch -- if
- 20 we can go back to the site plan, actually?
- Yeah, if you see on the left-hand side right
- 22 there, yes, there's an existing one-story porch there. So

- 1 we're proposing basically to enclose that and integrate that
- 2 into the living space with same footprint, essentially
- 3 raising the roof on it, but it's basically its existing FAR.
- At the rear of the house, you can see there's a
- 5 fire star that comes down from the second floor. When they
- 6 made a separate unit up there, they added this fire stair.
- 7 So what we're proposing to do is use the footprint
- 8 of the landing there, and build that as a two-story
- 9 addition, which gives us enough room to make a kitchen on
- 10 the first floor and get a reasonable bedroom up on the
- 11 second floor.
- 12 So let's scroll down to the first floor plan.
- 13 Here you can see what the proposed first floor is.
- 14 In the bottom of the plan there, you can see the area that
- 15 we would be enclosing and integrating into the living room.
- On the rear, you can see where I patched the
- 17 walls, on the exterior walls there. That shows you what the
- 18 addition is there, which basically gives us a rear entrance
- 19 next to the kitchen there, to get in and out of the house.
- 20 And then we're proposing to build a new deck in
- 21 the back, which I believe also meets variance. There's not
- 22 much yard back there. This is pretty much taking up all of

- 1 the yard back there. It'll go right out to the fence on
- 2 both sides. You can scroll to the next drawing. This is
- 3 the second floor plan. We're completely reconfiguring the
- 4 walls up here. The rear bedroom, which you see on the left-
- 5 hand end of the plan, was where the kitchen is currently.
- And we're proposing basically where that landing
- 7 is for the fire escape, that's the addition where you see a
- 8 closet, basically, that gets added for that bedroom, which
- 9 allows us to get a full-sized bedroom in there.
- 10 We basically have three bedrooms, two baths up
- 11 here -- it's a family of four -- a small office space on the
- 12 second floor as well, a new stair. We've reconfigured the
- 13 stair from the original.
- And if we can scroll back up two drawings to the
- 15 basement plan?
- So we are also proposing to finish out the
- 17 basement with a playroom, media room -- basically laundry
- 18 room, mechanical space.
- 19 I -- well, these -- actually we've updated our
- 20 plan in the basement, but the layout is still essentially
- 21 the same. I mean, the perimeter's essentially the same.
- 22 What we've done is we've put the laundry and mechanical to

- 1 the other side of the space and the office space to the
- 2 bottom of the plan. So I should have submitted an updated
- 3 drawing for that, but I didn't realize that we had the old
- 4 one in there.
- 5 But anyways, the exterior essentially stays the
- 6 same. So that's basically what we're doing. It's not a --
- 7 it's a very small increase in FAR. We're going -- [let me
- 8 find my table here] -- we're just going from 0.77 to 0.784.
- 9 So a very small amount of additional FAR.
- 10 And if we can scroll down to the elevation. So
- 11 two drawings down, here you go.
- So here you see the house from the front, and the
- 13 left side. So in the front view on the right, you can see
- 14 where the windows are on the second floor, we're basically -
- 15 there's currently a single window, where I'm showing a
- 16 double window there. That's where one of the -- where the
- 17 master bedroom will be.
- 18 We're just trying to get a lot more light into the
- 19 house, and so the idea is to double the size of that window
- 20 there. We're maintaining the Mansard. The house needs a
- 21 lot of exterior repairs, so that's all part of what we're
- 22 planning here.

- 1 And then if you go to the next drawing, here you
- 2 see the rear of the house.
- 3 You can see where we've added the little section
- 4 up above. If you see the entry door on the right hand, the
- 5 rear elevation, right above that is where -- you know, so
- 6 that and the little portion above that are the additions.
- 7 The rest of that is existing, although we're
- 8 changing -- the roof is going up slightly; it's pitched down
- 9 to where the headroom is too low for that pair of windows on
- 10 the second floor. So we're looking at a --
- 11 So that's basically all we're proposing. It's not
- 12 a big ask, just some mostly cosmetic changes. I believe the
- 13 owners have spoken with neighbors, and I will let them join
- 14 me now and tell their story. And there they are. It's
- 15 Tuncay and Michele?
- 16 Tuncay: Yes?
- 17 EDRICK VAN BEUZEKOM: No, there you are.
- 18 TUNCAY GUNLUK: My name is Tuncay Gunlak. I'll
- 19 spell it. It's T-u-n-c-a-y G-u-n-l-u-k.
- 20 MICHELLE WAGNER: And Michelle Wagner, M-i-c-h-e-
- 1-1-e W-a-q-n-e-r.
- 22 TUNCAY GUNLUK: And we're also longtime Cambridge

- 1 residents. So I've been living in Cambridge since 1997.
- 2 And Michelle joined a couple years later. So we've been
- 3 there a long time. And we currently live on Franklin
- 4 Street, just behind the Post Office.
- 5 We have a small condo -- about 1080 square feet,
- 6 and now we also have two small boys -- two young boys, which
- 7 the space we have is not adequate for their running around.
- 8 They're running around outside right now.
- 9 And of course I work for Akamai. I've been
- 10 working for companies in the area in technology for a long
- 11 time. So I work for Akamai. We're a convenient location
- 12 from Central Square to Kendall Square, and we want to stay
- in Cambridge, of course, and we want to raise our boys in
- 14 Cambridge.
- 15 And we've been looking for at least two years I
- 16 think at various houses in the Cambridgeport Riverside area,
- 17 and we came upon this property that's been long neglected
- 18 for a long time through word of mouth, actually.
- And we thought that would fit our needs, at least
- 20 doubling our space with the boys to make it more functional,
- 21 the boys having their own bedrooms, maybe living space.
- 22 That would give us at least more living space -- at least

- 1 big compared to what we have.
- What else? We have talked to our neighbors. We
- 3 have -- I believe at least we know two of our neighbors sent
- 4 support e-mails that they've copied us. We don't know if
- 5 the others did, especially the ones who are left 68 Pleasant
- 6 Street.
- 7 The owner, Phil Pru (phonetic) sent a supporting
- 8 e-mail, as well as the one to my right, very close to us --
- 9 25 Kelly, Unit 2 -- Matt Wallace and Erika Lawson [all names
- 10 phonetic]. We don't know anybody else.
- We met the neighbors across the street that are
- 12 actually similar Mansard houses. We compared our roof
- 13 plans, and how they like theirs and what we'd like to do
- 14 with ours.
- 15 And so, we had a few Open Houses in the house too,
- 16 to say hi and invited all the neighbors who would like to
- 17 come and chat with us with the plans. And we have not heard
- 18 any comments but positive.
- 19 MICHELLE WAGNER: Right.
- 20 TUNCAY GUNLUK: At least most of them sound
- 21 thankful that we're actually fixing the place up, and making
- 22 it more livable.

- 1 What else can we say? We are planning our boys to
- 2 go to Morse School, so that will be a very convenient
- 3 location for us -- both boys, actually. One is about school
- 4 age. One is about five, supposed to start in a couple
- 5 months. The other one is a year and a half, so that's a
- 6 couple years ago too.
- 7 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Good, thank you. That's
- 8 helpful.
- 9 TUNCAY GUNLUK: Thank you.
- 10 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Edrick, any other comments at
- 11 this time?
- 12 EDRICK VAN BEUZEKOM: No, I think -- you know,
- 13 it's --
- BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Okay.
- 15 EDRICK VAN BEUZEKOM: -- a house that needs help,
- 16 and where they're small additions, I think this makes it a
- 17 very livable space. It's still small, but -- you know.
- BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Okay. I will open it up to any
- 19 questions from members of the Board.
- 20 JIM MONTEVERDE: This is Jim Monteverde. If I can
- 21 ask one, and this is about the window that's added on the
- 22 second floor at the front.

- 1 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Mm-hm.
- JIM MONTEVERDE: And I'm just looking at the
- 3 dimensional. Not a question about why, but I'm looking at
- 4 the dimensional information. Does that window set within
- 5 the front yard setback?
- 6 EDRICK VAN BEUZEKOM: It does, just barely, yeah.
- 7 Because it's --
- 8 JIM MONTEVERDE: So Mr. Chair, is that a different
- 9 discussion?
- 10 EDRICK VAN BEUZEKOM: Well, they have applied for
- 11 a special permit on the windows anyhow.
- 12 JIM MONTEVERDE: Oh, I'm sorry. I was only
- 13 reading the variance portion of it. That's fine. That
- 14 always my question.
- 15 EDRICK VAN BEUZEKOM: Yeah.
- 16 JIM MONTEVERDE: Thank you.
- BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Andrea, any questions or
- 18 comments?
- 19 ANDREA HICKEY: No, I have no questions or
- 20 comments. Thank you.
- 21 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: All right. Slater, any
- 22 questions or comments?

- 1 SLATER ANDERSON: No questions.
- 2 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Janet? Any questions or
- 3 comments?
- 4 JANET GREEN: No questions or comments.
- 5 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: All right I will chime in that
- 6 the house, which was built in 1886 and you're adding 32
- 7 square feet, it really needs something.
- 8 And my opinion is that God bless you, and that to
- 9 do something with this house will be a -- to me would be a
- 10 benefit. And I think that your request is fair, reasonable
- 11 and quite de minimis, actually. And I think that the
- 12 neighborhood will benefit from this. That's my comment,
- 13 anyhow.
- 14 Let me open it up to public comment.
- 15 TUNCAY GUNLUK: Thank you.
- MICHELLE WAGNER: We hope so.
- 17 TUNCAY GUNLUK: Thank you.
- 18 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Any member of the public who
- 19 wishes to speak should now click the button that says,
- 20 "Participants" and then click the button that says, "Raise
- 21 hand." If you are calling in by phone, you can raise your
- 22 hand by pressing *9 and unmute or mute by pressing *6.

- 1 And any member of the public will have up to three
- 2 minutes to speak. Give it a little bit to see if anybody's
- 3 calling in. Staff says that they are receiving nothing
- 4 through the wire.
- 5 We are in receipt of two letters of support. One
- 6 is from a Matthew Wallace, W-a-l-l-a-c-e and Erika, E-r-i-k-
- 7 a Wallace at 25 Kelly Road, #3.
- 8 "My wife and I own the third floor of 25 Kelly
- 9 Road. We are writing to the BZA to signal our full support
- 10 for the petitioner, Toucay and Michelle. Not only will
- 11 Toucay and Michelle make great neighbors, but they are
- 12 looking to respectfully improve a neglected home. They are
- 13 longtime Cambridge residents, and are looking for a bit more
- 14 room for their two young children. We fully support their
- 15 efforts and hope that the BZA will do the same."
- 16 Correspondence from Philip (phonetic) Hou, H-o-u.
- 17 [Hope I pronounced that correctly.]
- "I am the owner of 68 Pleasant Street and writing
- 19 in support of the case petitioned by Toucay and Michelle.
- 20 Kind regards,
- 21 Phil."
- 22 Those are the sum and substance of letters of

- 1 support. I will close public comment. Edrick, any final
- 2 comments?
- 3 EDRICK VAN BEUZEKOM: No, I think we're --
- 4 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Okay. Is the Board ready for
- 5 any comments or ready for a motion?
- 6 ANDREA HICKEY: Ready for a motion.
- 7 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Ready?
- 8 JANET GREEN: Ready for a motion.
- 9 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Great. Let me make a motion
- 10 then to grant the relief requested. The Board finds that a
- 11 literal enforcement of the provisions of the ordinance would
- 12 involve a substantial hardship to the petitioner, because it
- 13 would preclude the petitioner from expanding the house to
- 14 better accommodate a family by reworking some of the
- 15 interior space, and also, providing for suitable and useable
- 16 rear-yard area.
- 17 The hardship is owing to the fact that the
- 18 structure, which was built in 1886 -- prior to the zoning
- 19 ordinance and is therefore encumbered by the current
- 20 ordinance, which governs the residences in C-2 zone in which
- 21 this house is located -- makes it very difficult to make any
- 22 additions to the house.

- 1 The nonconforming size of the lot, the size and
- 2 shape of the structure, the site that they're on and the
- 3 difficulty it places on the structure to be able to adjust
- 4 to contemporary standards for a growing family to continue
- 5 to occupy the structure which is their home.
- 6 Desirable relief may be granted without either
- 7 substantial detriment to the public good because the Board
- 8 finds that the existing structure is in need of a great deal
- 9 of reworking, which will enhance the livability and the
- 10 value of the structure, and add greatly to the streetscape,
- 11 preserve and possibly enhance the value of surrounding
- 12 properties.
- 13 Relief may be granted without nullifying or
- 14 substantially derogating from the intent and purpose of the
- 15 ordinance, which the ordinance is to encourage housing for
- 16 persons of all income levels, encourage the most rationale
- 17 use of land throughout the city.
- 18 The Board finds also that this proposal is a fair
- 19 and reasonable request of relief from the ordinance. And I
- 20 make the motion that we grant the relief requested.
- On the motion to grant, Andrea Hickey?
- 22 ANDREA HICKEY: Yes. I approve the motion to

- 1 grant.
- 2 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Jim Monteverde?
- JIM MONTEVERDE: Yes.
- 4 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Slater Anderson?
- 5 SLATER ANDERSON: Approved.
- 6 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Janet Green?
- JANET GREEN: Yes, I approve.
- 8 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Brendan Sullivan, and I vote to
- 9 grant the relief requested on the condition that the work
- 10 conform to the drawings and to the supporting dimensional
- 11 documents as submitted, and initialed by the Chair with the
- 12 vote of 5:0.
- [All vote YES]
- 14 The variance is granted.
- Now, on the special permit for the windows,
- 16 Edrick, if you can just briefly just to highlight those
- 17 windows again?
- 18 EDRICK VAN BEUZEKOM: Yeah, again we're changing
- 19 windows on the front, adding that window at the second
- 20 story.
- We're also -- we'll be replacing the windows in
- 22 the bay, and then on the left-hand side of the house, we're

- 1 replacing or changing the current windows as well in the
- 2 dining room area there, both on the side and in the rear,
- 3 and at the kitchen as well. Those are all changed from what
- 4 the current configuration is.
- 5 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Okay. Any questions by members
- 6 of the Board?
- 7 JIM MONTEVERDE: This is Jim, no.
- 8 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Okay. Regarding the special
- 9 permit, I will open it up to public comment.
- On that, any member of the public who wishes to
- 11 speak now regarding the location of the changes and location
- 12 of the windows should now click the button that says,
- 13 "Participants" and then click the button that says, "Raise
- 14 hand." If you're calling in by phone, you can raise your
- 15 hand by pressing *9 and unmute or mute by pressing *6.
- Give it a second to see if anybody is calling in.
- 17 Appears to be nobody calling in regarding windows. I will
- 18 close that portion and have public comment. Also, I would
- 19 incorporate the two letters of support as acknowledgement of
- 20 the changes in the windows.
- 21 Are we ready for a motion?
- JANET GREEN: Read.

- 1 ANDREA HICKEY: Ready.
- 2 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Make a motion that we grant the
- 3 special permit for the installation and relocation of
- 4 windows. The Board finds that the requirements of the
- 5 ordinance can be met; that the proposed window changes are
- 6 small, and do not have any increase in the impact or
- 7 dimensional requirements of the ordinance.
- 8 The Board finds that traffic generated or patterns
- 9 of access or egress would not cause congestion, hazard, or
- 10 substantial change in the established neighborhood character
- 11 and that no impact is -- and also, that the patterns would
- 12 be consistent with the neighborhood character.
- The Board finds that continued operation of or
- 14 development of adjacent uses as permitted in the zoning
- 15 ordinance would not be adversely affected by the nature of
- 16 the proposed use, and the Board finds that there would not
- 17 be any significant impact on neighboring properties.
- 18 There would not be any nuisance created to the
- 19 detriment of the health, safety and welfare of the occupants
- 20 of the proposed use. In fact, the addition of some windows
- 21 would add to the light and fenestration of the interior of
- 22 the house, which is a benefit to the occupants.

- 1 The Board finds that the proposed use would not
- 2 impair the integrity of the district or adjoining districts
- 3 or otherwise derogate from the intent and purpose of the
- 4 ordinance. In fact, the Board finds that it is consistent
- 5 with the character of existing structures within the
- 6 neighborhood. All those in favor of granting the special
- 7 permit?
- 8 Andrea Hickey?
- 9 ANDREA HICKEY: Yes, I vote in favor of granting
- 10 the special permit?
- BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Jim Monteverde?
- 12 JIM MONTEVERDE: Yes, vote in favor.
- BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Slater Anderson?
- 14 SLATER ANDERSON: I vote in favor.
- 15 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Janet Green?
- JANET GREEN: I vote in favor.
- 17 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Brendan Sullivan yes.
- [All vote YES]
- The special permit is granted. Good luck.
- 20 EDRICK VAN BEUZEKOM: All right. Thank you very
- 21 much. Appreciate it.
- 22 MICHELLE WAGNER: Thank you.

```
1
              TUNCAY GUNLUK: Thank you very much. Thank you
2
    for your time.
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
```

1 * * * * *

- 2 (7:20 p.m.)
- 3 Sitting Members: Brendan Sullivan, Janet Green, Andrea A.
- 4 Hickey, Jim Monteverde, Slater W. Anderson
- 5 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: The Board will hear Case Number
- 6 017286, 1 Brattle Square. Mr. Barnosky?
- 7 ADAM BANOSKY: Hi, good evening, Mr. Chairman and
- 8 members of the Board. My name is Adam Barnosky, last name
- 9 B-a-r-n-o-s-k-y.
- 10 For the record, I'm an attorney with I'm an
- 11 attorney with an address of 255 State Street in Boston. I'm
- 12 here on behalf of Spice Food Co.
- With me tonight is Kale Rogers, the COO of
- 14 cofounder of Spice, and we're here regarding the property
- 15 located at One Brattle Square, and a special permit parking
- 16 waiver for two parking spaces relative to the development of
- 17 a new fast cash restaurant at the premises.
- 18 The property is located in the heart of Harvard
- 19 Square between Brattle and Mount Auburn Street, off Brattle
- 20 Square.
- The restaurant will be 311 square feet located on
- 22 the first floor of a four-story multiunit commercial

- 1 building in the Business B zoning district. The space, as
- 2 you may recall, was formerly the location of Chipotle
- 3 restaurant.
- 4 The immediate abutters of the premises within the
- 5 same building are Webster Bank to the right, and Visionworks
- 6 to the left, within the same building. The location will be
- 7 the second for Spice, with their first location in Boston's
- 8 Downtown Crossing Neighborhood.
- 9 As a way of background, Spice was created by four
- 10 robotics-inspired MIT grads, including Kale Rogers, and is
- 11 the first fully automated restaurant. The food is prepared
- 12 using robotics and heat induction blocks, which are fast,
- 13 efficient and particularly timely, considering the current
- 14 environment.
- 15 As for the use and the request before the Board
- 16 tonight, the proposed restaurant use is allowed by right,
- 17 pursuant to Section #4.35 of the zoning ordinance.
- 18 Indoor seating at the restaurant will consist of
- 19 58 indoor table seats and eight single bar window seats
- 20 totaling 66 indoor seats, with seasonal outdoor patio
- 21 seating for 22.
- 22 Under Section #6.36, there is a requirement for

- 1 5.8 parking spaces for this use, with the seating count.
- 2 Pursuant to #6.12(c), Spice is entitled to four -- a waiver
- 3 of four parking spaces. So we are only here before you
- 4 seeking a waiver of two spaces.
- 5 So it requires a special permit pursuant to
- 6 Section #10.4 of the zoning ordinance, and in the special
- 7 permit application we provided to the Board that I believe
- 8 is before you in part on the screen, it lays out all of the
- 9 reasons in great detail, as far as the facts according to
- 10 why.
- 11 This application meets the requirements for a
- 12 special permit, and in compliance with Section 10.43 of the
- 13 zoning code. But in brief, there's an abundance of
- 14 transportation options in the area that the Board should
- 15 consider.
- Number 1 is the location's proximity to the
- 17 Harvard Square Red Line stop, and over a dozen bus lines
- 18 which either originate or stop at the location, including
- 19 directly in front of one Brattle Square.
- There's also the availability of metered parking
- 21 in the vicinity, particularly all along Mount Auburn Street.
- 22 And there are several public parking spaces -- I'm sorry,

- 1 several public parking garages within 750 feet of the
- 2 premises.
- More importantly, however, is the nature of the
- 4 restaurant. It's going to act as an amenity to the
- 5 neighborhood, to the neighborhood's existing patrons,
- 6 students, faculty and residents within the area.
- 7 So a vast majority of the customers, if not all
- 8 the customers on a given day, will be coming from the area.
- 9 This is not a destination restaurant for the most part,
- 10 which further reduces the need for parking.
- So in short, we do find that the request for you
- 12 today for a special permit in two spaces is de minimis.
- 13 It's not going to impair the neighborhood or interfere with
- 14 parking or traffic in the area, and we can certainly
- 15 elaborate on any other facts in support, if the Board would
- 16 like.
- 17 It's also worth noting that we were in touch with
- 18 the Harvard Square Advisory Committee. They reviewed the
- 19 application materials, and they declined to meet on the
- 20 waiver, and they are leaving the determination of the
- 21 special permit with the BZA without comment or
- 22 recommendation.

- 1 Happy to answer any questions that the Board may
- 2 have.
- 3 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: This is Brendan Sullivan.
- 4 You're applying for relief under 6.351 reduction of parking
- 5 -- the required parking. The ordinance states any minimum
- 6 required amount of parking may be reduced, only upon
- 7 issuance of a special permit from the Board of Zoning
- 8 Appeal.
- 9 Special permit shall be granted only if the Board
- 10 determines, and cites evidence in its decision that the
- 11 lesser amount of parking will not cause excessive
- 12 congestion, endanger public safety, substantially reduce
- 13 parking availability for other uses, or other adversely
- 14 impact the neighborhood...
- or that such lesser amount of parking will provide
- 16 positive environmental and other benefits to the users of
- 17 the lot and the neighborhood, including specifically --
- 18 among other things -- assisting in the provision of
- 19 affordable housing, not applicable in this particular case.
- In making such a determination, the Board shall
- 21 also consider whether or not less off-street parking is
- 22 reasonable in light of the following: The availability of

- 1 surplus -- I think we touched on some of these points --
- 2 availability of surplus off-street parking, availability of
- 3 public or commercial parking facilities, and the shared use
- 4 of off-street parking serving other usage during peak times.
- 5 I'm not sure if that's applicable in this
- 6 particular instance. That's something that the petitioner
- 7 would have to possibly work out with something else.
- 8 And I think that another thing is the location.
- 9 You also touched on this too, Counsel, by stating the
- 10 location of the proposed restaurant.
- And my thought is that where it is set back there
- 12 was an expanded sidewalk in front of it, and that to require
- 13 a parking would require obviously a curb cut, would require
- 14 interruption of that pedestrian way, and my way of thinking
- 15 it would not be appropriate, in this particular instance.
- I think it would really be quite harmful and
- 17 disruptive to that streetscape, and also to the pedestrian
- 18 mode of coming or going. So that's sort of my thought on
- 19 that.
- 20 You have also, I think, touched on the reasons
- 21 that we could grant a special permit because it seems like
- 22 you have checked the boxes as far as the availability of

- 1 other modes of transportation and/or parking. So --
- 2 Any questions from any members of the Board?
- 3 Andrea?
- 4 ANDREA HICKEY: No questions, Brendan.
- 5 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Jim?
- JIM MONTEVERDE: Sorry, I'm just trying to unmute
- 7 myself. No, and I -- Brendan I support your review there.
- 8 I know it's a very -- it's a dense, urban environment by
- 9 design, by intention.
- The parking spaces placed anywhere in front would
- 11 be intrusive and unwanted. It's exactly the type of use
- 12 that really should be in that space, wants to be in that
- 13 space. So I support that. And you're right across the
- 14 street from the Red Line. So I think you kind of tick all
- 15 the boxes.
- BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Yep. Slater, any comments?
- 17 Questions?
- 18 SLATER ANDERSON: No comment.
- BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Janet, any comments, questions?
- 20 JANET GREEN: I do have a question. I have a
- 21 question about your hours and your plan for delivery and the
- 22 things that you'll need -- and also, have a question about

- 1 how you'll manage the trash.
- 2 ADAM BARNOWSKY: Kale, could you speak to that if
- 3 you're available?
- 4 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Adam?
- 5 ADAM BARNOWSKY: I believe Kale Rogers is -- he
- 6 might be in the waiting room. I don't know if he can raise
- 7 his hand and speak to that question.
- JIM MONTEVERDE: There we go. He's just muted.
- 9 ADAM BARNOWSKY: Okay.
- JIM MONTEVERDE: On mute, and you're good to go.
- 11 KALE ROGERS: Hey, you all. Can you hear me?
- 12 Great. Awesome. Sorry, I was in the waiting room. So just
- 13 a quick recap of the questions you were wondering about
- 14 delivery and how we plan to do that in our proposed plan
- 15 with the trash?
- JANET GREEN: Yes.
- 17 KALE ROGERS: Great. So delivery is something
- 18 that we're actually really excited about. We'll have a
- 19 fleet of mopeds that we're going to be using, so these are
- 20 electric mopeds that we're actually working with the local
- 21 Somerville to work with. So it's a zero emission delivery
- 22 system that we're actually setting up ourselves.

- 1 We're working with the local parking garages to
- 2 find parking for those overnight, and our drivers will come
- 3 and just grab things from our other employees and take those
- 4 deliveries away.
- In terms of trash, there's some dumpsters that
- 6 we'll be using, as well as we'll have a couple totes that
- 7 we'll be basically taking over those dumpsters, that will
- 8 then get deleted (sic) by -- you know, the building
- 9 trashers.
- 10 ANDREA HICKEY: Could you talk -- this is Andrea
- 11 Hickey. Could you talk a little bit about delivery from
- 12 your suppliers?
- 13 KALE ROGERS: Yeah, yeah. So delivery of food
- 14 drops will come in. Typically they happen pretty early in
- 15 the morning. They'll come in through the front door, which
- 16 is in the bottom right of the diagram that you can see here.
- 17 And we'll take those in and unbox them in the back house and
- 18 put them in our walk-in box.
- 19 There's a couple -- like, there's a loading zone,
- 20 basically slightly to what would be the left of this in our
- 21 plane view here, where we can take those deliveries in.
- 22 ANDREA HICKEY: Do you mean around the corner?

- 1 KALE ROGERS: Yeah, slightly around the corner on
- 2 Mount Auburn Street.
- 3 ANDREA HICKEY: Okay. Janet, did you have any
- 4 follow up?
- JANET GREEN: No, that answered my questions,
- 6 thank you.
- 7 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Any other questions by members
- 8 of the Board? Let me open it up to public comment. Any
- 9 members of the public who wish to speak should now click the
- 10 button that says, "Participants" and then click the button
- 11 that says, "Raise hand." If you are calling in by phone,
- 12 you can raise your hand by pressing *9 and unmute or mute by
- 13 pressing *6.
- 14 [Pause]
- 15 There are no call ins. We are in receipt of
- 16 correspondence on Liza Paden, Community Development. The
- 17 Harvard Square Advisory Committee reviewed the application
- 18 materials for the BZA special permit, parking reduction and
- 19 decline. They convened a meeting, there was no comment from
- 20 the committee.
- 21 Also the Planning Board has had no comment on this
- 22 case or any of the cases tonight and leaves it up to the

- 1 Board. I will now close the public comment portion of it
- 2 and Counsel, I don't know if you have any other parting
- 3 words before I make a -- take it to the motion?
- 4 ADAM BARNOWSKY: No, and no parting words. Thank
- 5 you.
- 6 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Okay, all right. Any questions
- 7 by the Board, or shall I make a motion?
- 8 ANDREA HICKEY: Motion.
- 9 JIM MONTEVERDE: Ready for a motion.
- 10 JANET GREEN: Motion.
- 11 ADAM BARNOWSKY: Yep.
- 12 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Let me make a motion then to
- 13 grant the relief requested, which is a reduction of parking
- 14 requirement by two spaces. The Board finds that the
- 15 requirements of the ordinance can be met with the granting
- 16 of the special permit.
- 17 The Board finds that the purpose of the restaurant
- 18 -- that the proposed restaurant, excuse me -- the proposed
- 19 restaurant -- is to be located in an existing structure,
- 20 with such structure occupying nearly the entirety of the
- 21 lot.
- In order to provide the required parking on site,

- 1 portions of the existing building would need to be
- 2 demolished or retrofitted to provide the adequate space for
- 3 parking, which is not tenable or reasonable request, and
- 4 just to provide two parking spaces.
- 5 The Board finds that traffic generated or patterns
- of access or egress resulting from what is being proposed
- 7 would not cause congestion, hazard, or substantial change in
- 8 established neighborhood character. The proposed restaurant
- 9 is well served by a wide range of transportation options.
- 10 There is metered vehicle parking along Mount Auburn Street
- 11 and no less than four public parking garages within 750 feet
- 12 of the proposed restaurant.
- The Harvard MBTA Station is approximately one-
- 14 tenth of a mile away. The following 13 bus lines are all
- 15 located within a 1000-foot radius of the proposed
- 16 restaurant. Also, I think that the ordinance is especially
- 17 applicable to Harvard Square discourages vehicular traffic
- 18 and encourages pedestrian use of the Square.
- 19 And the required two spaces would require a curb
- 20 cut, as stated earlier, and that the enter and egress
- 21 patterns would potentially cause unsafe conditions and
- 22 disrupt the normal modus operandi of the pedestrians in the

- 1 Square, due to the pedestrian nature of that particular
- 2 area.
- 3 Continued operation of or development of adjacent
- 4 uses, as permitted in the ordinance, would not be adversely
- 5 affected. The VB District is intended for a diverse range
- 6 of commercial uses, including the proposed restaurant use,
- 7 which would help contribute to the diversity of food options
- 8 in the area.
- 9 The proposed restaurant would be a good fit for
- 10 the character of the neighborhood, attract local residents
- 11 as well as students, facility and employees from Harvard and
- 12 provide another dining option for people who live or work in
- 13 the area.
- 14 The Board finds that as stated above, there was an
- 15 abundance of transportation, so that the area is well served
- 16 by MBTA Red Line and numerous bus lines.
- 17 Other reasons the proposed use would not impair
- 18 the integrity of the district: The proposed restaurant fits
- 19 the character of the neighborhood, the relief requested is
- 20 de minimis, and the granting of said relief will not impair
- 21 the neighborhood or interfere or exasperate (sic) parking
- 22 and/or traffic in the area.

- On that, is there anything else to add? Members
- of the Board? I don't hear any. On that motion, then to
- 3 grant the special permit for the reduction of parking at one
- 4 Brattle Square, Andrea Hickey?
- 5 ANDREA HICKEY: I vote in favor.
- 6 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Jim Monteverde?
- JIM MONTEVERDE: In favor.
- 8 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Slater?
- 9 SLATER ANDERSON: I vote in favor.
- 10 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Janet?
- 11 JANET GREEN: Yeah, I vote in favor.
- 12 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Brendan Sullivan yes for the
- 13 granting of a special permit.
- 14 [All vote YES]
- The special permit on a vote of 5:0 is hereby
- 16 granted. Thank you for your presentation.
- 17 COLLECTIVE: Thank you.
- 18 KALE ROGERS: We open in November, hope to see
- 19 you.
- 20 COLLECTIVE: Bye-bye.
- 21 SISIA DAGLIAN: Brendan, could I interrupt for a
- 22 second before the next one? So I'm seeing about six or

- 1 seven people listed as James Rafferty. Could the actual
- 2 James Rafferty please raise their hands so I can promote
- 3 you.
- And everyone else, could you rename yourselves, so
- 5 that I can promote you to panelist at the appropriate time?
- 6 Otherwise I can't tell who's who.
- 7 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Speak.
- 8 SISIA DAGLIAN: Thank you.

1 * * * * *

- 2 (7:39 p.m.)
- 3 Sitting Members: Brendan Sullivan, Janet Green, Andrea A.
- 4 Hickey, Jim Monteverde, Slater W. Anderson
- 5 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: The Board will hear Case Number
- 6 017311. I'm sorry, I'm jumping ahead here, Mr. Rafferty.
- 7 The Board will hear Case Number 017306, 2020 400 Cardinal
- 8 Medeiros Avenue. Mr. Rafferty?
- 9 JAMES RAFFERTY: Good evening, Mr. Chair. For the
- 10 record, I am THE James Rafferty. I don't know who these
- other people are claiming to be James Rafferty, but I'm
- 12 joined this evening by Father Walter Carreiro. Father
- 13 Carreiro is the Pastor of St. Anthony's Church. They are
- 14 the petitioner in this case.
- This is an application by St. Anthony's to allow
- 16 for two forms of setback relief to permit the construction
- 17 of a two-car garage on the campus of St. Anthony's Parish.
- 18 The St. Anthony's site is approximately two acres.
- 19 It's bordered by three, it fronts onto three public ways;
- 20 Cambridge Street -- well two public ways; Cambridge Street
- 21 and Cardinal Medeiros Avenue.
- The garage is depicted on a site plan that can be

- 1 best seen at Plan A1.0.0, and I can -- if we could show that
- 2 plan, I could easily identify what the two areas of relief
- 3 are.
- 4 The first is the requirement in Section 5.13 for a
- 5 10-foot minimum separation between buildings. And in this
- 6 case, the proposed separation between buildings is only
- 7 eight and a half feet. I'm looking to see A101.
- 8 There was a filing on Monday of better plans,
- 9 because the initial filing was less than optimal, and I
- 10 apologize for any difficulty in reading the plans by Board
- 11 members that may have reviewed the file prior to Monday.
- 12 The information was there, but it was just -- it wasn't
- 13 large enough. I think it was a function of the way the plan
- 14 got formatted.
- 15 So the garage is going to be in the corner of the
- 16 lot next to the rectory. As I said, the reason the -- the
- 17 hardship is directly related to an existing condition on the
- 18 site that again is shown on the A101.
- 19 Is it possible -- do you have the Monday plan?
- 20 Because this is the earlier plan. I think this is the
- 21 existing site plan. But there's -- the plan that's A101, I
- 22 don't believe this is that plan. Is it possible to --

- 1 SISIA DAGLIAN: If I could just have a minute,
- 2 Jim, I'm trying to figure it out.
- 3 JIM MONTEVERDE: Okay, thank you Sisia.
- JAMES RAFFERTY: 1.0.0.
- 5 SISIA DAGLIAN: Is this what you were looking for?
- JAMES RAFFERTY: No. 1.0.0. I'm sorry, Sisia
- 7 that was correct, the earlier one. Yes, you can see right
- 8 here. Thank you for launching it.
- 9 So as you can see in the image in the top of this
- 10 page, the top right-hand side, you can see the footprint of
- 11 the garage, and that it's a largely square-looking
- 12 footprint. If you look to the top left of that image, you
- 13 can see what the hardship is.
- The hardship is an existing -- and I'm sorry, it's
- 15 the image to the right. Not the elevation -- thank you,
- 16 yes, here.
- So if you look on this particular image at the
- 18 second, at the top image, right there, at the left-hand
- 19 corner of the garage you'll see the footprint of the outline
- 20 of the outline of an electrical transformer. And just where
- 21 the cursors are going to right now.
- 22 SISIA DAGLIAN: Yeah.

- 1 JAMES RAFFERTY: That transformer is a large part
- of the hardship here. If the garage were to have the
- 3 correct separation, the 10-foot minimum, the transformer
- 4 would block access into the garage. And relocating the
- 5 transformer is a costly exercise.
- And candidly, the relief being sought is really
- 7 modest enough that we were seeking a request for the
- 8 variance to allow for this eight-and-a-half-foot separation
- 9 as opposed to 10 feet.
- The red line you see on the right, that's the
- 11 extra wall of the garage. And you can see that the garage
- 12 lines up nicely with the building next door. You'll see the
- 13 two doors opposite one another -- that's the access into the
- 14 office rectory complex.
- The campus consists of the sanctuary, the church
- 16 itself, the office and rectory, and a parish hall. This
- 17 garage will allow for nearly direct access from the Parish
- 18 rectory into the garage. So it's an ideal location to be
- 19 placed.
- 20 If you look at the elevations, the material for
- 21 the garage and the roofline are all designed to be
- 22 compatible with the existing and adjoining rectory. If you

- 1 look at the bottom left image here on the screen, you see
- 2 the existing office and rectory on the right. The roofline
- 3 here is intended to mimic that.
- 4 The second setback relief involves the rear of the
- 5 garage. The rear of the garage is actually a side setback
- 6 because of the corner status of the property; it has two
- 7 fronts and two sides.
- But the setback there, the property -- the rear
- 9 abutter to the property is a rail -- a freight rail. It's
- 10 going to be the home of the future Grand Junction Pathway,
- 11 but at the moment the rear abutter here is the railroad.
- 12 So when the rectory and church were constructed in
- 13 the early '70s, the setback requirements were slightly less
- 14 than they are now. So the rectory is conforming in these
- 15 garages designed to have the same relationship at its face
- 16 as the rectory does.
- 17 So the request on that setback, it's required to
- 18 be based on the formula setback in this district, it should
- 19 be 22 feet. The requested relief is to have a setback at 19
- 20 feet two inches.
- So those are the two zoning issues presented.
- 22 They have hardships directly related, as I stated, to the

- 1 location of the transformer, and the second hardship is an
- 2 attempt to have design compatibility with the adjoining
- 3 structure.
- 4 There's no real change in the rear setback. The
- 5 current rear setback of the rectory is at the 19.2 that
- 6 we're proposing. So this will merely continue that
- 7 condition.
- 8 And as I said, the area behind the rectory is
- 9 going to ultimately become part of the Grand Junction
- 10 pathway and the church has been a helpful participant in
- 11 this. They're going to be selling land that will enable the
- 12 city to complete this Grand Junction, this location. So
- 13 this is part of a capital improvement associated with that
- 14 transaction.
- 15 Our architects are present on the call -- Caitlin
- 16 Walsh and Brian Thorp of ARC are available if Board members
- 17 have any questions about any of the details on the garage.
- 18 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Thank you. This is Brendan
- 19 Sullivan. The only question I would have, Mr. Rafferty, is
- 20 why now? And what is the real purpose of the garage. And I
- 21 don't want to say real purpose, but I mean what is the
- 22 purpose of the garage now?

- JAMES RAFFERTY: Well, the purpose of the garage
- 2 is to park two vehicles. It will also have storage on the
- 3 second floor.
- 4 The garage is part of a capital improvement that
- 5 was part of a transaction involving Alexandria Real Estate
- 6 that is purchasing the land and doing a series of
- 7 improvements to the rectory as part of that transaction,
- 8 including new windows and a relocated and new HVAC system
- 9 for the sanctuary for the church.
- 10 So this was a -- this is all part of the capital
- 11 improvements that were offered to the church as an
- 12 inducement to get them to sell the land to Alexandria that
- 13 they are required to then convey to the city.
- 14 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: And the garage, obviously,
- 15 affords protection to the staff vehicles?
- JAMES RAFFERTY: I'm sorry?
- 17 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: The garage will also afford
- 18 protection from the weather, from elements for the staff?
- 19 JAMES RAFFERTY: Yes, that's correct. I see
- 20 Father Carreiro has raised his hands. He may want to speak
- 21 on that.
- 22 FATHER WALTER CARRIERO: If I could?

- 1 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Yes, Father, go.
- 2 FATHER WALTER CARRIERO: I've been Pastor here for
- 3 the past 13 years. It was also my first assignment, so I
- 4 was here from '95 to 2000. And it was part of the plan to
- 5 build a garage at the end of the building, as it's located
- 6 or shown on the prints, but it just never got done.
- 7 Obviously, as you said, it would be for the
- 8 protection of vehicles, but also -- you know, as pastors or
- 9 priests are aging, it also affords us some comfortability
- 10 against the arthritic pain that we have, and replacements of
- 11 joints that are necessary.
- 12 Another part of that is that the second floor
- 13 would be storage, and in developing the plans for this
- 14 plant, the facility, there's very little storage space.
- I don't know if you recall, but years ago there
- 16 was a semitrailer parked in the back that was for storage,
- 17 and it was really an eyesore. And so, like, thankfully we
- 18 got rid of that. You know, but it's diminished our storage
- 19 area, refuse materials and other things that we use during
- 20 the year, throughout the year.
- 21 So it's really a two-fold purpose, which would
- 22 really help the Parish for now, and obviously in the future.

- 1 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: All right, thank you.
- 2 FATHER WALTER CARRIERO: Thank you.
- JAMES RAFFERTY: I'm told, Mr. Chair, that Father
- 4 Carreiro intends to list his shovel and ice scraper on eBay
- 5 when the project is over.
- 6 FATHER WALTER CARRIERO: I'll give them away for
- 7 free.
- BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Thank you. Mr. Rafferty, we
- 9 notice that the existing parking spaces total 94. There
- 10 will be a reduction to 86, but you are still well over the
- 11 required amount.
- 12 JAMES RAFFERTY: That's correct.
- BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Father, we possibly have a
- 14 question for you. At full capacity, which, obviously is
- 15 challenging at this time, is the parking lot really ever
- 16 full?
- 17 FATHER WALTER CARRIERO: Only for -- you know,
- 18 major holidays -- Xmas, Easter, Holy Week it really gets
- 19 full.
- 20 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Okay. So that the net
- 21 reduction in the parking really would or would not have an
- 22 adverse effect?

- 1 FATHER WALTER CARRIERO: No, no.
- 2 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: It would not? Okay. All
- 3 right. Any questions by members of the Board? Andrea?
- 4 ANDREA HICKEY: Yeah, I had a question for
- 5 Counselor Rafferty. I'm not really understanding Alexandria
- 6 Real Estate's involvement. Can you explain that?
- 7 JAMES RAFFERTY: Sure. Alexandria Real Estate
- 8 entered into a Letter of Commitment associated with the
- 9 recent adoption of a zoning petition that created the Grand
- 10 Junction Pathway Overlay District that is the abutter to
- 11 this property.
- 12 As part of Alexandria's commitment to fund the
- 13 cost and design of that Overlay District, they set about to
- 14 acquire the land necessary to locate the pathway. The
- 15 pathway is a long-standing planning objective for more than
- 16 20 years of the city.
- 17 Alexandria purchased a property at the corner of
- 18 Cambridge Street, right by this location -- Cambridge Street
- 19 and the railroad tracks -- and then the Alexandria role will
- 20 be to convey that land, this land that they're acquiring
- 21 from the Parish, and some of their own land that they have
- 22 in their One Kendall Square complex to create a -- to create

- 1 the Grand Junction Pathway Overlay District.
- 2 So the petitioner is the Parish. Alexandria's
- 3 role here, candidly, is they are financing the construction
- 4 of this and other capital improvements at the Parish as part
- 5 of their real estate transaction involving the Parish's
- 6 willingness to sell land to Alexandria that will be then
- 7 conveyed to the city for a public purpose.
- 8 ANDREA HICKEY: Thank you.
- 9 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Jim Monteverde, any questions?
- JIM MONTEVERDE: No, sir.
- BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Slater, any questions?
- 12 SLATER ANDERSON: No questions.
- BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Janet, any questions?
- 14 JANET GREEN: No questions.
- 15 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Okay. I will open it up to
- 16 public comment. Any members of the public who wish to speak
- 17 should now click the button that says, "Participants" and
- 18 then click the button that says, "Raise hand." If you are
- 19 calling in by phone, you can raise your hand by pressing *9
- 20 and unmute or mute by pressing *6.
- 21 I'll wait a bit for any --
- 22 SISIA DAGLIAN: We have Devin Mackoff. You can

- 1 unmute yourself now.
- 2 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Okay.
- 3 DEVIN MACKOFF: Sorry.
- 4 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Devin, if you would like to
- 5 comment, you'll have up to three minutes.
- 6 SISIA DAGLIAN: Yeah.
- 7 DEVEN MACKOFF: So my name is Devin Mackoff, D-e-
- 8 v-i-n M-a-c-k-o-f-f. I live across the street at 371
- 9 Cardinal Medeiros. I just wanted to say that, you know, I
- 10 think the overall support -- you know, the church doing
- 11 these improvements, they've been good neighbors, they take
- 12 care of the -- you know, they do a nice job of taking care
- 13 of their property and no, you know, real issues there.
- I appreciate Mr. Rafferty explaining -- and I just
- 15 wanted to confirm: So Alexandria doesn't own, like the
- 16 parking lot and the rectory, they're just buying a piece of
- 17 land kind of to add to the junction basically, right? Is
- 18 that --
- 19 JAMES RAFFERTY: Mr. Chair, do you want me to
- 20 respond?
- BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Yes, if you would, yeah.
- 22 JAMES RAFFERTY: Yes. So that is correct. So

- 1 there is going to be a conveyance of a strip of land that
- 2 runs along the entire back portion of the church property.
- 3 It's a 14-foot strip of land that will be conveyed to
- 4 Alexandria, who will then in turn convey it to the city
- 5 under the terms of the recently adopted zoning.
- 6 And that land will become where the new multimodal
- 7 path will be constructed. And this stretch of the path will
- 8 be going from let's call it, "Little Binney Street" out to
- 9 Cambridge Street. So it's a significant section of the
- 10 path.
- 11 The path is intended to continue across Cambridge
- 12 Street past the Millers River apartment and ultimately
- 13 across Monsignor O'Brien Highway and connect to the bicycle
- 14 path Somerville that goes to the west out to Lexington and
- 15 to the east to Boston.
- So it's a long sought-after transportation
- 17 objective. The petition was passed -- the zoning petition
- 18 was passed unanimously by the City Council in February of
- 19 this year, and as I stated, it's a long-standing
- 20 transportation goal of the city to extend this Grand
- 21 Junction path.
- DAVID MACKOFF: Just my last question, just for

- 1 the -- my understanding.
- 2 So how long will the construction take, and do you
- 3 think that there's going to be an impact? You know, you're
- 4 obviously losing a few parking spaces, which is not a huge
- 5 deal because you have the parking lot.
- 6 But do you anticipate based on -- I think losing
- 7 some additional ones during construction, that there will be
- 8 issues with parking in there, just and having -- you know,
- 9 parishioners to park elsewhere during that period?
- BRENDAN SULLIVAN: No, well it's not expected. I
- 11 mean, during the week, candidly, the lot is nearly empty.
- 12 There's not much activity. So the construction activity --
- 13 the church activity is most evenings and weekends. And
- 14 construction activity on the path will not be occurring
- 15 during this time.
- DEVIN MACKOFF: Alright. That's it for me.
- 17 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Thank you. Thank you for
- 18 calling in. Are there any other -- there appears to be no
- 19 other call ins. We are in receipt of just correspondence
- 20 from the Planning Board, which they have no comment on this
- 21 particular case. I will close public comment.
- Mr. Rafferty, any final thoughts?

- JAMES RAFFERTY: Well, no, thank you but I just
- 2 wanted to remind the Board that it's -- the location of the
- 3 transformer is one of the principal issues and it does
- 4 represent a real hardship. We had to relocate that
- 5 transformer, gain that foot and a half. So we -- but that
- 6 hardship has real financial impacts for the parish, so.
- 7 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Great, thank you.
- JAMES RAFFERTY: Thank you.
- 9 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: I will close the presentation
- 10 part. Any questions by members of the Board?
- JIM MONTEVERDE: No.
- BRENDAN SULLIVAN: None? Are we ready for a
- 13 motion?
- 14 JIM MONTEVERDE: Yeas.
- BRENDAN SULLIVAN: The Board finds that -- let me
- 16 make a motion to grant the relief requested. The Board
- 17 finds that a literal enforcement of the provisions of the
- 18 ordinance would involve a substantial hardship to the
- 19 petitioner, because it would preclude the petitioner from
- 20 constructing an ordinance compliant garage without having to
- 21 relocate an electric transformer, the cost of which would be
- 22 quite prohibitive to the petitioner.

- 1 And the Board finds that the hardship is owing to
- 2 the size of the lot, the siting of this particular structure
- 3 on the lot, the siting of the electrical transformer which
- 4 was not anticipated back in 1985, when the church property
- 5 was built.
- And as such, there is an inherent hardship in
- 7 order to build an ordinance-compliant structure, one that
- 8 will adequately serve needs of the staff of the church.
- 9 The Board finds that desirable relief may be
- 10 granted without substantial detriment to the public good.
- The Board finds that the proposed garage would not
- 12 cause any detriment to the public good; the requested
- 13 setback and building separation relief is modest.
- 14 And the Board finds a fair and reasonable request
- 15 that the construction of the garage in this particular
- 16 location, which will facilitate the sale of the land at the
- 17 rear of the property, that will become part of the integral
- 18 part of the Grand Junction Pathway. It has a great deal of
- 19 public benefit.
- 20 Relief may be granted without nullifying or
- 21 substantially derogating from the intent and purpose of the
- 22 ordinance. The proposed garage is well within the allowed

- 1 gross floor area and height allowed in Residence C1 Zoning
- 2 District.
- Furthermore, the garage will align with the
- 4 existing rectory wall, and the rooflines have been designed
- 5 to achieve architectural symmetry, so that the aesthetics
- 6 will be maintained and will be tastefully achieved.
- 7 For those reasons, I make a motion to grant the
- 8 relief from the ordinance. Andrea Hickey?
- 9 ANDREA HICKEY: I vote in favor of granting
- 10 relief.
- BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Jim Monteverde?
- 12 JIM MONTEVERDE: I vote in favor.
- 13 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Slater Anderson?
- 14 SLATER ANDERSON: I vote in favor.
- 15 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Janet Green?
- JANET GREEN: I vote in favor.
- 17 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: In Brendan Sullivan. I also
- 18 vote in the affirmative to grant the variance, on the
- 19 condition that the work be in compliance with the drawings
- 20 submitted, and also the supporting documents. Five to zero
- 21 the variance is granted.
- [All vote YES]

```
COLLECTIVE: Thank you very much.
 1
              JIM MONTEVERDE: Mr. Chair, can I request a two-
 2
    minute break before the next case begins?
 3
              BRENDAN SULLIVAN: You sure can.
 4
             JIM MONTEVERDE: Thank you.
 5
             [BREAK]
 6
 7
 8
 9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
```

1 * * * * *

- 2 (8:07 p.m.)
- 3 Sitting Members: Brendan Sullivan, Janet Green, Andrea A.
- 4 Hickey, Jim Monteverde, Slater W. Anderson
- 5 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: All right, Mr. Rafferty?
- JAMES RAFFERTY: Thank you. So I'm sure Board
- 7 members are quite familiar with 40 Thorndike Street. It has
- 8 been the home of the Middlesex County Courthouse for the
- 9 last 40 plus years.
- 10 Leggat McCall obtained approval from the Planning
- 11 Board about six years ago, to convert the structure, the
- 12 closed courthouse, to an office building with -- a mixed-use
- 13 building with 48 units of housing, retail on the ground-
- 14 floor, and the balance of the building is office.
- The project has been going through Design Review
- 16 in anticipation of getting a building permit, and as the
- 17 architects have and engineers have begun to study the
- 18 building, there was a discovery around the vertical
- 19 clearance requirements in Article 6 for parking garages.
- In this case, what the project proposes to do is
- 21 to introduce two levels of below-grade parking in what was
- 22 formerly the basement of the garage -- excuse me -- the

- 1 courthouse.
- 2 And we have a couple of floor plans that depict
- 3 the areas where we are slightly below in some cases the
- 4 seven-foot-six vertical clearance requirement.
- 5 The garage floor plans -- here's the first one
- 6 coming up now -- consists of two levels; lower level one and
- 7 lower level two. This is lower level 1. And lower level 1,
- 8 everywhere you see here in yellow we're asking for a request
- 9 for a vertical clearance of seven feet.
- 10 The reality is that in several cases, the seven-
- 11 six requirement will be achieved, but there's also some
- 12 mechanical equipment, some projections that will be going
- 13 into this area that will result in a reduction below the
- 14 seven-foot-six requirement.
- The second portion of relief that's being asked
- 16 involves the aisle width. The minimum aisle width
- 17 requirements in parking garages is 22 feet. In this garage,
- 18 however, this converted basement, the distance between the
- 19 columns is only 21 feet six inches. So you can see there
- 20 are portions of the aisle width that fall shy of the 22
- 21 feet.
- This hardship is related to the existing

- 1 structural nature of the building and existing structural
- 2 columns. So the request here is for a modest reduction in
- 3 aisle width.
- 4 The story is quite similar on the next page, which
- 5 is Lower Level 2. Lower Level 2 has less area that will
- 6 require vertical clearance relief -- the area depicted in
- 7 yellow -- but it also has a similar condition between the
- 8 columns. So where the columns are opposite one another,
- 9 there's a loss of six inches in the aisle widths.
- 10 It should be noted, and I included a site from the
- 11 building code because I thought it might be of interest to
- 12 Board members: The state building code actually allows for a
- 13 vertical clearance in a garage of seven feet. It just so
- 14 happens that the Cambridge city zoning ordinance has a
- 15 seven-foot-six requirement. So it is building code
- 16 compliant.
- 17 The other thing the building code allows for --
- 18 and I included that section -- is they allow for protrusions
- 19 that would in some cases drop the vertical clearance from
- 20 six foot -- from seven feet, excuse me, to six-foot-eight.
- 21 And you'll see by the red arrow here that that
- 22 exception is allowed when -- for less than 50 percent, not

- 1 more than 50 percent of the area.
- In this garage, the area that will have these
- 3 protrusions at what's anticipated to be 6 feet 8 -- is less
- 4 than 10 percent of the garage area. So it all involves
- 5 relief from the vertical clearance requirements of seven-
- 6 feet-six.
- 7 In some cases, the requested condition will be
- 8 seven feet, and in areas where there are protrusions for
- 9 mechanical equipment, it will be at six-feet-eight, as
- 10 permitted by the building code.
- 11 And as I said, the hardship is related to the fact
- 12 that this was not previously parking, this was not designed
- 13 as a garage. We're working with existing conditions here in
- 14 this building.
- And the vertical clearances -- one of the issues
- 16 that caused the vertical clearance issue in the upper lower
- 17 level, Lower Level of care, is one of the key features of
- 18 the redesign of the building is to bring the first floor of
- 19 the building to have at grade access on all three sides of
- 20 the building.
- 21 People recall the building -- the building
- 22 particularly at the Third Street side, is very high off of

- 1 the sidewalk.
- 2 And the plan here is to have residential entries
- 3 on Thorndike Street, and to have retail entries. And all of
- 4 this will be occurring at grade. Right now, there is no on-
- 5 grade access into the building.
- 6 Everything is done through stairs or, in some
- 7 cases, there's a significant separation. If you look at the
- 8 Spring Street side of the building, it's almost considered a
- 9 moat -- the distance on Spring Street.
- 10 So the building is going to be brought down to
- 11 grade. So in doing so, the floor above Lower Level I gets
- 12 dropped a little. So that's also an element of the
- 13 hardship, but it's achieving a much sought-after urban
- 14 design benefit to have on-grade access on all four sides of
- 15 the building, or the three sides of the building.
- Right now the Spring Street side will have a plaza
- 17 in front of it. But it's particularly helpful on the Third
- 18 Street side of the building and the Thorndike Street side to
- 19 have direct access. And there are active uses planned and
- 20 designed for those spaces now, which also contributed to a
- 21 lowering of the site.
- Ms. Schroder and Mr. Kazlasky [all names phonetic]

- 1 are both here, if there are questions about the mechanics of
- 2 what's going on here, or what's proposed by way of the new
- 3 vertical clearance.
- 4 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Oh, thank you. This is Brendan
- 5 Sullivan. Any questions by members of the Board? Andrea?
- 6 ANDREA HICKEY: No.
- 7 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Jim?
- 8 JIM MONTEVERDE: This is Jim Monteverde. I just
- 9 have one -- two related questions. So in plan, as you went
- 10 through the plan, if you can go back to those, in terms of
- 11 the height -- yeah, I was looking for the handicap parking
- 12 spaces adjacent to the elevator. So that's in the zone for
- 13 the -- you're looking for the height relief? This is the
- 14 Upper Level Garage, correct?
- 15 JAMES RAFFERTY: That's correct.
- JANET GREEN: No, it says, "Lower Level." It says
- 17 Lower Level on the plan.
- JAMES RAFFERTY: As low as --
- JIM MONTEVERDE: Well no, I think there's a level
- 20 below. If you look at the --
- JAMES RAFFERTY: Yeah.
- JIM MONTEVERDE: -- the plan, it looks like you

- 1 entered this right off the street. You take a quick, right-
- 2 hand turn and you're at this level.
- JAMES RAFFERTY: Right.
- JIM MONTEVERDE: SO this must be the Upper Garage
- 5 level, right? Okay, so that's the handicapped. So where
- 6 does the handicap -- there's a requirement for a handicap
- 7 van, correct?
- JAMES RAFFERTY: There is.
- 9 JIM MONTEVERDE: Is that accommodated somewhere
- 10 else?
- JAMES RAFFERTY: No. It's accommodated there, but
- 12 it's a very salient point. The project will be seeking an
- 13 AAB variance --
- 14 JIM MONTEVERDE: Variance?
- 15 JAMES RAFFERTY: -- to allow for a lower vertical
- 16 clearance with a handicap van.
- JIM MONTEVERDE: Okay. And I think if you go in
- 18 the lower plan, that's where the van space shows up. Is
- 19 that correct? There?
- JAMES RAFFERTY: Yes.
- 21 JIM MONTEVERDE: So that's an area that's lower
- 22 than the -- whatever the required, eight-foot-two? So

- 1 you're going to go for a variance for that, correct?
- 2 JAMES RAFFERTY: We're going to go for an AAB
- 3 variance for that.
- JIM MONTEVERDE: Yeah, correct, correct.
- JAMES RAFFERTY: The zoning variance we're seeking
- 6 now would address it from a zoning perspective, but we're
- 7 very mindful of the fact that the AAB requirement will
- 8 needed to be dealt with, and that's why we have Mr.
- 9 Kazlowsky on the call.
- JIM MONTEVERDE: Yep.
- JAMES RAFFERTY: He is an engineer with building
- 12 code expertise, and we are going to be seeking relief to
- 13 allow for that van.
- 14 JIM MONTEVERDE: Yep. And then a follow-up
- 15 question, if I may? The 21-foot-6 clear space column to
- 16 column, I assume -- do you have a parking consultant or a
- 17 transportation consultant, that they opined on the
- 18 suitability of that as a typical dimension for -- is this
- 19 one-way traffic or two-way traffic? Sorry, that's two
- 20 questions. Is it one-way traffic in the 21-foot-6 aisles?
- 21 JAMES RAFFERTY: I'll defer to you. The
- 22 requirement is 22. So it's six inches shy.

- JANET GREEN: I'd like to defer to our architect,
- 2 Maria Sharou (phonetic) --
- 3 MARIA: Sure.
- JANET GREEN: -- who can speak to the consultants
- 5 to worked on the traffic patterns.
- 6 MARIA: Sure. This is Maria, from Elkus Manfredi
- 7 Architects, and our -- we have a parking consultant, Desmond
- 8 Parking, and they have looked at the configurations of the
- 9 garage. The garage is a one-way. You can lightly see on
- 10 this screen --
- JIM MONTEVERDE: Oh yeah, I see it. MARIA: --
- 12 the arrows?
- JIM MONTEVERDE: Yep.
- MARIA: Okay. So it's one way, and they've looked
- 15 at the turning movements of the some of the tighter areas,
- 16 and it will be sufficient.
- 17 JIM MONTEVERDE: Okay, thank you.
- 18 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Anything further, Jim?
- 19 JIM MONTEVERDE: No, thank you.
- 20 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Slater, any questions?
- 21 SLATER ANDERSON: No questions.
- BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Janet, any questions, comments?

- JANET GREEN: No questions, thank you.
- 2 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Let me open it to public
- 3 comment. Any member of the public who wishes to speak
- 4 should now click the button that says, "Participants" and
- 5 then click the button that says, "Raise hand." If you are
- 6 calling in by phone, you can raise your hand by pressing *9
- 7 and unmute or mute by pressing *6. You will have up to
- 8 three minutes to address your comments.
- 9 There appears to be nobody calling in with
- 10 comments. We are in receipt of only correspondence from the
- 11 Planning Board, which basically has no comments on this or
- 12 any of the other cases before us tonight.
- I will close the public comment portion of this.
- 14 Mr. Rafferty, any parting words?
- 15 JAMES RAFFERTY: Yes, Mr. Chair. I received a
- 16 text message. Apparently, we filed revised plans, and
- 17 they're slightly different. On August 15, there's an August
- 18 15 plan and I think these are July plans.
- So I just want to make sure that as the Board
- 20 references its decision on plans that we have the correct
- 21 plan depicted on the screen, as well as the part of the
- 22 approval.

- BRENDAN SULLIVAN: So the correct plans are to be
- 2 dated -- I'm sorry August what, Jim?
- JIM MONTEVERDE: Maria?
- 4 MARIA: Yep.
- 5 JIM MONTEVERDE: Do you have a date on the
- 6 corrected plans?
- 7 MARIA: They are just dated August 2020, instead
- 8 of July, 2020.
- 9 JIM MONTEVERDE: Okay. So the plan we're looking
- 10 at now says July 2020. There was subsequent plans filed
- 11 that state August 2020. And those would be the operative
- 12 plans for the relief being requested.
- JANET GREEN: So the August plans don't appear to
- 14 have been downloaded for the public to view. Are you able
- 15 to describe to us what the difference is?
- MARIA: Yes.
- 17 JAMES RAFFERTY: Sure. I'm sorry, Maria can do
- 18 that quite easily.
- 19 MARIA: Sure. So for the Lower Level 1 plan in
- 20 front of us, there's no change other than right at the
- 21 parking entry, where we're requesting a 21-foot-2 dimension.
- 22 We're just trying to leave some construction tolerance in

- 1 that location in order to fit the garage doors in.
- 2 And then on the next plan on Lower Level --
- 3 JANET GREEN: Can I back up for a second? So on
- 4 the plan we're looking at, it says, "21 4," is that where
- 5 you're talking about?
- 6 MARIA: Correct. In the lower right-hand side.
- JANET GREEN: All right. So in the August plan,
- 8 that changed to what?
- 9 MARIA: 21-foot-2.
- JANET GREEN: Thank you.
- 11 MARIA: And then on the next plan, Lower Level 2,
- 12 the portion in yellow that we're requesting the seven-foot
- 13 height difference, has continued along basically everywhere
- 14 there's a parking space, except for the handicap van parking
- 15 space. So it would continue along the perimeter of the
- 16 floor plan, and then in the center of the plan, except where
- 17 there's a handicap van parking space. And that's it.
- JANET GREEN: Thank you.
- 19 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Any other comments, Mr.
- 20 Rafferty?
- JAMES RAFFERTY: No, thank you.
- BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Any comments by members of the

- 1 Board, or are we ready for a motion?
- 2 ANDREA HICKEY: Mr. Chair, it's Andrea Hickey
- 3 here. I'm just not sure how we can approve plans that we've
- 4 not seen, procedurally.
- 5 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Those were not downloaded to
- 6 the file, and I think that you raised a very good point --
- 7 that even though the difference may have been de minimis, or
- 8 -- and illustrated to the Board, that it's really what the
- 9 Board is comfortable with.
- JAMES RAFFERTY: Well, Mr. Chair, do you have a
- 11 physical copy of the file? Because they were filed in a
- 12 timely manner. I mean, could you -- could you attest to
- 13 those? You might have them in front of you, frankly.
- 14 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: The ones that are in front of
- 15 me are July 2020. However, when I did review the case
- 16 earlier in the week, and then also on yesterday, there may
- 17 have been another document in here that has not made it to
- 18 the file tonight. It may have been inadvertently taken out
- 19 of the file and put out to the sides, possibly. I did it
- 20 while I was reviewing the cases.
- 21 But the file that is in front of me here is dated
- 22 July 2020.

- 1 ANDREA HICKEY: Hi, it's Andrea Hickey again.
- 2 Jim, I know you're -- Jim Monteverde, are you able to look
- 3 online. I want to make sure that I'm not misstating it, but
- 4 I don't see the August plans.
- JIM MONTEVERDE: Halfway through our hearing, they
- 6 kind of wipe out the drawings for the current hearing. So I
- 7 couldn't access tonight's files anymore.
- 8 ANDREA HICKEY: Okay.
- 9 MARIA: Would it be useful if I could share my
- 10 screen? I could show you the graphics from my computer.
- 11 SISIA DAGLIAN: I don't think we have that ability
- 12 to.
- JIM MONTEVERDE: I don't think you can.
- MARIA: Okay.
- JIM MONTEVERDE: Yeah.
- JANET GREEN: Actually, there is a Share Screen
- 17 button at the bottom of every --
- JIM MONTEVERDE: Yeah, I know but it's --
- 19 JANET GREEN: Deactivated.
- JIM MONTEVERDE: -- if you try it, it'll tell you
- 21 that staff is disabled, I think, but --
- MARIA: Okay.

- JIM MONTEVERDE: -- we've tried that before,
- 2 amongst ourselves. Let's see if I can get it online again.
- 3 MARIA: I opened the link in the agenda, and I
- 4 only see the July plans here on the website.
- 5 ANDREA HICKEY: All right. Right. I just wanted
- 6 someone to confirm that. I'm not the best at technology, I
- 7 just didn't want to misstate that they're not there if they
- 8 were, so.
- 9 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: It has not been downloaded?
- 10 SISIA DAGLIAN: No, it's not up on the website.
- BRENDAN SULLIVAN: And a physical document is not
- 12 in front of me in the file. Would it be prudent of the
- 13 Board to continue this matter to the next hearing, so that
- 14 they have access to the revised, August 2020 drawings?
- ANDREA HICKEY: Hi, it's Andrea Hickey again. I
- 16 think we have to. I don't see how we can tie a decision to
- 17 plans that we've not seen -- we've all not seen.
- 18 JIM MONTEVERDE: Jim?
- 19 ANDREA HICKEY: But I'm willing to listen to other
- 20 opinions.
- 21 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Jim, your thoughts? Jim
- 22 Monteverde?

- JIM MONTEVERDE: Yeah. No, I think what was
- 2 described was really minor -- dimensionally at least, but I
- 3 would defer to you, to Andrea on the procedural piece.
- I think it is odd not to have the plans that are
- 5 being approved in front of you, Mr. Chair, so that's in fact
- 6 what you're initialing.
- 7 So -- unless there's another procedural way around
- 8 it, you can condition it on -- I don't know what you can
- 9 condition -- how else can you phrase it so you could accept
- 10 it now but conditioned on a set of plans that no one's seen?
- BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Slater, your thoughts?
- 12 SLATER ANDERSON: I think procedurally it is
- 13 accurate to want to have the plans that are the final plans.
- 14 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Okay. And Janet, your
- 15 thoughts?
- JIM MONTEVERDE: You've got to unmute, Janet.
- 17 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Janet's in the green room.
- 18 JANET GREEN: I agree. I agree that we need to be
- 19 looking at the plans.
- 20 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Yeah, no I think --
- JIM MONTEVERDE: Okay.
- BRENDAN SULLIVAN: It's -- I agree with Andrea. I

- 1 think she's absolutely right on point, and it's also that
- 2 precedent that we proceed without having the documents
- 3 before us.
- And again, how it came out of the file and not
- 5 downloaded, I don't have the answer for that. I think that,
- 6 Andrea, you're correct. I would then make a motion, then,
- 7 to continue this matter to the next hearing, which is --
- JIM MONTEVERDE: The tenth.
- 9 SISIA DAGLIAN: The tenth is already full.
- JIM MONTEVERDE: Oh.
- BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Can we squeeze it in on the
- 12 tenth?
- BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Mr. Rafferty, is there a real
- 14 time crunch on this? I know that's another step along the
- 15 way, but you want to check off and minimize the number of
- 16 steps, but --
- 17 JAMES RAFFERTY: Right. No, I appreciate that.
- 18 It really is -- it's an issue we need to resolve in order to
- 19 get the building permit. So yes, we'd like to have it
- 20 sooner rather than later.
- Given the fact that it's merely the plan; we can
- 22 get the plan in soon, I wonder if the Board might consider

- 1 putting this case on on the tenth. It should not be a case
- 2 that will require any presentation by the applicant, unless
- 3 the Board had a question. I would suggest it could be an
- 4 extremely brief hearing, and it would only involve the
- 5 review of the plan and the differences.
- I candidly do not disagree with the Board's
- 7 concern about the need to have an accurate plan at the time
- 8 of the granting of the variance. And so, I haven't offered
- 9 any argument to suggest that you could approve this with the
- 10 plan to be submitted later. I understand the significance
- 11 of that. I don't want the Board to have to be put in that
- 12 position.
- ANDREA HICKEY: Sisia, how many other cases are on
- 14 for that night?
- 15 SISIA DAGLIAN: Well, we have one-two-three, three
- other properties for continued, and I don't know -- oh, and
- 17 eight regular cases on -- yeah.
- 18 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: I mean -- Brendan Sullivan -- I
- 19 think that this can probably be dealt with in very short
- 20 order, and not impact the schedule on the tenth.
- 21 SISIA DAGLIAN: Okay.
- BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Is that possible? Yes. All

- 1 right. So let me make --
- 2 SISIA DAGLIAN: It think if you want it.
- 3 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Is everybody available on the
- 4 tenth of September?
- JIM MONTEVERDE: Yes.
- BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Andrea, Jim, Slater, Janet?
- 7 ANDREA HICKEY: Yes. Andrea yes.
- JANET GREEN: Yes, I am available.
- 9 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Okay. Let me make a motion,
- 10 then, to continue this matter to September 10,2020 on the
- 11 condition that the petitioner change the posting signs, of
- 12 which there are numerous, to reflect the new date and time
- 13 of 7:00 p.m. on the -- September 10.
- And that any new submissions be in the file by
- 15 Monday prior to the September 10 hearing. I would encourage
- 16 the petitioner to check with staff in the morning to make
- 17 sure that the August 2020 drawings are in fact in the
- 18 department, and that they are available for the Board to
- 19 view immediately.
- 20 ANDREA HICKEY: And if they could also be scanned
- 21 so the public can see them as well? I don't know what the
- 22 procedure is to request that.

- 1 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Yeah. Well, I think that they
- 2 need to be downloaded ASAP.
- 3 ANDREA HICKEY: Right.
- 4 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: But the legal requirement would
- 5 be the Monday before. But I would request the petitioner
- 6 make sure that they are available, even with the new set of
- 7 copies or something, and that they be downloaded ASAP so the
- 8 Board has access to them immediately, and also, the public
- 9 does also.
- JAMES RAFFERTY: Just to be clear, I don't think
- 11 the applicant can download onto the city website?
- BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Well, just to make sure that --
- JAMES RAFFERTY: Right.
- 14 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: -- that she has a copy of it.
- JAMES RAFFERTY: Understood. Yeah, we'll get that
- 16 over tomorrow, no question.
- 17 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: So that they will change the
- 18 date and the time of the posting sign, and also, that the
- 19 petitioner -- if you would sign a waiver of the statutory
- 20 requirement for a hearing when you visit the office in the
- 21 morning, that was also one of the other requirements.
- 22 All those on the motion, then, to continue this

- 1 matter until September 10, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.: Andrea
- 2 Hickey?
- 3 ANDREA HICKEY: Yes, I vote in favor the
- 4 continuance.
- 5 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Jim Monteverde?
- JIM MONTEVERDE: Yeah, I vote in favor.
- 7 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Slater Anderson?
- 8 SLATER ANDERSON: I vote in favor.
- 9 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Janet Green?
- 10 JANET GREEN: I vote in favor of the continuance.
- 11 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Brendan Sullivan in the
- 12 affirmative.
- [All vote YES]
- The matter is continued until September 10. Thank
- 15 you.
- JAMES RAFFERTY: Thank you very much.
- 17 COLLECTIVE: Thank you very much.
- 18
- 19
- 20
- 21
- 22

1 * * * * *

- 2 (8:32 p.m.)
- 3 Sitting Members: Brendan Sullivan, Janet Green, Andrea A.
- 4 Hickey, Jim Monteverde, Slater W. Anderson
- 5 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: The Board will now hear Case
- 6 Number 017290 -- 44 Avon Hill Street.
- 7 SEAN HOPE: Good evening Mr. Chair, members of the
- 8 Board. For the record, Attorney Sean Hope, Hope Legal
- 9 Offices. I'm here tonight on behalf of the petitioners. We
- 10 have -- and owners -- Keith Wang and Kathryn Sayn-
- 11 Witgenstein.
- We also have Project architects. We have from Sam
- 13 Kachmar Architects. We have a Mr. Sam Kachmar, and we have
- 14 Michael Fields.
- 15 So this is an application requesting variance
- 16 relief to enclose a portion of a covered entryway, and also,
- 17 a small rear addition at the back of the property. The total
- 18 additional square footage is approximately just under 50
- 19 square feet.
- 20 Just to orient the Board, the site is located --
- 21 it's a single-family structure, and it's located in the Res
- 22 A-2 Zoning District on a noncompliant 5000-square-foot lot.

- 1 The structure itself is nonconforming, in that the
- 2 house is situated on the left property side. Therefore, any
- 3 changes to that façade would require some sort of zoning
- 4 relief.
- As I mentioned, we are enclosing an entryway that
- 6 is on that the side yard setback, and per the zoning it is
- 7 considered building within the setback, triggering relief.
- 8 And that is the same for the rear yard addition.
- 9 Just procedurally, this application was before the
- 10 Historical Commission this summer, receiving a unanimous
- 11 certificate of appropriateness because of the location and
- 12 the district that it's in. So although the rear addition is
- 13 not necessarily visible from the street, the front entryway
- 14 is very visible.
- 15 I'd now like to turn it over to the architects, if
- 16 they could highlight the areas of relief and answer any
- 17 questions by the Board.
- 18 MIKE FIELDS: Great. Thank you, Sean. This is
- 19 Mike Fields and Sam Kashmar, and if we would be able to
- 20 share on the screen the presentation that was sent over on
- 21 Monday, that would be -- [Pause]
- 22 Excellent. Thank you. So here, first slide, just

- 1 -- you know, this is the view of the existing front of the
- 2 house.
- What we're doing is replacing a lot of the fences
- 4 around the property, but removing the ones the street face
- 5 to open it up to the neighborhood. Most of the volume of
- 6 the house experienced some change.
- 7 And we can go to the next slide.
- 8 This is an existing site axon.
- 9 And then on the next slide you can see the
- 10 proposed. What we're doing is on the left side of the
- 11 screen is the north side of the house, where the house is
- 12 currently over the side setback line by about 30 inches.
- We are not proposing to extend any further into
- 14 that setback, but to extend the portion of the entrance
- 15 forward towards Avon Hill Street, and then square off a
- 16 corner at the back of the house, which we'll see on the
- 17 proposed site plan on the next screen.
- 18 And areas of red are where we are taking the
- 19 existing covered entryway and enclosing it with a small, 28-
- 20 inch overhang at the front door. This is being done in the
- 21 same plane as the curb lot to minimize any impact from the
- 22 street.

- 1 That you'll see at the back corner is where we are
- 2 proposing to square off the first floor, which will provide
- 3 room for a powder room. Much of that is actually covered by
- 4 a roof already, and we'll see that later on in the
- 5 elevations.
- If we go to the next screen?
- 7 This is the basement plan. We are not proposing
- 8 to increase the basement. We're going to be using just
- 9 frost walls. The way that our plan sheets are set up --
- 10 just really quickly -- is that the upper left hand corner is
- 11 existing and the lower right-hand corner is proposed.
- 12 And then you'll see where it's switching from our
- 13 existing vertical fence, which is fairly big and beat up, to
- 14 a more transparent area of horizontal fence.
- 15 And then we can go to the next screen.
- 16 All right. Here on the left-hand side where it is
- 17 circled in red, you'll see a modest addition to the entryway
- 18 to pull it back off of the stair that creates a little bit
- 19 of a windbreak.
- 20 We're reusing the existing door and essentially
- 21 pulling that elevation forward towards the street so it is
- 22 not particularly visible, as you can see the before and

- 1 after perspectives right to the left.
- 2 And then in the back corner of the powder room,
- 3 this is squaring off the open corner. It's only a first
- 4 floor addition at the back of the house. So we're just
- 5 extending the roof at that point.
- If we go to the next screen?
- 7 This is views of those rooves from the second
- 8 floor. Then we are -- just changed the layout of putting
- 9 some new bathrooms in. There is a small window change
- 10 that's within the setback, but we've shown that to be left
- in those perspectives as well, just for everyone's
- 12 edification.
- Next screen?
- This is the third floor layout. And one of the
- 15 items on the north elevation that you'll see in the before
- 16 and after perspectives is that we are removing an existing,
- 17 unused chimney and a whole house fan that is on the side of
- 18 the house and restoring the shingles in that location.
- 19 That is it on this. Next?
- 20 All right. This is the view from Avon Hill Road.
- 21 Essentially, you can see that the entry to the
- 22 left is just pulled forward. So elevationally, there's not

- 1 much change, apart from the increase -- we have a total
- 2 increase of the FAR going from the existing 0.66 to a 0.67.
- 3 I think we're adding about 50 square feet.
- We can go to the next slide.
- 5 All right. Here is a good depiction of what is
- 6 changing at the rear corner. Currently, there's a slight
- 7 overhang at the rear entry door, and then some log storage.
- 8 And really, we're just squaring that off.
- 9 We did submit a shadow study to the Historic
- 10 Commission, but didn't include it in this, because it wasn't
- 11 specifically listed. But that is available. Most of what
- 12 we're doing occurs within the shadow of the existing house,
- 13 and any changes to the shadow line may not extend beyond the
- 14 existing fence line.
- Then if we want to go to the next slide?
- 16 This is the south elevation. One of the -- this
- 17 is where we have the change in windows. But all of this
- 18 occurs in the existing zoning setbacks. We're removing a
- 19 metal chimney from this façade.
- 20 And, you know, generally windows are staying in
- 21 the same place, being replaced in kind. Same size, type of
- 22 location where they need to be replaced.

- 1 SEAN HOPE: All right, next slide?
- 2 Then this is the north elevation. You can see
- 3 we're removing the whole house fan, the chimney. This shows
- 4 where the front entry is getting pulled forward slightly.
- 5 We're removing an existing, corrugated fiberglass awning and
- 6 bringing that roof down flush to the existing pergola there,
- 7 and the façade extends along the first floor to square off
- 8 that corner.
- 9 And that should be it. But I think we have
- 10 supplemental -- if we go to the very last page, I'll show
- 11 you the street elevation perspectives. I think that is it.
- 12 Are there any questions? That is our proposal.
- BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Any questions by members of the
- 14 Board? Andrea?
- JIM MONTEVERDE: No, thanks.
- BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Jim?
- JIM MONTEVERDE: No thanks.
- 18 ANDREA HICKEY: No questions -- Andrea.
- 19 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Slater?
- 20 SLATER ANDERSON: No questions.
- JANET GREEN: No.
- BRENDAN SULLIVAN: All right. Mr. Hope, any

- 1 comments at this point?
- 2 SEAN HOPE: one thing I failed to mention is that
- 3 in preparation for the application, we did reach out to our
- 4 abutters and neighbors, and I do believe there are some
- 5 correspondence in the files supporting the application.
- 6 Thank you.
- 7 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: All right. Let me open it up
- 8 to public comment. Any member of the public who wishes to
- 9 speak now should click the button that says, "Participants"
- 10 and then click the button that says, "Raise hand." If
- 11 you're calling in by phone, you can raise your hand by
- 12 pressing *9 and unmute or mute by pressing *6.
- [Pause]
- 14 There appears to be nobody calling in. We are in
- 15 receipt of correspondence from Anne Austin (phonetic). She
- 16 talked with Katherine about building a powder room that,
- "Might take some light from my small abutting
- 18 yard. She has been most accommodating, showing me drawings
- 19 of a powder room so tiny it couldn't possibly shade my yard.
- 20 I support her proposal before the Zoning Board, and I'm glad
- 21 to have her as a neighbor."
- There was correspondence from Mary Blue Magruder,

- 1 M-a-g-r-u-d-e-r, 82 Avon Hill.
- 2 "I own 46 Avon Hill Street just to the north of
- 3 the house at 44. I have looked at their plans to add a
- 4 small addition, and didn't see any problem with the new
- 5 powder room, and herein approve of their plans."
- There is correspondence from Claudia Scott.
- 7 "My name is Claudia Scott, and I own the house at
- 8 63 Avon Hill. I'm writing to state my support for my
- 9 neighbors and their application for a special permit for
- 10 their home at 44 Avon."
- 11 And there's correspondence from Juliana Davis, D-
- 12 a-v-i-s.
- "My name is Juliana Davis, and I live at 11 Gray
- 14 Gardens East. I'm writing to state my support for my
- 15 neighbors and their application for a special permit for
- 16 their home at 44."
- 17 There is correspondence from Sari Edelstein, E-d-
- 18 e-l-s-t-e-i-n and Holly Jackson, J-a-c-k-s-o-n of 117 Avon
- 19 Hill Street.
- "We want to express our support for the renovation
- 21 plans that our neighbors have presented to the Board of
- 22 Zoning Appeal. We feel that they have been sensitive to

- 1 preserving the existing character of the neighborhood, and
- 2 we are delighted to have them in our community."
- 3 And the Planning Board has no comment on this
- 4 case. Nobody has called in. I will close public comment at
- 5 this time. Mr. Hope, any parting words?
- 6 SEAN HOPE: No, thank you.
- 7 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Any questions by members of the
- 8 Board, or shall I make a motion?
- 9 ANDREA HICKEY: Motion.
- 10 JIM MONTEVERDE: Motion.
- 11 JANET GREEN: Yes.
- 12 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Let me make a motion to grant
- 13 the relief requested. The Board finds that a literal
- 14 enforcement of the provisions of the ordinance would involve
- 15 a substantial hardship to the petitioner, because the
- 16 petitioners are undertaking an extensive renovation of a
- 17 dwelling that was built in 1987, including upgrading all
- 18 systems resulting in the property being more energy
- 19 efficient and functional.
- 20 Granting the proposed entryway enclosures in 33
- 21 square feet of first floor addition will allow for greater
- 22 functionality and use of the dwelling for the petitioners

- 1 and their family.
- The hardship is owing to the nonconforming
- 3 location for the existing structure, and as such, any
- 4 changes in the nonconforming side of the property would
- 5 require zoning relief. They require changes that are modest
- 6 in nature, but will have a substantial benefit to the
- 7 petitioner and any future owners of the dwelling.
- 8 The Board finds substantial detriment that the
- 9 Board can grant relief, and that there would not be any
- 10 substantial detriment to the public good; the requested
- 11 enclosures and addition will not negatively impact the
- 12 adjacent residential uses, and will allow for an improved
- 13 front entrance for the building occupants.
- 14 Further, through a combination of fencing and
- 15 proposed landscaping, the proposed additions will be mostly
- 16 screened from the public way and abutters.
- 17 The Board finds that relief may be granted without
- 18 substantial detriment to the public good, or nullifying or
- 19 substantially derogating from the intent and purpose of the
- 20 ordinance, because the single-family dwellings that are
- 21 allowed in this use and the proposed addition and enclosures
- 22 will improve the functionality of the property and the

- 1 future occupants of the property will add to the streetscape
- 2 and enhance the value of this property and adjoining
- 3 properties.
- 4 On the motion to grant the variance on the
- 5 condition that the work comply with the drawings that have
- 6 been submitted, including an Addendum for the entryway,
- 7 which was added to the original submission and the
- 8 supporting documents.
- 9 On the motion to grant, Andrea Hickey?
- 10 ANDREA HICKEY: Yes, I approve the motion.
- 11 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Jim Monteverde?
- 12 JIM MONTEVERDE: I approve.
- BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Slater?
- 14 SLATER ANDERSON: I approve.
- 15 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Janet Green?
- JANET GREEN: I agree. I approve.
- 17 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Brendan Sullivan in the
- 18 affirmative to grant the variance and the requested relief.
- 19 [All vote YES]
- 20 Good luck.
- 21 COLLECTIVE: Thank you very much.

1 * * * * *

- 2 (8:50 p.m.)
- 3 Sitting Members: Brendan Sullivan, Janet Green, Andrea A.
- 4 Hickey, Jim Monteverde, Slater W. Anderson
- 5 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Moving right along. After 7:15
- 6 it is. The Board will hear Case Number 017290 -- I'm sorry,
- 7 we just heard that one. The Board will hear Case Number
- 8 017313 38-40 High Street. Mr. Hope?
- 9 SEAN HOPE: Good evening, Mr. Chair, members of
- 10 the Board. For the record, Attorney Sean Hope, Hope Legal
- 11 Law Offices in Cambridge. I'm here tonight as the
- 12 applicant, and as self-representing myself.
- This is an application requesting variance relief
- 14 to locate dormers to a third floor of an existing,
- 15 nonconforming two-family at 38-40 High Street.
- Just some background for the Board, prior to
- 17 looking at the drawings: This is a 3800,25-square-foot lot.
- 18 This home being a two-family with front and rear porches is
- 19 pretty typical in this neighborhood. You can see that there
- 20 are several of these types of structures. This is a picture
- 21 from the street.
- 22 And the proposal -- so this is a two-family as I

- 1 mentioned.
- 2 The Unit 1, or the first floor unit is the first
- 3 floor. The basement is shared by both units, and it's your
- 4 typical basement with systems in it. But the second unit on
- 5 the second and third floor existing has four bedrooms.
- 6 There's two on the second floor and there's two on the third
- 7 floor.
- If you go to the next slide, this is the back of
- 9 the structure again, and these are the two porches, that is
- 10 pretty typical for this style of homes.
- 11 And then there's a third photo just from the
- 12 driveway looking from the back yard into the street.
- And going to the next slide, please?
- 14 SEAN HOPE: Right. So this is a view from the
- 15 front. And as you can see, there is your primary entrance
- 16 for both units, and the idea is to put the dormers on both
- 17 sides of the roof. The impetus for the dormers is like the
- 18 Board sees many times to be able to activate and to make
- 19 more functional that third floor.
- 20 If you will notice the right side dormer -- and
- 21 this is the one we're looking at now -- this is going to --
- 22 this captures what -- there's an existing stair going from

- 1 the second to the third floor. I'm 5'9.5" and when I walk
- 2 up those stairs, I have to bend my head because of the slope
- 3 of the roof.
- 4 So while there are two bedrooms up there existing,
- 5 and that's not going to change, the dormer on the right-hand
- 6 side allows for proper head height, to be able to walk up
- 7 that stairs.
- If you go to the next slide?
- 9 And so, capturing that, in that right side dormer,
- 10 additionally there is also a bathroom. Now, this upper unit
- 11 is a four-bedroom and there is one existing bathroom. The
- 12 location of the bathroom on the third floor is going to be
- 13 directly above the bathroom on the second floor and directly
- 14 under the bathroom under the first floor.
- 15 So the bathrooms are all stacked on each other.
- 16 So there's a practicality to the location of that. It
- 17 happened to be adjacent to the stairs, and it happened to
- 18 also comply with the 15-foot dormer guidelines. So we were
- 19 able to achieve a functional stair going from the second to
- 20 the third floor, and also a bathroom.
- 21 The concept is these are going to be likely --
- 22 especially this upper floor -- inhabited by family. And I

- 1 think the Board has heard many times if you have a four-
- 2 bedroom possibly with four people in there, having one
- 3 bathroom is challenging for modern families. So within the
- 4 dormer guidelines, we were able to have a proper head height
- 5 for a stair, and also a bathroom on that floor.
- 6 Onto the next slide?
- 7 Again, this is showing you the existing condition
- 8 on the left-hand side. And so, as you'll see is typical
- 9 with these sloped rooves, you have a significant portion of
- 10 the size of the property being less than five feet, and if
- 11 you look at the stair, as I was talking about, that stair
- 12 coming up from the second and the third floor, that is where
- 13 you have extremely low head height.
- So if you look at the roof plan, you'll notice
- 15 that the dormer on the right hand side is closer to the edge
- 16 of the property than the dormer on the left-hand side. And
- 17 that is because in order to capture the stair, the dormer on
- 18 the right hand side needed to be closer to the edge of the
- 19 property. And again, that is to be able to achieve good
- 20 head he is plan.
- 21 As you'll see, the bedrooms still have the five-
- 22 foot condition on the front and the back. That's not going

- 1 to change.
- 2 So these are going to be -- they're going to feel
- 3 like kids' bedrooms. You're going to have -- you know,
- 4 sufficient head height in the middle, but it is going to get
- 5 lower in the wings and that is not going to change.
- 6 Primarily what we're doing is focusing on that primary
- 7 living space and activating that with a playroom, bathroom,
- 8 and then room for the stairs going up from the second to the
- 9 third floor.
- But the bedrooms and the wing walls of 5 feet are
- 11 going to remain in place.
- 12 Next slide, please?
- 13 Again, so this is a depiction of the finished
- 14 space, and this is a better view of it. And as I mentioned,
- 15 the front and back bedrooms, which are existing, are going
- 16 to stay largely unchanged, just painting and sanding the
- 17 floor. But the dormers are going to achieve good head
- 18 height and living space.
- 19 Next slide, please?
- 20 So this is a picture, an elevation showing what
- 21 the finished dormer would look like. Again, you know, you
- 22 won't necessarily be able to see the dormers from this view,

- 1 but from this view and the elevation, you can see how they
- 2 are slightly scaled to the right-hand side to be able to
- 3 capture that stair.
- But also too -- and I will see -- what I did is if
- 5 you look on the street, and it is a great, street as many of
- 6 you who know who live in this area, there is a series and
- 7 pattern of development that had dormers -- on High Street,
- 8 on Home Street, and also, on Parker Ave.
- 9 In preparation for this application, I sent
- 10 letters to the neighbors and abutters. One of our closest
- 11 abutters is the house on the left-hand side, that 34 High
- 12 Street.
- The windows that are required as part of the
- 14 glazing requirement was looking onto that house. That house
- 15 also has a pretty big dormer on itself. But again, we have
- 16 support from that side, and that was really the side where
- 17 it would have the largest impact, due to their house being
- 18 directly on the property line.
- But there is a letter in the file supporting the
- 20 dormers there.
- Next slide, please?
- 22 Again, this is a rear elevation. Again, just

- 1 showing what it's going to look like from the rear. And
- 2 then if we skip two slides -- we don't have to go through
- 3 each of them -- these are just some photos. So this right
- 4 here, this is a -- so this is a photo of the abutter that I
- 5 mentioned. Right there, okay.
- So the house on the right is the yellow house.
- 7 That's High Street, and this is the abutter on the left-hand
- 8 side, who also had a dormer, who had supported the
- 9 application.
- Next slide, please?
- This is just some context photos. This is Home
- 12 Street, and you can see the back of 38 High Street in
- 13 between these two houses. But if you look at this, the
- 14 house with the vinyl siding in your purview, you can see
- 15 that there's a pretty large dormer on both houses, on the
- 16 left and on the right.
- Go to the next slide, please? I don't know, my
- 18 screen is not showing the next slide. But again, these are
- 19 just further examples -- thank you -- of dormers that are
- 20 within the block of 38-40 High Street.
- So again, this is a great family neighborhood. It
- 22 is on a quaint street, and with the new park that's coming

- 1 on Huron Ave, in close proximity to many amenities that were
- 2 made for families, I believe that this four-bedroom, now
- 3 two-bath would serve the occupants of this unit for years to
- 4 come. And I think it's an appropriate request, given the
- 5 character of the neighborhood.
- 6 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Thank you. Any questions by
- 7 Members of the Board? Andrea?
- 8 ANDREA HICKEY: No questions.
- 9 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Jim?
- 10 JIM MONTEVERDE: No questions.
- 11 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Slater?
- 12 SLATER ANDERSON: [Silence]
- BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Janet?
- 14 JANET GREEN: No questions.
- BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Okay. Let me open it to public
- 16 comment. Any member of the public who wishes to speak
- 17 should now click the button that says, "Participants" and
- 18 then click the button that says, "Raise hand." If you are
- 19 calling in by phone, you can raise your hand by pressing *9
- 20 and unmute or mute by pressing *6.
- 21 [Pause]
- There appears to be nobody calling in. We are in

- 1 receipt of a letter from Lissa Galluccio (phonetic).
- 2 "I am writing in reference to the above zoning
- 3 request for 38-40 High Street. I am the owner of 34 High
- 4 Street, and the direct neighbor. Sean Hope has shared the
- 5 plans with me for the dormer on the third floor, and I have
- 6 no issue with the dormer at all. If you have any questions,
- 7 feel free to contact me.
- 8 Lissa Galluccio."
- 9 That is the sum and substance of any
- 10 correspondence. I will close the public comment part. Mr.
- 11 Hope, any other words to say?
- 12 SEAN HOPE: No additional words.
- BRENDAN SULLIVAN: All right. Any questions by
- 14 the Board or on the motion before us?
- 15 JIM MONTEVERDE: Motion is good.
- 16 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Okay.
- JANET GREEN: I have no questions.
- 18 ANDREA HICKEY: Ready for a motion.
- 19 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Let me make a motion then to
- 20 grant the relief requested, as per the drawings and the
- 21 supporting documents. The Board finds that a literal
- 22 enforcement of the provisions of the ordinance would involve

- 1 a substantial hardship to the petitioner.
- 2 The Board finds that the structure was built in
- 3 1926, prior to the enactment of the current zoning
- 4 ordinance, which govern the Residence B districts, in which
- 5 this property is located, and is therefore encumbered by the
- 6 current ordinances.
- 7 The hardship is owing to the nonconforming size of
- 8 the lot, the siting of the structure on the lot, and
- 9 creating additional nonconformities to the ordinance.
- 10 Additionally, the current building code dictates how
- 11 remedial actions need to be addressed, and the building of
- 12 the dormer within the side yard setback, with proper
- 13 headroom on the right side of the building will address that
- 14 issue.
- 15 Relief may be granted without substantial
- 16 detriment to the public good, because the proposed
- 17 renovation of the structure is considered consistent with
- 18 other such renovations in the area, and better brings the
- 19 housing up to contemporary standards for families to occupy
- 20 them.
- 21 Relief may be granted without substantial
- 22 detriment to the public good, or nullifying or substantially

- 1 derogating from the intent and purpose of the ordinance,
- 2 which is to provide adequate housing for persons of all
- 3 income levels, allow for adequate light and air within the
- 4 structure, allow for the renovation of existing housing to
- 5 remedy noncompliance with the state building code to provide
- 6 safe access and egress to floors -- in this case the third
- 7 floor, and adequately and adequate sanitary code compliance,
- 8 and the preservation of land and structures.
- 9 The Board finds that it would not derogate from
- 10 the intent and purpose of the ordinance, and in fact would
- 11 enhance the purpose of the ordinance. All those in favor of
- 12 granting the relief requested? Andrea?
- ANDREA HICKEY: Andrea Hickey, yes, I'm in favor.
- 14 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Jim?
- 15 JIM MONTEVERDE: In favor.
- 16 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Slater?
- 17 SLATER ANDERSON: In favor.
- 18 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Janet?
- 19 [Pause]
- 20 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Janet?
- 21 [Pause]
- BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Do I hear a yes?

```
JANET GREEN: In favor.
 1
 2
              BRENDAN SULLIVAN: I hear a yes.
              BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Brendan Sullivan yes; granting
 3
    the relief on the condition that the work comply in
 4
    conformance with the drawings submitted and the supporting
 5
 6
    documents.
 7
              [All vote YES]
              On a 5:0 vote the variance is granted.
 8
              COLLECTIVE: Thank you so much. Thank you.
 9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
```

1 * * * * *

- 2 (9:05 p.m.)
- 3 Sitting Members: Brendan Sullivan, Janet Green, Andrea A.
- 4 Hickey, Jim Monteverde, Slater W. Anderson
- 5 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Okay, the last case. I will
- 6 now call Case Number 017310, 118R Industrial Park Way.
- 7 Anybody from Industrial Park Way?
- DANIL KLASNICK: Hi, good evening?
- 9 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Danny Klasnick?
- 10 DANIEL KLASNICK: Yeah, I'm trying to. Can you
- 11 hear me okay?
- BRENDAN SULLIVAN: We can hear you; I don't know
- 13 if we can see you.
- DANIEL KLASNICK: I'm trying to turn my video on.
- 15 For some reason, it won't turn on. But if you can hear me -
- 16 oh, there I am.
- 17 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: There you are.
- JANET GREEN: Oh, there you are.
- 19 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Okay. If you would introduce
- 20 yourself for the record?
- DANIEL KLASNICK: Good evening. My name is Daniel
- 22 Klasnick. I'm with the law firm of Duval and Klasnick. We

- 1 have offices at 210 Broadway in the lovely town of
- 2 Lynnfield, Massachusetts.
- I represent Verizon Wireless in its proposal to
- 4 modify it's existing facility that's located on the Boston
- 5 Sand and Gravel batching plant.
- I think we're probably all familiar with this. We
- 7 drive by in on the expressway, perhaps don't give it much
- 8 thought. But it's a good location for Verizon Wireless
- 9 installation.
- Just by way of a little background, the
- 11 installation was originally approved by special permit in
- 12 1997, with a subsequent approved modification in 2016 by
- 13 proposing to modify its equipment with Verizon Wireless
- 14 doing its documented approach that uses its existing
- 15 infrastructure to address demand that's being placed upon
- 16 its notwithstanding.
- 17 Through this qualified Section 5409(a) eligible
- 18 facility modification request, we did submit a detailed
- 19 application for a special permit -- a detailed project
- 20 narrative that describes all aspects of the facility and
- 21 finds the Section 6409 as well as the ordinance for special
- 22 permit, as a set of stamped plans, and photo simulations,

- 1 RFCT licenses and copies of the prior decision.
- 2 If we could please just move down to sheet 32 of
- 3 the provided plans, if that's possible, please?
- 4 This gives you a bird's eye view of the top slide
- 5 -- the top portion of the existing layout. Verizon Wireless
- 6 currently has 11 antennas installed on the side of the
- 7 vacuum plant.
- As part of this proposal, what it will be doing is
- 9 just removing eight of these existing antennas, retaining
- 10 three antennas. In its place it will install 10 antennas.
- 11 So when it's all completed, there will be a total of 13
- 12 antennas, which will consist of -- if you look at the bottom
- 13 slide -- of the Alpha sector designated five antennas, the
- 14 Beta sector three antennas, and again the Section Five
- 15 antennas. All the equipment will have, will match the
- 16 existing color of the batch plant.
- 17 We also provided -- if we could please just move
- 18 down to the photo simulation -- in accordance with the
- 19 ordinance. We provided four separate photo simulations, as
- 20 an example.
- 21 Well, as we're doing that, I would just say once
- 22 again the purpose of the modification is really an integral

- 1 part of Verizon Wireless network, to improve reliability of
- 2 voice and Internet service for those Cambridge residents and
- 3 commuters.
- 4 The modification of the existing facility is
- 5 highly advantageous, to both the community and to allow
- 6 Verizon Wireless to address this network's coverage
- 7 requirement.
- 8 We do respectfully submit the proposed
- 9 modification satisfies the standards for an eligible
- 10 facility requirement for Section 64.9, as it does not
- 11 involve any substantial change to eligible support
- 12 structure.
- 13 As noted in the application, the proposed
- 14 modification meets all the criteria of the Federal
- 15 Communications Commission's rules.
- In addition, I -- we did detail in there
- 17 satisfaction of your special permit standards. So if we
- 18 can't get the photo simulations, it's basically going to
- 19 look like it does now -- albeit Dennis covered -- oh, here
- 20 we go.
- 21 This first one on the left is the existing view of
- 22 the batching plant. The right shows the Alpha and Gamma

- 1 structures that were shown in the plan before. Once again,
- 2 everything could be masked to the extent it can. It's
- 3 looking at the existing.
- The next slide, if you could, please? shows one of
- 5 the -- this is the actual Gamma sector again, on the left
- 6 side of the existing view and the right side of the
- 7 proposed. But again, it's not something that's going to be
- 8 visibly -- a visible change.
- 9 Please, the next slide? Represents the -- see
- 10 this would be the video sector, the four antenna sector,
- 11 this would be the side of the once we get everything
- 12 designed to match the as the existing.
- 13 And then the final slide of the photo simulation
- 14 -- residential, and just the Alpha sector antenna.
- 15 So as I had already said, the purpose for this
- 16 facility and the satisfaction of both the 6409(a)
- 17 conception] and the ordinance standard, we would
- 18 respectfully this program modification. Thank you very
- 19 much.
- 20 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Okay. Any questions by members
- 21 of the Board?
- JIM MONTEVERDE: No.

- 1 ANDREA HICKEY: No questions.
- 2 JANET GREEN: No questions.
- BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Okay. You're applying under
- 4 Article 4, Section 4.32. In reviewing a special permit
- 5 application for mobile communication facilities, in
- 6 particular the Board of Zoning Appeal shall consider the
- 7 following in reaching its determination: The scope of or
- 8 limitations imposed by any license secured to any state or
- 9 federal agency having jurisdiction over such matters. And
- 10 the submittal shows that there are no limitations.
- The extent to which the visual impact of the
- 12 various elements of the proposed facility is minimized
- 13 through the use of materials and texture and color to blend
- 14 in with the materials to which the facility are attached.
- 15 As a little aside here, we always struggle with
- 16 the -- how these things look on buildings. The building
- 17 could not be any worse, and that these things will have
- 18 absolutely no negative effect on that -- the look of that
- 19 building.
- 20 Other effective means to reduce the visual impact
- 21 of the facility from the site: I think you have -- I will
- 22 venture to say that you have probably done that by painting

- 1 them to the background color.
- In granting the special permit, the Board shall
- 3 set for this in its decision under which circumstances or
- 4 any procedure if any are permitted, should be allowed to
- 5 replace or upgrade its equipment without the necessity of
- 6 seeking a new special permit.
- 7 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Let me -- I think that the
- 8 submittals have addressed all of those issues. Let me open
- 9 it up to public comment. Any members of the public who wish
- 10 to speak should now click the button that says,
- 11 "Participants" and then click the button that says, "Raise
- 12 hand." If you're calling in by phone, you can raise your
- 13 hand by pressing *9 and unmute or mute by pressing *6.
- We'll give it a little bit.
- 15 [Pause]
- There appears to be nobody calling in. I will
- 17 close the public comment part of the hearing. Any questions
- 18 by -- Counselor, any final words in your presentation?
- 19 DANIEL KLASNICK: No, Mr. Chair.
- 20 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Nothing? Okay.
- 21 DANIEL KLASNICK: No.
- BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Any questions by members of the

- 1 Board, any comment, or shall I go to a motion.
- 2 ANDREA HICKEY: Motion.
- JIM MONTEVERDE: Motion, please.
- 4 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Okay.
- JANET GREEN: Motion.
- BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Let me make a motion then that
- 7 the Board -- make a motion then to grant the special permit
- 8 for the addition and relocation to the existing
- 9 telecommunication facility as per the drawings submitted,
- 10 the supporting documents and the photo simulations.
- 11 The Board -- it appears that the requirements of
- 12 the ordinance can be met, that traffic generated or patterns
- 13 of access or egress would not cause congestion, hazard, or
- 14 substantial change in the established neighborhood.
- The Board finds that continued operation of or
- 16 development of adjacent uses, as permitted in the ordinance,
- 17 would not be adversely affected by the nature of the
- 18 proposed use. There would not be any nuisance or hazard
- 19 created to the detriment of the health, safety and/or
- 20 welfare of the occupant of the proposed use, or to the
- 21 citizens of the city.
- It appears that the proposed use would not impair

- 1 the integrity of the district or adjoining district or
- 2 otherwise derogate from the intent and purpose of the
- 3 ordinance.
- 4 The Board finds that there is an existing facility
- 5 at the premise; that this is an enhancement to that
- 6 facility, which only benefits the general public by the
- 7 modifications as such.
- 8 The Board finds that the modifications of its
- 9 existing telecommunication facility at the site does not
- 10 substantially change the physical dimension of the existing
- 11 wireless tower or bay station as such a facility within the
- 12 meaning of Section 6409 of the Middle Class Tax Relief and
- 13 Job Creation Act of 2012, also known as the Spectrum Act.
- 14 Based on the finding, the Chair moves that the
- 15 petition be granted the special permit it is seeking,
- 16 subject to the following conditions: That the work proceed
- 17 in accordance with the plans submitted by the petitioner,
- 18 and initialed by the Chair.
- 19 That upon completion of the work, the physical
- 20 appearance and visual impact of the proposed work will be
- 21 consistent with the photo simulations submitted by the
- 22 petitioner, and initialed by the Chair.

- 1 That the petitioner shall at all times maintain
- 2 the proposed work, so that its physical appearance and
- 3 visual impact will remain consistent with the photo
- 4 simulations previously referred to.
- 5 That should the petitioner cease to utilize the
- 6 equipment approved tonight for a continuous period of six
- 7 months or more, it shall promptly thereafter remove such
- 8 equipment and restore the building on which it is located to
- 9 its prior condition and appearance, to the extent reasonably
- 10 practical.
- 11 That the petitioner is in compliance with and will
- 12 continue to comply in all aspects the conditions imposed by
- 13 this Board with regard to previous special permits granted
- 14 to the petitioner with regard to the site in question.
- 15 Also in as much as the health effects of the
- 16 transmission of electromagnetic energy waves is a matter of
- 17 ongoing societal concern and scientific study, the special
- 18 permit is also subject to the following conditions:
- 19 That the petitioner shall file with the
- 20 Inspectional Service Department each report it files with
- 21 the federal authorities regarding electromagnetic energy
- 22 wave emissions, emitting from all of the petitioner's

- 1 equipment on the site.
- 2 Each such report shall be filed with the
- 3 Inspectional Services Department no later than 10 business
- 4 days after the report has been filed with the federal
- 5 authorities. Failure to timely file any such report with
- 6 the Inspectional Services Department shall ipso facto
- 7 terminate the special permit granted tonight.
- 8 That in the effect (sic) that at any time federal
- 9 authorities notify the petitioner that its equipment on the
- 10 site -- including but not limited to the special permit
- 11 granted tonight -- fails to comply with the requirements of
- 12 law, or governmental regulations -- whether with regard to
- 13 the emissions of electromagnetic energy waves or otherwise -
- 14 the petitioner within 10 business days of receipt of such
- 15 notification of such failure, shall file with the
- 16 Inspectional Services Department a report disclosing in
- 17 reasonable detail that such failure has occurred, and the
- 18 basis of such claimed failure, the special permit granted
- 19 tonight shall ipso facto terminate if any petitioner's
- 20 license is or are suspended, revoked or terminated.
- 21 That to the extent that a special permit has
- 22 terminated pursuant to the foregoing paragraphs a) and b),

- 1 the petitioner may apply to this Board for a new special
- 2 permit, provided that the Public Notice concerning such
- 3 application discloses in reasonable detail that the
- 4 application has been filed because of a termination of
- 5 special permit, pursuant to paragraph a) or b) above.
- Any such new application shall not be deemed a
- 7 repetitive petition, and therefore will not be subject to
- 8 the two-year period during which competitive petitions may
- 9 not be filed.
- 10 That within 10 business days after receipt of a
- 11 building permit for the installation of the equipment,
- 12 subject to this petition, the petitioner shall file with the
- 13 Inspectional Service Department a sworn affidavit of a
- 14 person in charge of the installation of the equipment by the
- 15 petitioner with a geographical area that includes Cambridge,
- 16 stating that a) he or she has such responsibility, and b)
- 17 that the equipment being installed pursuant to the special
- 18 permit we are granting tonight will comply with all federal
- 19 safety rules and be situated and maintained in locations
- 20 with appropriate barricades and other protections, such that
- 21 individuals including nearby residents and occupants of
- 22 nearby structures will be sufficiently protected from

- 1 excavate radiofrequency radiation under federal law.
- 2 That is the motion. On the motion to grant the
- 3 special permit as per the application submitted, Andrea
- 4 Hickey?
- 5 ANDREA HICKEY: Yes, I vote in favor.
- 6 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Jim Monteverde?
- JIM MONTEVERDE: I vote in favor.
- 8 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Slater Anderson?
- 9 SLATER ANDERSON: I vote in favor.
- 10 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Janet Green?
- 11 JANET GREEN: I vote in favor.
- 12 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Brendan Sullivan in the
- 13 affirmative.
- 14 [All vote YES]
- 15 It's granted on the vote of five members for and 0
- 16 against. Special permit granted.
- DANIEL KLASNICK: Greatly appreciate it. Have a
- 18 great evening.
- 19 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Thank you, Counselor. Good
- 20 presentation. That's it!
- 21 ANDREA HICKEY: Excellent job, Brendan. Very well
- 22 done.

```
JANET GREEN: Thank you, Brendan.
 1
2
              BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Thank you for the support.
3
    [Collective goodbyes]
    [09:21 p.m. End of Proceedings]
4
5
 6
 7
 8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
```

1	CERTIFICATE
2	Commonwealth of Massachusetts
3	Middlesex, ss.
4	I, Catherine Burns, Notary Public in and for the
5	Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby certify that the
6	above transcript is a true record, to the best of my
7	ability, of the proceedings.
8	I further certify that I am neither related to nor
9	employed by any of the parties in or counsel to this action
L 0	nor am I financially interested in the outcome of this
1	action.
12	In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this
13	, day of, 2020.
L 4	
15	
16	Notary Public
L7	My commission expires:
8	August 6, 2021
L 9	
20	
21	