BOARD OF ZONING APPEAL FOR THE CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

GENERAL HEARING

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2021
6:00 p.m.
Remote Meeting
via
831 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Constantine Alexander, Chair Brendan Sullivan, Vice Chair Andrea A. Hickey Matina Williams Jason Marshall

> City Employees Sisia Daglian



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CONTINUED CASES	
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Original Hearing Date: 01/14/21	
NOT HEARD	
6:00 P.M. CASE: BZA-102564 2485 MASS AVENUE	14
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7:15 P.M. CASE NO. BZA-106354 33 BRISTOL STREET	65
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8:00 P.M. CASE NO. BZA-106913 33 GORE STREET	102
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1 PROCEEDINGS 2 3 (6:00 p.m.)4 Sitting Members: Constantine Alexander, Brendan Sullivan, 5 Andrea A. Hickey, Matina Williams and Jason Marshall 6 7 CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: I'm going to welcome 8 everybody to our meeting of the Cambridge Board of Zoning 9 Appeals. My name is Gus Alexander, and I am the Chair. 10 This meeting is being held remotely, due to 11 statewide emergency orders limiting the size of public gatherings in response to COVID-19, and in accordance with 12 13 Governor Charles D. Baker's Executive Order temporarily 14 amending certain requirements of the Open Meeting Law, as 15 well as the City of Cambridge temporary emergency 16 restrictions on city meetings, city events, and city 17 permitted events, due to COVID-19, dated May 27, 2020. 18 This meeting is being video and audio recorded, 19 and is broadcast on cable television Channel 22, within 20 Cambridge. In due course there will also be a transcript of 21 the public proceedings.

All Board members, applicants, and members of the

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1
    public will state their name before speaking. All votes
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    will be taken by roll call.
 3
                All members of the public will be kept on mute
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    until it is time for public comment. I will give
 5
     instructions for public comment at that time, and you can
 6
    also find instructions on the city's webpage for remote BZA
7
    meetings.
8
               Generally, you'll have up to three minutes to
9
     speak, but this could change up or down depending on the
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     circumstances. I'll start by asking the Staff to take Board
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    member attendance and verify that all members are audible.
12
               SISIA DAGLIAN: Matina Williams?
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               MATINA WILLIAMS: Present.
               SISIA DAGLIAN: Jason Marshall?
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15
               JASON MARSHALL: Hi, Sisia. It's Jason Marshall,
16
    here.
17
               SISIA DAGLIAN: Okay. Andrea Hickey?
18
               ANDREA HICKEY: Andrea Hickey present.
19
               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Brendan's here.
20
               SISIA DAGLIAN: Brendan? Yeah.
21
               BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Brendan Sullivan.
22
               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: And I'm here.
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BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Present and audible.

CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Okay. We have two

continued cases to start the meeting off. We'll do those

5 continued cases, we'll take a recess until 6:30, when we'll

first. If we finish before 6:30 -- if we finish with the

6 start our regular meeting. If we run over, we're not

finished with the continued cases by 6:30, we'll finish up

8 | the continued cases and then start our regular meeting.

1 2 (6:03 p.m.)3 Sitting Members: Constantine Alexander, Brendan Sullivan, 4 Andrea A. Hickey, Matina Williams and 5 Jason Marshall 6 CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: With that by the way of 7 background, I'm going to call Case Number 100817 -- 56 Churchill Avenue. Anyone here wish to be heard on this 8 matter? 9 10 [Pause] 11 Are they there? If someone's here on this matter, 12 could you please identify yourself? 13 DAN WALSH: Can you hear me now? Dan Walsh? CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Now I can hear you, yes. 14 15 DAN WALSH: Okay, good, thank you. Yes, my name 16 is Dan Walsh. Good evening. I'm from Lux Renovations. We 17 are looking for a lead from Article 2, Section 2.16 for FAR 18 to extend living space for a growing family at 56 Churchill 19 Ave. 20 CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Excuse me, sir. 21 DAN WALSH: Do we --22 CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Excuse me.

1 DAN WALSH: Sure.

CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: I want to stop you right here. The application -- this case started a while back --

DAN WALSH: Yeah.

CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: -- and we continued the case because there was no notice posted, as required by our ordinance, and as every other person who was going to be heard that night complied with. We continued the case until tonight. I look at the file, there's nothing in it.

The dimensional form has not been completed. The supporting statements for a special permit have not been completed -- the lawyers wrote, "N/A" -- and since this is a condo, I don't see anything on file from the condo association supporting or opposing the proposed relief.

So based upon all this, I'm going to talk about continue this case again, and hopefully by the time we have it again, you or your client will put together a completed application and not what we have right now, which is a nonapplication.

If we continue the case for a month, do we have any room, Sisia?

What date is that, again?

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1
               SISIA DAGLIAN: A month would be March 25, yeah.
 2
               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Okay. The Chair moves
 3
     that we continue this case as a case -- well, first before I
 4
     do that, so do you understand what I've just said and what
     has to be done?
 5
 6
               DAN WALSH: No, I don't understand what needs to
 7
               I'll have to do some research on what needs to be
 8
     completed with this.
 9
               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER:
                                       Okay. You'll have to --
10
     you'll see in a second when I make my motion, you'll have to
11
     post a sign with a new hearing date in two weeks. So that
12
     gives you two weeks. If we do it to March 25, you've got
     two weeks to get up to speed -- well, you don't really have
13
14
     to be up to speed to post a sign, but will March 25 --
15
               DAN WALSH: Can I just change the -- excuse me,
16
     can I just change the date on the existing sign, or do I
17
     need to pick up a new sign?
18
               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Yeah. I'm going to get to
19
     that, but yes, you can.
20
               DAN WALSH: Okay, okay.
21
               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: That's -- you don't have
22
     to get a new sign, that is correct. So -- and March 25,
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1 that's acceptable for you too? 2 DAN WALSH: Yes. CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: 3 Okay. The Chair moves that this case be continued until 6:00 p.m. on March 25, 4 5 subject to the: 6 One, that the petitioner sign a waiver of time for decision. And that has been done in connection with the 7 8 prior continued, so that has been taken care of. Two, that a new sign must be posted and maintained 9 10 for the 14 days required by our ordinance. And by "new" it 11 is entirely sufficient you take the current sign and use a magic marker and change the date and -- you don't even have 12 to change the time, I think it's 6:00 now -- so change it so 13 14 that it corresponds to the new date and time. 15

And again, that has to be maintained for the 14 days required by our ordinance.

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And lastly, to the extent there are any new or modified plans, you're going to change what's in our files now, those changes must be in our files no later than 5:00 p.m. on the Monday before March 25.

One other thing, sir, this is a condominium. We need a document in our files that shows that the condominium

supports or opposes -- one way or another we need a communication from the condo association, presumably from the Trustees with regard to this matter. And again, that must be in our files no later than 5:00 p.m. on the Monday before March 25.

Are any other questions I can answer for you right now, since there seems to be a little bit of confusion about what has to be done and how this process works?

DAN WALSH: I'm going to have to do research on it. I'm not aware of it. I've only done the appeals in Boston, and this is how I've performed with them before. So if this is a little different, I'm going to have to do some research on how it's done.

CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Well, if you have some questions, reach out to the Inspectional Services

Department, and there will be folks there who can try to help --

DAN WALSH: I appreciate that, thank you.

CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Okay. Seems to me there was something else I was going to mention, but it's escaped me. All right. I think we're all set. We're going to take a vote. Brendan?

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1
               BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Brendan Sullivan yes to the
    continuance.
2
 3
               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Matina?
 4
               MATINA WILLIAMS: Matina Williams yes to the
 5
    continuance.
 6
               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Andrea?
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               ANDREA HICKEY: Andrea Hickey yes to the
8
    continuance.
               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Jason?
9
10
               JASON MARSHALL: Jason Marshall yes to the
11
    continuance.
12
               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: And the Chair votes yes to
13
    the continuance as well.
14
               [All vote YES]
15
               So this case is continued until 6:00 p.m. on March
16
    25, subject to compliance with the conditions that I've
17
    previously enumerated.
18
               [CASE CONTINUED]
19
               BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Mr. Chairman, this is Brendan
20
    Sullivan. Dan, are you still there?
               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Hello?
21
22
               BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Dan, are you still there? He's
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1
     off. Okay. Yeah, that's --
 2
               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: All right. We'll move on
 3
     to our next case.
 4
               The Chair will call --
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               DAN WALSH: Sir, I am still here. I just -- I
 6
     just -- I don't know if you can hear me?
 7
               BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Oh, I'm sorry. Dan, you are
     still there? Okay.
 8
 9
               DAN WALSH: I am still here, I'm sorry.
10
               BRENDAN SULLIVAN: This is Brendan Sullivan.
                                                             Ιf
11
     you go on the city website --
12
               DAN WALSH: Okav.
13
               BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Cambridge Mass -- link onto,
     "Inspectional Services," there will be a link then there to
14
15
     the Board of Zoning Appeal. And it'll also highlight
16
     tonight's meeting, continued cases. If you click onto that,
17
     there will be your file there, public record. You may want
18
     to download that unless you have a file in front of you, the
     completed file.
19
20
               You will see that there are two forms there that
     Mr. Alexander referenced. One is the dimensional form which
21
22
    needs to be filled out, and the other one would be the
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1
     supporting statements as to basically why we should grant
     you the relief being requested. So it's those two forms
2
 3
     that are ostensibly blank that need to be filled in.
               So if you download, you will see those two pages
 4
     that need to be filled in, if that's a little bit more of an
 5
     explanation as to what's going on.
 6
7
               DAN WALSH: I appreciate that info. Thank you
8
    very much.
9
               BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Great.
10
               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: And one other thing, I
11
     just want to alert you to the fact that if we should grant
     the zoning relief that you're seeking, it doesn't
12
     automatically mean that you can proceed with the project;
13
     you're going to have to go back to the Inspectional Services
14
15
     Department.
16
               Because I think there are some issues -- not
17
     zoning issues -- you're going to have to work out with them.
18
     You might as well start having a dialogue, I suggest, before
    March 25, but I'll leave that up to you.
19
20
               DAN WALSH: All right, thank you.
               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Thank you. Now, at last
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22

we'll move on to the next case.

1 2 (6:11 p.m.) 3 Sitting Members: Constantine Alexander, Brendan Sullivan, 4 Andrea A. Hickey, Matina Williams and 5 Jason Marshall CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: The Chair will call Case 6 Number 102564 -- 2485 Massachusetts Avenue. Anyone wishing 7 8 to be heard on this matter? JAMES RAFFERTY: Yeah. Good evening Mr. Chairman 9 10 and members of the Board. James Rafferty on behalf of the 11 applicant, Henley Enterprises. Also on the Zoom meeting 12 tonight is Randolph Kazazian -- K-a-z-a-z-i-a-n. He is with 13 the operator Henley Enterprises. 14 CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Thank you. I take it the 15 case before us tonight is simply a matter of eliminating the 16 five-year time limit that was part of the conditions for the 17 prior special permit we granted? 18 JAMES RAFFERTY: That's essentially correct, Mr. 19 Chair. Valvoline has operated at this location, believe it 20 or not, for 20 years. 21 CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: I believe it. 22 JAMES RAFFERTY: And it has received a series of

special permits. But each of those special permits have had time limitations imposed upon them. Five years ago, when we were last before the Commission --

CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: The Board.

JAMES RAFFERTY: -- there were some issues raised about the -- some lighting issues, some signage issues, and some landscape issues. And the compliance or correction of those items was set forth in the decision five years ago, and the Board directed the applicant to comply.

And those restrictions and conditions have been complied with for the past five years, and the applicant now seeks to continue the special permit, and would ask that the Board give consideration to moving this special permit into the category of nearly all other special permits insofar as they're not required to return and renew.

CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Okay. I'm sorry we're going to cost you -- if we grant you the relief you're seeking -- an annuity, which you've had every five years.

JAMES RAFFERTY: That has not gone unnoticed by me. My wife pointed that out to me. She enjoys when I'm out of the house and making money, so -- but I'm not sure that it's necessary with this applicant.

1 Their history at this location is one where they 2 have demonstrated compatibility with surrounding uses. And 3 I'm hoping the Board would consider the 20-year track record here as adequate to allow the special permit to continue. 4 5 CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: As a point of fact, our 6 files reveal no complaints in the past years -- I don't know if it goes back as far as '20 -- on failure to comply with 7 8 the conditions. So your point is well taken. 9 JAMES RAFFERTY: Thank you. 10 CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: I have no questions. 11 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Brendan Sullivan no questions. 12 CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Brendan has no questions. 13 Andrea? ANDREA HICKEY: No questions. 14 15 CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Matina? 16 MATINA WILLIAMS: No questions. 17 CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Jason? 18 JASON MARSHALL: Jason Marshall no questions. 19 CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Okay. I will now open the matter up -- we have no correspondence either in the files, 20 21 so I'll just open the matter up to public testimony, and 22 this is how it works.

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Any members of the public who wish to speak should now click the icon at the bottom of your Zoom screen that says, "Raise hand." If you're calling in by phone, you can raise your hand by pressing *9 and unmute or mute by pressing *6. So I'll take a few minutes to see if anyone wishes to communicate with us.

[Pause]

SISIA DAGLIAN: Michael Brandon.

CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Mr. Brandon?

MICHAEL BRANDON: Good evening, good evening.

This is Michael Brandon. I'm the Clerk through the North

Cambridge Stabilization Committee. Thank you for hearing

me. Unfortunately, I just had a computer problem. I had a

nice, short, prepared statement for you, but I can't see it

now. So I'll just wing it.

Over the years, the 20 years that this is has preceded, there have been improvements made at the time of the renewal to correct situations where the conditions have not been fully complied with. Additional conditions have been added by the Board to reflect changes in operations.

Oh, gosh. There are -- noncompliant signs were removed -- actually, if you look in the application, Mr.

Rafferty I think mistakenly included an old photograph that showed some of the signs, but really were not desirable, and possibly not complying with our sign ordinance.

So, you know, with input from the neighbors, that's going to improve -- the signs have been improved greatly over the years.

It is located within the North Cambridge -- I'm sorry, the North Mass Ave Overlay District, the property.

And that prohibits new automotive uses. It was put in I believe in the mid-80s, because this section of Mass Ave had a whole bunch of kind of seedy, run-down filling stations, used car lots, open -- abandoned buildings.

So over the years, it's been greatly improved.

There were huge pylon signs, but you folks might remember

"Boyles By-Right" (phonetic) Liquor, which had this giant
highway-style sign.

So this part of the avenue has been greatly improved, partly through these periodic check-ins. And I had hoped to send you -- I had hoped to send you copies of the previous extensions -- the Board's decisions, so you could review the actual conditions that are -- remain, and -- well, presumably those would remain if you do remove a

time limit.

But we would ask that you keep it there -- in fact I think if you look -- and I have to say that Mr. Kazazian and certainly Mr. Rafferty and Don (phonetic) Smith, who I believe is the owner of the franchise, or the company -- yeah, that's been very helpful when we raise issues to work them out.

And when we point out noncompliance with the existing conditions to correct it, and make the site more compatible with the surrounding residential neighborhood and more --

CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Mr. Brandon, let me cut you off right there. It's very nice what you're saying, but it's irrelevant to what's before us tonight. Mr. Rafferty on behalf of his client is not seeking any reduction or change in the current conditions.

JAMES RAFFERTY: Correct.

CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Which as far as I know, there have been no complaints filed with the Building Department. We're simply eliminating the need every five years or some other time frame to come back.

If we grant the relief tonight -- and I propose to

make the motion -- these current conditions will stay unaffected. And so, there's no need to be concerned about this or to have a statement. It's just a matter -- if you want the petitioner to every five years or some other time frame to come back?

And I think with a 20-year track record that you just acknowledged of good citizenship and compliance with conditions that have been imposed, I see no reason not to continue -- to continue, I'm sorry -- no reason to continue an artificial time limit.

I think my position -- and I'm going to propose to my fellow Board members -- is just eliminate the five-year time frame. The conditions that are there now will stay. End of story.

MICHAEL BRANDON: Well, I guess I didn't make my point clear, I guess, is that the part -- although they have been cooperative and -- you know, I don't think they're deliberately -- you know, trying to not comply, but, you know, over time management changed, managers changed, and so forth, you know?

So, you know, one time there were issues with inadequate smoke clearance on the sidewalks.

CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Mr. Brandon, you're not hearing me. If we grant a special permit for any project, it's based on the conditions that are before us. If thereafter there have been changes, it's not a matter of having a whole new special permit application, you complain or petition the Building Department to look into it.

And if they agree that what is a new practice is a violation of our ordinance, the petitioner will have to come back and seek a new special permit.

But that's it. I mean, it's not -- what you're talking about has nothing to do with the case before us tonight.

MICHAEL BRANDON: Well, excuse me, but the reason the Board extended it to -- you know, previously, I think this would be the third extension -- was precisely, you know, I mean what you're saying applied the first time they applied.

Also, you know, I don't want to get into an adversarial relationship with this business -- you know, where we have to go file complaints -- you know, when, you know, every five years you know, I don't know if the -- Mr. Rafferty is considering retirement, but maybe that would be

the next -- if he has any projection that would be appropriate. One time it was extended for 10 years -- I think that's excessive.

But for instance now, you know, if you go through what are the existing conditions? I think one of the conditions dates back from the original permit that --

CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Mr. Brandon, one more time, we're not talking about the other conditions. Mr. Rafferty's not seeking any relief from them, there have been no complaints filed for failure to comply with them. What you're talking about is not relevant to tonight.

And I'm going to end this conversation; we have a long night ahead of us.

MICHAEL BRANDON: I'm sorry, maybe some of the other Boards will recall -- you know, who have been around for that long -- will recall how the processes work. What you're going to do is force it into an adversarial process.

For instance -- if you'd let me finish my sentence
-- I think that one of the original conditions on the
original permit -- and no, the earlier conditions were
always I called when it was removed, but one that I think
has slipped by may have been the hours of opening.

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1
     Originally, it was a negotiation and the permit -- you're
 2
     closed on Sunday.
 3
               UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Not true.
               MICHAEL BRANDON: Well, I think -- is that not
 4
     true, did somebody say? I'm sorry, but -- anyway, so, you
 5
 6
     know, what you're saying --
 7
               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Thank you, Mr. Brandon.
 8
     We're going to move on. Members of the Board, do you have
 9
     anybody -- anybody else wishes to be heard on this? Sisia,
     anybody else?
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11
               SISIA DAGLIAN: No. There's no one else.
12
               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Okay. There are no other
    persons wishing to speak. I'm sorry? Okay. And as I
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     indicated before, we have no written communications in our
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15
     files. So I'm going to close public testimony.
16
                Time for a discussion by Board members. Do you
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     want to discuss, or I can make a motion to grant the relief
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     that's being sought?
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               BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Brendan Sullivan - I would be
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     in favor of waiving the timeframe on this, and that the
     existing conditions, which have been placed will be in
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22
    effect, be made in effect -- that the conditions, the
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1
     granting of the special permit over the years -- remain in
2
     effect, basically.
 3
               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: So you want to have it
 4
     continued every five years?
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               BRENDAN SULLIVAN: No, no, the conditions imposed
 6
7
               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Oh, yeah, oh, yeah --
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               BRENDAN SULLIVAN: -- on the special permit.
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               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: -- no, I agree with that.
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               BRENDAN SULLIVAN: And I would waive the time --
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               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: There's no request to
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     change those conditions. If we grant the relief being
     sought tonight, those conditions will still apply, just as
13
14
     they've applied for the last several years.
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               JAMES RAFFERTY: Mr. Chair, might I suggest
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    perhaps a helpful amendment to the motion that would address
17
     this? Condition Number 6 in the current special permit says
18
     that the special permit would be limited to a five-year
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    period, following which the petitioner would need to
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     reappear before the Board for another special permit.
21
               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER:
                                       Right.
22
               JAMES RAFFERTY: I think what I hear the Board
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saying is to incorporate all of the prior conditions with
the exception of condition Number 6 that I just referred to.
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CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: That's the essence of what I'm saying, Mr. Rafferty. I'm just referring to it differently. We have existing conditions -- I think it's six, I think there's six -- we're going to eliminate one of them, if we vote as you requested -- we'll elimination one of them. The others will continue.

JAMES RAFFERTY: Understood. I think we're saying the same thing. Yes, thank you.

CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: I think we are saying the same thing. Brendan? Anything further you want to add?

BRENDAN SULLIVAN: No.

CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Andrea?

ANDREA HICKEY: No. I have nothing to add except that I agree with you, Mr. Chair, that there are other procedures; that there are issues with this property such as snow removal or trash, or they put up signs that are in violation of the sign ordinance.

There are procedures for those issues to be addressed. And renewing every five years -- really the special permit doesn't really do anything to -- in terms of

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1
     the neighborhood being sure that the property is properly
2
     operated.
 3
               So I do agree with you and I'm in favor of doing
 4
     away with the five-year recurring case.
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               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Thank you, Andrea.
                                                            Jason?
 6
               JASON MARSHALL: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I agree
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    with what's been said already. As usual, you've done the
8
    work for the Board, and I appreciate you clarifying the
    record.
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               In my view, I don't see anything in the file;
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     nothing that was heard tonight that provides a basis for
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     treating this particular applicant in such an atypical way
     and requiring a five-year renewal.
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14
               I don't think it helps, to the extent there's any
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     issues around noncompliance, which in any course would --
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     you know, and can be brought to Inspectional Services.
17
               So I would --
18
               UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'm going to state who I
19
     am; I'm going to --
20
               JAMES RAFFERTY: -- I, excuse me I hear somebody's
21
     is not on mute.
22
               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Who's talking in the
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background?

JAMES RAFFERTY: Okay, thank you. So I agree with the comments. I'd be inclined to support the motion that would remove the time limit and keep the existing conditions. Thank you.

CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Jason? Matina?

MATINA WILLIAMS: Yes, Mr. Williams. I also agree that we should be able to waive the five-year condition, as long as the other conditions stay in effect.

CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Thank you. Okay. I'm going to make a motion, and sort of introductory text. The petitioner is operating his business at 2485 Massachusetts Avenue, pursuant to a previously -- to a special permit previously granted by this Board.

Such special permit is hereby amended to eliminate its five-year term on the condition that the petitioner is currently in compliance with -- and will continue to be in compliance with -- all of other conditions of the existing special permit.

Brendan?

BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Yes to granting of the special permit and waiving the condition of the five years.

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1
               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Andrea?
              ANDREA HICKEY: Yes to granting the special permit
2
    and waiving the five-year condition.
 3
 4
               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Jason?
 5
               JASON MARSHALL: Yes to granting the special
    permit and waiving the five-year condition.
 6
               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Okay. And Matina?
7
8
              MATINA WILLIAMS: Yes to granting the -- waiving
    the five-year condition.
9
10
              CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: And the Chair votes
11
    likewise.
12
               [All vote YES]
13
               So relief granted. Thank you.
               JAMES RAFFERTY: Thank you, Madam Chair and
14
15
    members of the Board. Have a good evening.
16
              CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: I'm sorry?
17
               JAMES RAFFERTY: I said thank you and have a good
18
    evening.
19
              CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Oh.
20
               JAMES RAFFERTY: I think we'll see you later on,
21
    though.
22
              CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Yeah. We're going to hear
```

```
from you later on.
 1
               JAMES RAFFERTY: Yes. I'm looking forward to it.
 2
 3
     Thanks.
               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: We're not, but it's okay.
 4
 5
               JAMES RAFFERTY: Thank you.
 6
               SISIA DAGLIAN: Sure.
 7
               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: It's actually 6:30, so I
    think we can go to our regular agenda.
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
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1 2 (6:31 p.m.)3 Sitting Members: Constantine Alexander, Brendan Sullivan, 4 Andrea A. Hickey, Matina Williams and 5 Jason Marshall CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: The Chair will now call 6 7 Case Number 105802 -- 383 Windsor Street. Anyone here wishing to be heard on this matter? 8 9 ADAM GLASSMAN: Excuse me, I think the 6:30 was 31 10 High Street. Is that correct? 11 CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: I'm sorry, you're right. 12 I apologize. I withdraw that. I'm going to call Case 13 Number 105529 -- 31 High Street, #31. Now, anyone wish to be heard on this matter? 14 15 ADAM GLASSMAN: Good evening. Adam Glassman, and 16 office at 2 Worthington Street in Cambridge. And I'm here 17 with the homeowners, Aldo Sesia and his wife, Stacey Carouch 18 (phonetic) -- I think they're here with us. And they've got 19 an existing nonconforming structure. 20 It's a two-family home. They own the upstairs 21 condo, and they're looking to convert their attic into a 22 comfortable space, habitable space, by adding two 15-foot

```
1
     dormers, per the dormer guidelines. It would allow this
2
     family to be more comfortable in what are cramped conditions
    with grandchildren. And the existing --
 3
               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Mr. Glassman, does what
 4
     you're proposing comply in all respects with the dormer
 5
 6
     quidelines or not? I know it complies with the 15-foot
7
     requirement, assuming we --
8
              ADAM GLASSMAN: What we --
              CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: -- mini dormers.
9
10
              ADAM GLASSMAN: Well, the mini dormers are not --
11
     do not require zoning relief. So, you know, this allows
12
     them to get a little bit more headroom in their attic that -
     - the mini dormers start at the five-foot level, so they're
13
    not adding any more FAR. And they would be conforming with
14
15
    regard to setbacks.
16
               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: What about the 15-foot
17
    dormers? The real dormers?
18
              ADAM GLASSMAN: The real dormers, the left side
19
     dormer requires the --
20
               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Hello? We lost you.
              ADAM GLASSMAN: -- setback and the --
21
22
              CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: You went mute on us.
```

```
1
     Could you go back and repeat what you said and --
2
              ADAM GLASSMAN: Sorry.
 3
              CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: -- we did not hear?
              ADAM GLASSMAN: Okay. So the real dormers, the
 4
     15-foot dormers, the left side is within a nonconforming
 5
     setback, and we are adding a minimal amount of additional
 6
7
    FAR to existing nonconforming FAR.
8
               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Okay. So has the
    condominium Association approved this?
9
10
              ADAM GLASSMAN: They have, as have all their
11
    neighbors.
12
              CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: I have nothing in the
13
    files that indicates that.
              ADAM GLASSMAN: We did send in letters, and one of
14
15
    them is from the other condo owner.
16
               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: There are just two condo
17
    units in the property?
18
              ADAM GLASSMAN: Correct.
19
              CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Okay. I thought there
    might be more. My mistake. Okay. Anything further you
20
21
    want to say, state?
22
              ADAM GLASSMAN: Not at this time. I'll take any
```

1 questions, if there are any? CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Brendan? 2 3 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Yeah, Brendan Sullivan. 4 don't buy the argument that the mini dormers can be done asof-right. I think that you've got a 15-foot dormer there, 5 and that the mini dormer extends that. And I think that the 6 7 dormer guidelines call for 15 feet of dormer on either side. 8 ADAM GLASSMAN: Well --9 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: I'd say you're saying that it 10 doesn't add any FAR because it's within that five feet. 11 ADAM GLASSMAN: But it -- I mean, the mini 12 dormers, because they start at the side of the -- the mini dormers start at the five mark, so they're not adding FAR, 13 they're not within any setback. 14 15 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: But it's a dormer. The mini 16 dormer is a dormer. And that exceeds the 15-foot, which are 17 part of the guidelines. 18 ADAM GLASSMAN: Okay. Well --19 CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: It's not a simple matter of, "okay," it's a matter of it seriously changes the nature 20 21 of the case you're presenting. 22 ADAM GLASSMAN: It does. If the Board agrees that

```
1
     the mini dormers are tied into this application, then we'll
     take them out.
 2
               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Well, I believe that.
 3
     don't know if the other Board members agree -- Mr. Sullivan
 4
     does. I do as well.
 5
 6
               ADAM GLASSMAN: Okay. Well --
 7
               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: I would repeat what Mr.
 8
     Sullivan said: A mini dormer is a dormer.
 9
               ADAM GLASSMAN: We hear you. We hear you.
                                                           If we
10
     were not adding the 15-foot dormer, maybe that would be
     allowable by right. But I understand your position. We'll
11
12
     take them out of the plan.
13
               BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Okay.
               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Okay. You're not
14
15
    proposing to eliminate them or change the mini dormers to
16
     keep within the 15 feet? Because now you're --
17
               ADAM GLASSMAN: We'll --
18
               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: -- not complying with the
19
     dormer guidelines in a major respect, i.e., --
20
               ADAM GLASSMAN: -- right --
21
               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: -- more than 15 foot of
22
    dormer on each side.
```

```
1
              ADAM GLASSMAN: No, I understand. My position was
     -- and I know this is unusual that the mini dormers were a
2
 3
     separate, by-right construction, but I understand you
 4
     disagree and we'll remove the mini dormers from this
 5
    proposal.
 6
              CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Okay. All right. Thank
    you. So no mini dormers, just the two dormers -- two real
7
8
     dormers, if I may be facetious? Two real dormers are what
9
    you're seeking approval for.
10
              ADAM GLASSMAN: I'm sorry.
11
              CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Okay.
12
              ADAM GLASSMAN: Anything.
              CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Thank you. Any other
13
    questions?
14
15
               BRENDAN SULLIVAN: I have no other -- this is
16
    Brendan Sullivan -- I have no other comments or questions at
17
    this time.
18
               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Andrea?
19
              ANDREA HICKEY: No. I agree that the mini dormer
    extends the 15-foot dormer, and that it should be removed or
20
21
    relief needs to be sought for them. So if the minis are
22
    being removed, I have no further questions.
```

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1
               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Thank you.
 2
               ADAM GLASSMAN: I should just make sure; Aldo and
 3
     Stacy, are you prepared to take this out of the project?
 4
               ALDO SEISA: Yes, we are.
 5
               ADAM GLASSMAN: Okay.
 6
               ALDO SEISA: Thank you.
 7
               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Jason? Any questions or
 8
     comments at this point?
 9
               JASON MARSHALL: Jason Marshall -- I have no
10
     further questions.
11
               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: All right. Matina?
12
               MATINA WILLIAMS: Matina Williams -- I have no
13
     further questions.
               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Okay. We have -- I'll
14
15
     open the matter up to public testimony.
16
               I would also comment that we have a number of
17
     letters of support in our files, I'm not going to read them,
18
     but they're all unanimously -- there's no dissenting,
19
     dissenters. So they all are in support of what is being
20
     proposed, including the mini dormers, which have now been
     withdrawn.
21
22
               So have I given the instructions for speaking?
```

```
1
     don't think I have. Okay. All right. Any members of the
2
    public who wish to speak should now click the icon at the
 3
    bottom of your Zoom screen that says, "Raise hand." If
 4
     you're calling in by phone, you can raise your hand by
    pressing *9 and unmute or mute by pressing *6.
 5
 6
              We'll take a few moments to see if anyone wishes
7
     to speak.
8
               [Pause]
9
               Apparently --
10
              ANDREA HICKEY: There's no one.
11
               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Apparently no one wishes
     to speak, so I'll close public testimony. Ready for a
12
13
     discussion or a vote? We're now voting on the plans or are
     considering the plans that Mr. Glassman has submitted minus
14
15
     the mini dormers.
16
              BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Brendan Sullivan. I'm ready to
17
    vote on it.
               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Okay. Well, why don't we
18
19
     -- unless anybody else wishes to have discussion, why don't
    we proceed to a vote? Hearing nothing, I think we'll
20
    proceed to a vote. Brendan? I've got to make a motion.
21
22
              BRENDAN SULLIVAN: A motion... I was going to say,
```

I was going to vote yes to your future motion.

CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: [Laughter] The Chair moves that this Board makes the following findings with regard to the variance being sought.

That a literal enforcement of the provisions of the ordinance would involve a substantial hardship, such hardship being this is an this is an older building that is in need of a number of improvements and what is proposed seeks to accomplish this.

That the hardship is owing to basically the shape of the structure and the fact that it is a nonconforming structure as it is, so relief, any relief being sought would require the variance.

And desirable relief may be granted without either substantial detriment to the public good, or nullifying or substantially derogating from the intent or purpose of this ordinance.

In this regard, the Chair would again note that there is unanimous neighborhood support. That what is being sought would be to upgrade an older structure and make it useable or more useable by citizens of the city, current or future.

And that the hardship is owing -- I dealt with that -- and that relief may be granted without substantial detriment to the public good, or nullifying or substantially derogating from the intent or purpose of this ordinance. So on the basis of all these findings, the Chair moves that we grant the variance being sought on the condition that the work proceed in accordance with plans prepared by --BRENDAN SULLIVAN: I'm looking for the address --CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: -- by GCD Architects dated January 10, 2021, the first page of which has been initialed by the Chair, but subject to the changes that the mini dormers that are shown on such plans will be eliminated. the only dormers that will be erected will be the two 15foot dormers, on each side. BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Brendan Sullivan yes to granting the variance. ANDREA HICKEY: Andrea Hickey yes to granting the comprehensive permit. CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Jason? JASON MARSHALL: Jason Marshall yes to the

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21

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variance.

1 CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: And Matina? 2 MATINA WILLIAMS: Matina Williams yes to the variance. 3 4 CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: And the Chair votes yes to 5 the variance as well. 6 [All vote YES] 7 Variance granted. 8 COLLECTIVE: Thank you [s]. CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: 9 Okay. 10 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Wait a couple minutes. 11 CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Oh, yeah, we moved very 12 quickly. 13 CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Three minutes. So our next case isn't scheduled until 6:45 and we're not quite 14 15 there yet. So we're going to delay for a few minutes and 16 resume recess for a few minutes, then resume at 6:45, at 17 which time we'll take up 383 Winter Street. 18 [BREAK] 19 20 21 22

1 2 (6:45 p.m.)3 Sitting Members: Constantine Alexander, Brendan Sullivan, 4 Andrea A. Hickey, Matina Williams and 5 Jason Marshall CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Okay. It's now 6:45 and 6 we'll resume this hearing. The Chair will now call Case 7 8 Number 105802 -- 383 Windsor Street. Anyone here wishing to be heard on this matter? 9 10 ADAM GLASSMAN: Good evening. This is Adam 11 Glassman, 2 Worthington Street in Cambridge. And I'm here 12 with the building owner, Jamie Rogers. We're here seeking relief, both a variance and a special permit. Should we 13 start with the special permit? 14 15 CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Up to you. 16 ADAM GLASSMAN: All right. 17 CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Whichever way you want to 18 do it. 19 ADAM GLASSMAN: Let's start with the special permit, which is seeking relief to discount the basement 20 21 from the gross square footage which in a three-family 22 requires a special permit and new window openings in walls

```
1
    within setbacks. This ties very closely into our
2
     application for the variance.
 3
               Maybe I should just walk you through the whole set
     of plans.
 4
 5
               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: And you have to --
 6
               ADAM GLASSMAN: So --
               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: -- for the special permit
7
     you have to address what is required -- what are the
8
    provisions of Section 216 of our ordinance.
9
10
              ADAM GLASSMAN: Yeah, so excluding the basement
11
     for a special permit will -- you know, cause no detriment to
12
     the community. The use of this structure and abutting
    structures will remain unchanged. There will be no change
13
14
     to parking patterns or traffic patterns.
15
               And actually, we'd like to keep it unfinished;
16
    we're not looking to convert it.
17
               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: You also have to address
18
     [59:55 simultaneous speech] which has a separate -- for
    relief.
19
20
               ADAM GLASSMAN: -- calculable FAR.
21
               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Specifically, if I can
22
    find it -- one second, let me -- I'm trying to pull it out
```

1 of the ordinance -- we have to make a finding that the uses 2 occupying such exempted GFA support the character of the 3 neighborhood or district in which the applicable lot is 4 located. 5 ADAM GLASSMAN: Agreed. And the basement, which 6 is currently unfinished, supports the use of this structure 7 as a place for mechanical and storage and that won't change. 8 CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Okay. Thank you. And you 9 were going through the other list -- wont causse -- the 10 other requirements of special permit before I interrupted you. Why don't you finish your description of that? 11 ADAM GLASSMAN: All right, essentially we're 12 13 causing no detriment to the community. There will be no change in the traffic patterns, no increase in noise or 14 15 light pollution, use of structure remains unchanged, ability 16 of adjacent properties to maintain their use remains 17 unchanged. 18 CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Okay. People -- anyone 19 have any questions at this point regarding the special permit, before we move on to the variance? Brendan? 20 21 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Brendan Sullivan, I have no 22 questions.

```
1
               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: No questions. Andrea?
2
              ANDREA HICKEY: No questions.
              CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Jason?
 3
 4
               JASON MARSHALL: Jason Marshall, no questions.
 5
              CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Matina?
 6
              MATINA WILLIAMS: Matina Williams, no questions.
              CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: I don't have any questions
7
8
    either. But let's move on to the variance part of the case.
    Mr. Glassman?
9
10
               [Pause]
11
              Mr. Glassman?
12
              ADAM GLASSMAN: Can you hear me?
13
              CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Now I can.
14
              ADAM GLASSMAN: Yeah. You've been going in and
15
    out. I don't know if it's me or you, so I'm sorry.
16
              CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: I'm sorry. I didn't catch
17
    what you just said, sir.
18
              ADAM GLASSMAN: So would you like me to walk you
19
    through the entire set of plans?
              CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Your presentation, you've
20
21
    got to supply --
22
              ADAM GLASSMAN: Okay, let's do that.
```

```
1
               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Excuse me. Keep in mind -
     - I'm sure you're aware of it -- there is opposition to what
 2
 3
     you're proposing with regard to the variance. And it is
 4
     from your owner's --
 5
               ADAM GLASSMAN: The pictures -- I can't -- you're
 6
     going in and out.
 7
               SISIA DAGLIAN: Adam, you can use your telephone
 8
     and call in as well.
 9
               ADAM GLASSMAN: All right. I'll try that.
10
     sorry. Can you hear me now?
11
               SISIA DAGLIAN: Yep.
12
               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Yes.
13
               ADAM GLASSMAN: So did you start to say that there
     were letters of opposition?
14
15
               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: What about the letter of
16
     opposition? You want to hear it?
17
               [Pause]
18
               Hello?
19
               ADAM GLASSMAN: I'm going to try to call in.
20
               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Well -- the joys of remote
    hearings.
21
22
               [Pause]
```

```
1
              ADAM GLASSMAN: Sisia, can you e-mail me the
2
    number?
 3
              SISIA DAGLIAN: Sure.
 4
              ADAM GLASSMAN: Okay. I think I got it. Okay. I
 5
    got it. I'm here.
 6
              KAREN VON BISMARK: Hello? Can anyone there hear
7
    me?
8
              ADAM GLASSMAN: I'm here. Can you hear me?
    Sisia?
9
10
              KAREN VON BISMARK: Mmm...
11
              ANDREA HICKEY: Adam, this is Andrea Hickey. I
12
    can hear you, but no one else is responding.
13
              BRENDAN SULLIVAN: We can hear.
14
              JASON MARSHALL: I also hear you.
15
              BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Yeah -- Brendan Sullivan -- we
16
    can hear you up here.
17
              ANDREA HICKEY: Okay.
18
              CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: We can hear.
19
              BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Yeah. So just go ahead, Adam.
20
              ADAM GLASSMAN: Okay. One second here.
              BRENDAN SULLIVAN: I think the question was about
21
22
    the -- regarding the letter of opposition. Is that correct?
```

```
1
              ADAM GLASSMAN: Yeah, actually we --
 2
               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Do you want me to read the
 3
     letter of opposition Mr. Glassman?
               ADAM GLASSMAN: We didn't know there was
 4
 5
     opposition.
 6
               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER:
                                       I'm sorry.
 7
               ADAM GLASSMAN: We did not know there was
 8
     opposition.
 9
               SISIA DAGLIAN: He didn't know there was
10
     opposition.
11
               BRENDAN SULLIVAN: One more time.
12
               SISIA DAGLIAN: Oh, there was opposition.
13
               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Oh. Well, I can read the
     letter now, or I can read it later. What would you prefer,
14
15
     Mr. Glassman? Or do you want to continue the case until you
     can consider the letter of opposition and talk to the
16
17
     opposing neighbor? It's up to you.
               KAREN VON BISMARK: Hello? Can anyone hear me?
18
19
               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Who just spoke?
20
               KAREN VON BISMARK: My name is Karen Von Bismark,
     and I wrote one of two opposing letters. Hello, everyone.
21
22
               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: I think only saw one in
```

1 our files. KAREN VON BISMARK: I think the other only went in 2 3 yesterday when I alerted my neighbor to this situation and 4 he said that he hadn't received any notification at all. I 5 have a copy of the letter that he sent in to Maria Pacheco, but it may have gone too late to reach your client. 6 7 CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: It's not in our files. I have two letters of support, and then we have your letter of 8 9 opposition. 10 KAREN VON BISMARK: Mm-hm. Well, another has been 11 written and sent, because I have that in my hand. I can --12 CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: All right. Why don't you read --13 14 KAREN VON BISMARK: -- forward --CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: -- to us that other letter 15 16 which we don't have, and we therefore haven't seen? 17 KAREN VON BISMARK: Okay. I'd be happy to. Let 18 me just have a look in my e-mail. Could take a second. 19 Here we go. Yes, I have it here. "Dear Maria Pacheco [if I'm pronouncing that 20 21 correctly] and Cambridge BZA, 22 "We own the property at 50 Union Street behind the

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385-383 (sic) Windsor Street Property under discussion. We have not received any notice -- [oh, shoot, "dispute it"?

Where did that come from? Patience, people, please. I'm kind of nervous about this whole thing. Okay] -- in reference to the petition filed for any addition proposed by the owner of 383-385 Windsor Street property.
```

"Our property at 50 Union Street will suffer with negative impact, due to new proposed height and a new deck.

I do not see enough setback to yield privacy and a noise barrier for the proposed projects.

"The proposed construction of the third floor will also cause blockade of the morning sun.

"This project will also affect the value of our property at 50 Union Street. We pay our taxes and abide by all the rules and regulations by the city of Cambridge. We expect a careful impact review of this project. We also propose the addition on the three decks of proposed."

And that, if I can just get my mail to --

CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Okay, we have your letter, or the Board does, but I take it the petitioner, or the petitioner's architect has not seen that letter? Therefore, I'm wondering -- I hate to do this -- I'm wondering whether

```
1
    we should continue this case to allow, well two things; one,
2
     to get the letter that we haven't received into our files,
 3
    and two --
 4
               KAREN VON BISMARK: Mm-hm.
 5
               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: -- to allow the petitioner
 6
    to review both of these letters, and if he decides to, to
7
    meet with you and to see if you can work things out.
8
               I think that's better than trying to do it on a
9
    basis where everybody seems to be at a little bit of a
10
    disadvantage. Mr. Glassman's at a disadvantage, and to some
11
     extent we are at a disadvantage.
12
               Mr. Glassman, do you have a problem with that?
13
               [Pause]
14
               Hello?
15
               SISIA DAGLIAN: Adam, you're muted.
              BRENDAN SULLIVAN: He's on mute. This is Brendan
16
17
    Sullivan. Mr. Rogers --
18
               ADAM GLASSMAN: Hello?
19
               BRENDAN SULLIVAN: You're audible.
20
               ADAM GLASSMAN: Hello?
21
               SISIA DAGLIAN: We can hear you.
22
              CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Yes.
```

1 ADAM GLASSMAN: Okay. So this is what I want to 2 say. A lot of effort went into this proposal, and Jamie did reach out to all the abutters, including the woman who just 3 4 spoke. I'm sorry they didn't -- they weren't able to 5 connect. The board has been posted in public view as 6 7 required, so I think before we go right to a continuance, it 8 might be fair for us to make our presentation and receive some feedback from the Board. 9 10 CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: We'll go forward. That 11 would mean if this case is continued, it's a case heard. 12 it may complicate when we can reschedule, as you know. other thing is, is I'm not sure what you gain by that. 13 14 It seems to me what would make more sense would be 15 you and/or your client to talk to the opposing abutters and 16 finding out maybe they're misinformed, maybe you can reach 17 some accommodation. 18 It certainly would enhance your ability to get 19 zoning relief --20 ADAM GLASSMAN: Okay. 21 CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: -- which is not to say we

would not grant this if you don't do that --

22

```
1
              ADAM GLASSMAN: Yeah.
 2
              CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: -- but that's usually the
 3
    way people proceed --
 4
              ADAM GLASSMAN: All right.
              CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: -- in situations like
 5
    this.
 6
 7
              ADAM GLASSMAN: Okay. We will continue with the
 8
    abutter and continue the case.
 9
              CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Okay. So we'll continue
10
    this case as a case not heard. We never got into any of the
11
    merits. Sisia, did we have -- what's the next, not two
12
    weeks, four weeks?
13
               SISIA DAGLIAN: That's the -- March 25, we can do
14
    one more.
15
               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: March --
16
               SISIA DAGLIAN: Twenty-fifth.
17
               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Twenty-fifth. Okay, March
18
    25 work for you, Mr. Glassman?
19
              ADAM GLASSMAN: It does. Jamie, are you here?
20
    there anything you want to say?
21
               JAMIE ROGERS: Yes. I'm here. Hi, everyone.
22
    I'm Jamie Rogers. That date works fine for me, and I'm very
```

interested in hearing the concerns of the neighbors and working to an agreeable solution for those.

I think the contact information that I had I get was not accurate. So I think there -- in the proposal, there is Adam's e-mail address and phone number in there. So perhaps the neighbors could send a message there with their contact information so that we could follow up directly, so we don't have the challenges of obtaining each other's contact info.

CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: I'm going to make a motion for the Board to consider. The Chair moves that this case be continued as a case not heard, which means that we don't have to have the same five people who are on the call tonight be present at the continued case, which is March 25.

So with that by way of background, the Chair again moves that we continue this case as a case not heard until 6:00 p.m. on March 25, subject to the following conditions:

One, that the petitioner or his representative assign a waiver of time for decision. That waiver must be in our files or in the files of the Zoning Department no later than 5:00 p.m. on a week from Monday. If that is not done, then this case will be automatically dismissed and the

relief will be denied -- the relief being sought will be denied.

That's Condition Number 1. So make sure, sir, that you see Maria Pacheco or someone else in the Zoning Department and get that waiver of time for a decision signed.

And Mr. Glassman can -- if you have questions about what this is all about, I think Mr. Glassman is sufficiently experienced to answer that. It's a standard requirement -- I just will say it's a standard requirement in the continued cases.

Second, that the posting sign that you have maintained so far must be modified or a new one obtained, and to modify simply you can just change the date. And I don't even think you have to change -- and the time -- on the sign, you can do it with a magic marker, if you will.

And that modified sign, or the new modified sign, it must be maintained for the 14 days before March 25, just as you maintained the sign for the 14 days prior to tonight's hearing.

And lastly, to the extent as a result of the discussions with neighbors or otherwise, we want to make

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     some revisions to the plans, drawings, specifications or
    other information. That must be in our files no later than
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     5:00 p.m. on the Monday before March 25. Mr. Glassman's
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     familiar with those requirements. They're standard for
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    continued cases.
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               Brendan, how do you vote?
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               BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Brendan Sullivan, yes to the
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    continuance.
               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Andrea?
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               ANDREA HICKEY: Andrea Hickey yes to the
11
    continuance.
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               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Jason?
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               JASON MARSHALL: Jason Marshall yes to the
    continuance.
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15
               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Matina?
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               MATINA WILLIAMS: Matina Williams yes to the
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    continuance.
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               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: And the Chair votes yes as
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    well.
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               [All vote YES]
               So this case is continued until March 25.
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               [CASE CONTINUED]
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1 2 (7:02 p.m.)3 Sitting Members: Constantine Alexander, Brendan Sullivan, 4 Andrea A. Hickey, Matina Williams and Jason Marshall 5 6 CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: The Chair will now call 7 Case Number 103314 -- 2615 Massachusetts Avenue. Anyone 8 here wish to be heard on this matter? 9 JESSIE SCHOMER: Yes, Mr. Chair. My name is 10 Attorney Jesse Schomer. I represent the applicant. 11 CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Before -- this is our 12 Before we talk further about this case, I'm going to tell you we have to continue it for a number of reasons. 13 14 First of all, the office -- Ms. Pacheco required -15 - requested -- at the request of one of the members of the 16 Board that we be provided with photo simulations for the 17 proposed canopies, and they should show the proposed color 18 in any lettering on the canopies. 19 And someone -- a Jesse Schomer -- replied, "I have requested renderings of the canopies, and will try to get 20 21 those to you ASAP." This was about a week ago. We never got 22 them. So we haven't had a chance to review them as part of

our file. That's one reason to continue the case.

The second is I don't understand your application. You're applying for a variance and a special permit? What is this, take your choice? What are you? We don't proceed that way, sir. You tell us whether you want a special permit or a variance, and we'll act on that request. But we're not going to choose the form of relief for you. We had this before, and that's our policy.

And lastly, there's a memo in the file regarding a case which would suggest that if that case is applied or the standards of that case, that you don't need any relief. So you've put on the table three different forms of relief.

And again, as I said before, that's not how we go about it.

Take your case and get us those photo simulations, decide which way you're going to go, and argue your case on that basis.

Any other members of the Board --

BRENDAN SULLIVAN: This is Brendan Sullivan. The other condition that was requested is that you reach out and submit all your materials to the North Cambridge

Stabilization Committee. According to the reply to Ms.

Pacheco, that has been done. And I don't know if you e-

mailed it over to them or not, but you really should have dialogued conversation with them.

And I would ask the member of the North Cambridge Stabilization Committee who is listed again that they should send us a written correspondence regarding the fruits of any of those discussions.

So there are two things: Number one is we need the photo simulations showing color and any lettering, and also, contact with the North Cambridge Stabilization

Committee, before I'm willing to go forward and hear the case.

CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Any questions, sir, the Counsel for the petitioner before I make my motion to continue the case?

JESSIE SCHOMER: No, no questions, Mr. Chair, just to respond very briefly. We are in the process of getting the photo simulations that the Board had requested. I had hoped to have those before the hearing, and unfortunately that didn't come through.

And we have been requesting those, actually, from the manufacturer of the canopies that we're proposing since November. So we're as frustrated as the Board is with the

delay.

CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: I accept that. Do you have any -- we're going to have to set a specific date. I don't want to have a date -- pick a date and find out the photo simulations are not available. Do you want to take a longer date? How much time would you like to continue this case?

JESSIE SCHOMER: My suggestion, Mr. Chairman, was going to be the first meeting in April. I think that would be enough time. And we are in conversations with the North Cambridge Stabilization Committee and we had a good conversation with them last night and we hope to iron out any issues.

I would, if I may I'd like to address the issue of the relief that we're requesting?

CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Yes. Go right ahead.

JESSIE SCHOMER: Thank you. I admit that the application is somewhat confusing. And that's -- what we're requesting in this case is actually a Section 6 finding under Mass. General Laws Chapter 40a Section 6. And this is how we originally filed this application. However, when it was received by the ISD, they didn't understand what it was

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     that we were requesting. And so, they had requested that we
     file applications for a special permit and a variance under
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     the local bylaw.
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               So what we're requesting is a Section 6 finding
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    under Chapter 40A 6, and --
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               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Understood. Thank you for
     that explanation. I think for the hearing, since it will be
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8
     the first one in April, I think you want to modify your
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     application to be more specific than we have right now.
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               JESSIE SCHOMER: Happy to do so.
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               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Sisia, when is the first
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    hearing in April that we have room?
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               SISIA DAGLIAN: April 8, and we actually have
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     room.
               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Okay. April 8 work for
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    you, sir?
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               JESSIE SCHOMER: Yes, Mr. Chair.
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               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Okay. The Chair moves
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     that we continue this case as a case not heard until 6:00
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    p.m. on April 8, subject to the following conditions:
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               One, that the petitioner sign a waiver of time for
22
    decision, and that's required to avoid complications under
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Massachusetts General Laws. That waiver, which is a standard document that we use, and I think you'll find it's not controversial -- if we had an in-person meeting I would hand it to you, but we don't have that.

In any event, that waiver of notice must be signed and returned to the Inspectional Services Department no later than 5:00 p.m. a week from Monday. If that is not done, this case will be ipso facto terminated, and that will be it for two years.

So just make sure you work with Ms. Pacheco and get that waiver of time for decision to be signed.

Second, that the posting sign that you need to post for the new hearing date -- you can do one of two things: You can get a new sign, which I would prefer, because the old sign is in bad condition, the last time I looked -- but again, a new sign with the new date and new time; or alternatively, you can mark up the existing sign to reflect the new date and the new time.

That sign, that marker must be readable.

Otherwise, they will not satisfy the requirements of the ordinance, and we will not hear the case on April 8.

And lastly, to the extent you're going to submit,

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     as we requested, photo simulations, and any other
    modifications to the specifications -- data or the like
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     regarding the relief you're seeking, that must be in the ISD
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     files no later than 5:00 p.m. on the Monday before April 8.
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               That is to allow Board members and interested
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    citizens of the city time to review those changes from what
    are now the facts, and formulate whatever conclusions they
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    want or don't want to formulate.
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               So those are the conditions. Brendan, how do you
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    vote?
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               BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Yes to the continuance --
    Brendan Sullivan.
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13
               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Andrea?
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               ANDREA HICKEY: Andrea Hickey yes to the
15
    continuance.
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               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Jason?
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               JASON MARSHALL: Jason Marshall yes to the
18
    continuance.
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               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Matina?
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               MATINA WILLIAMS: Matina Williams yes to the
    continuance.
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22
               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: And the Chair votes yes as
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well.
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               [All vote YES]
               So this case will be continued until April 8. See
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     you then -or- hear you then! Thank you.
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               JESSIE SCHOMER: Thank you.
               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Our next case is scheduled
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     for 7:15, and it's now 7:11, so we're going to take a quick
 7
     four-minute break, it would appear.
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               [BREAK]
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1 2 (7:11 p.m.)3 Sitting Members: Constantine Alexander, Brendan Sullivan, 4 Andrea A. Hickey, Matina Williams and Jason Marshall 5 6 JAMES RAFFERTY: Good evening Mr. Chair and members of the Board. James Rafferty present on behalf of 7 8 the applicant. The applicants are also present -- Ron Witte and his wife, Sarah Whiting -- W-h-i-t-i-n-g. 9 10 CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Okay. The floor is yours. 11 JAMES RAFFERTY: This is an application to allow 12 for the conversion of a commercial building at 33 Bristol Street in a resident's (sic) district to accommodate a 13 dwelling unit which Ms. Whiting and Mr. Witte intend to use 14 15 as their home, and also to allow for an architectural office 16 in the building as well. 17 The applicant --18 CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: That office will comply with the zoning requirement? I mean, you know, if it's an 19 accessory office or whatever it's called? 20 21 JAMES RAFFERTY: No, and that's why the variance 22 addresses the use issue. It doesn't quite fit the home

1 office exception.

CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Okay.

JAMES RAFFERTY: So -- so the application seeks relief from the parking requirements associated with the office. The office is sized at approximately 900 square feet. The property has never had parking associated with it.

For the last 35 years, it's been the home of Adam's Lighting, which was a light design and manufacturer. They relocated. Prior to their ownership, it was the longtime home of The Cambridge Bottling Company back in the 1960s.

I don't imagine any members of the Board are old enough to have been around Cambridge in the 1960s, but it was a long-standing investor use in the neighborhood.

And the applicant that recently moved to

Cambridge, Ms. Whiting, was appointed last year as the Dean

of the Graduate School of Design at Harvard University, and

Mr. Witte this year joined her as a Professor.

But in addition to Mr. Witte's -- professor

Witte's academic work, he also maintained a small

architectural practice. The building is uniquely compatible

for what they're proposing. The relief doesn't involve any additional GFA to the existing building. In fact, by turning a portion of the building into a one-car parking space and applying the definitions of GFA, the size of the GFA of the building actually becomes reduced by the introduction of the parking space.

The relief here involves just a few items from a dimensional perspective -- most notable among them, and the reason this isn't an as-of-right project when we explored the zoning here, it's obviously a conforming use. And all the work is occurring within the building.

But there is a dimensional requirement concerning open space that exists for residential uses that does not exist for commercial uses.

So even though there's no change occurring here, the absence of the open space requires a variance to allow for a waiver of the open space.

In the same way that the building's never had any parking, it's never had any open space. However, you may note under this redesign there's actually a deck being created, which meets a portion of the definitions of open space, and it's an amenity for the dwelling unit.

The dwelling unit itself is average size for Cambridge. It's about 1600 to 1700 square feet. It's a two-bedroom space. As I noted, the office -- the building itself has a distinctive masonry form. It's a two-story building which will occupy the residents, and a one-story is going to serve as the office.

And that's the way the building had been used by the Lighting Company. We believe they had an office on the side of the building as well.

So I'll return to the principal use here to a conforming residential use, a single-family dwelling. There is this office use, which in some areas might be considered a home office, but in this location, the home office restriction cannot be met because of the size of the space.

So it's for that reason that the application seeks approval to allow for the waive of the open space requirements, for conversion of the building to residential use, a reduction in the required amount of two spaces; it will be one space for the dwelling unit, but the two spaces required for an office use in this district will not be met.

So they will be a continuation of the nonconforming parking for the building, but we have

identified it as an area where we're seeking a special permit, or the Board can allow for a reduction in space.

The site itself on Bristol Street is within easy walking distance of Kendall Station, rapid transit and not that far a walk from Central as well. The expectation is there's only two or three employees that work with Mr. Witte at his practice, so impacts on neighborhood parking and congestion should be de minimis.

Happy to have Mr. Witte. Not often we have an Architectural Dean and an Architectural Professor at a hearing. I'm sure they'd like to give a lecture on the design they've done on the building, but I'm mindful of the Board's time, and particularly impressed with the efficiency with which you have been following your time.

So to have a 7:15 case come on at 7:15 is impressive, so I will conclude now, lest I say too much.

constantine Alexander: Flattery will get you everywhere, Mr. Rafferty. I just have one thing that's troubled me a little bit -- just me, and I say, "a little bit" is the terrace that's going to be created on the -- I guess on the rooftop of the garage. It's a large terrace.

And I'm concerned a little bit about maybe impact

on the privacy of the neighborhood.

I mean, at some point some other people will own this property besides your current clients, and that could lead to parties or a lot of noise that would impact the privacy of neighbors.

We've been -- as you know, this Board has been tough on terrace, roof decks and the like because of the congested nature of Cambridge and the impact on neighboring properties.

You want to -- how big is that? What are the rough dimensions of that terrace?

JAMES RAFFERTY: I bet before I get to it, Mr.
Witte could tell me. But I understand the concern. The
terrace itself, as you know from the photos and location: It
is on a corner. So the terrace fronts on the two public
ways, and oftentimes these terraces are much higher, and
they have close adjacency to nearby residences.

I imagine that the applicants would be prepared to expect a condition involving some kind of screening or scaling back. We discussed the terrace, and I did mention the Board's concern about the privacy impacts often in cases like this. And I think if the Board felt that there needed

to be a reduction in that footprint, it could be addressed.

But it is the only open space that the dwelling unit would have. So it is a much sought after and desirable amenity for a residence, and it is only a single-family residence that's being proposed here.

And I would think that it could be made quite appealing and not have much in the way of impact. Lots of residential structures in this neighborhood have -- particularly three-family dwellings have decks, porches, open space and the like.

But I'm certain in this case sometimes setting the terrace back a bit can provide that buffer between abutters. And you'll notice on the plan that that's exactly what's been done on the portion of the terrace that's closest to the abutting residential building. It's appearing in the top form of the plan.

CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: My -- I'm sorry, I shouldn't have interrupted you. Keep going, sir.

JAMES RAFFERTY: No, I was concluding. I think I anticipate your question. That has been pulled back out of deference to privacy concerns to the abutter. But maybe Professor Witte could tell us what is the current setback on

that edge of the terrace?

CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: And I'd like to know how big the deck -- the useable deck will be?

RON WITTE: The deck is pulled back about -- I think it's six and a half or seven feet from the edge of the building there. And that was for privacy. Our aim was to do two things: one is to allow for an outdoor space, but also to beautify that deck because there's a triple-decker right next door that's looking onto it.

So we saw it as a better scenic circumstance for the neighbors. They actually are aware of what we're doing there; they are completely supportive of it. But we don't have a letter from them, so I apologize for that.

The deck is about 900 square feet -- I believe, the square footage. It's also off of the private part of the house, meaning it's actually not meant for entertainment; it's meant for a kind of respite from inside to get to the outside. It would be somewhat awkward in terms of the arrangement of the house to use it for that kind of event with any kind of significant party there.

CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: I'm sorry, I didn't quite catch the last part of what you said, but let me give you my

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question, maybe you've already answered it. How will people
-- you and your wife -- access that terrace or leave that
terrace? Is there a door to a hallway?

RON WITTE: There's a door to a relatively open
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floor plan. Actually you can see it here right -- I don't know if I can point here, let me see if I can get a -- if I can't do any marking here -- I don't know if you can see my cursor, but on the screen there's a door -- well, actually, you're looking the wrong way there. You're looking at a cross-section through.

But basically there's a window in the wall between the terrace and the main space there. And there's a door that's in the equivalent of that. Here you can see the door.

Next to the large window, just to the left of the large window, that's the door, yes.

CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Okay. So there will be a doorway from the to and from the -- well, that connects the terrace to the living area?

RON WITTE: Yes.

CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: -- other living area?

RON WITTE: Yes. There's one door onto it.

Page 74 CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Okay. I have no further

questions. Members of the Board? Brendan?

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BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Yeah, no, Brendan Sullivan. Actually I was quite impressed with the repurposing of this building. I think it's very tastefully done. And I envy you.

I think it's a very nice plan, and I think that the fact, as Mr. Rafferty points out, that the deck terrace is on the corner of the lot I think will really have minimal impact on the surrounding residences. And that you have pulled it down a bit to sort of soften that edge of it.

And I think generally that the plan was well done. And anyhow, I would support it.

Thank you. Andrea? CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: ANDREA HICKEY: I have no questions or comments at this time.

CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Thank you. Jason? JASON MARSHALL: Thank you, Mr. Chair, Jason Marshall. I agree with Brendan's comment that it is a very attractive structure. I'm relatively new to the Board. I haven't been part of roof deck or roof terrace wars that have -- it sounds like they maybe have occurred over the

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    years. I probably will get into that at some point.
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               You know, that being said, I did flag that as an
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     issue, as the Chair did. I do know this street. I know
     it's pretty tight, and this roof deck was pretty close to
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     the street. So I'd like to sort of reserve comment and see
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     if there's any public comment, comment from abutters. After
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     that, I'm likely inclined to support it.
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               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Okay, good. Just for your
     information, we have no written communication.
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              MATINA WILLIAMS: I do have one question.
               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: We do?
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              MATINA WILLIAMS: It's Matina.
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              CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Oh, Matina, I'm sorry.
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     know. I just want to finish my --
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              MATINA WILLIAMS: Okay.
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              CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: -- response to Jason. So
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     anyway, we don't have any written comments, but we'll have a
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     chance to get back to this question when we get to take a
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    vote.
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               I'm sorry, Matina, I interrupted you.
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              MATINA WILLIAMS: Oh, I'm sorry. I didn't see
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     you. I just didn't -- I didn't hear where you said the door
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     from the inside, where is it coming off of?
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               RON WITTE: Do you have a second-floor plan by any
     chance, Sisia? This is still first-floor. This -- here's
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     the second floor. You can see the door on this plan.
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               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Right.
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               RON WITTE: At the top of the stairs --
              MATINA WILLIAMS: Mm-hm.
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 8
               RON WITTE: -- there, exactly.
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              MATINA WILLIAMS: Okay, okay. All right. Thank
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     you. That's it.
               RON WITTE: You're welcome.
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               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Thank you, Matina.
     now open this matter up to public testimony. I'm looking
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     for the instructions -- there. Any member of the public who
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     wishes to speak should now click the icon at the bottom of
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     your Zoom screen that says, "Raise hand." If you're calling
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     in by phone, you can raise your hand by pressing *9 and
     unmute or mute by pressing *6. We'll take a moment to see
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     if anyone's called in, or is calling in.
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               [Pause]
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               SISIA DAGLIAN: There's no one.
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              CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Apparently no one wishes
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     to speak, and as I think I've indicated already, we have no
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    written communication from interested parties or maybe not
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     interested parties. So I'll close public testimony.
    Discussion, or are we ready for a vote? I'm ready for a
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 5
    vote.
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               BRENDAN SULLIVAN: I'm ready for a vote -- Brendan
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     Sullivan, I'm ready for a vote.
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               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Okay. I'm going to make a
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    motion, then, unless somebody shouts out that they want to
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     talk.
11
               BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Mr. Chair, just -- Brendan
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     Sullivan again -- I'd be interested in Andrea's comments,
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     and hear her speak on it.
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               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Yeah.
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ANDREA HICKEY: Yes. So I generally am not in favor of elevated decks on residential properties, but where this property really doesn't have outdoor space, I'm inclined to consider approving it.

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I asked the applicants whether there was any consideration to pulling the decks further back from the edge on the side where it comes right to the edge. Is there any way that that could be done, so that the appearance from

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     the street isn't just so in your face?
               RON WITTE: We could do that. We're also trying
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 3
     to hide it behind the parapet there. So there will be a
 4
     restored parapet at the top of the building. So much of it
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    will already be behind that. However, if that's necessary,
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    we can pull it back.
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               I find it a little bit awkward -- and this is a
8
     design observation -- I find it a little bit awkward to pull
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    back that line too much. I think that actually does more
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    harm than good, and actually if you think of the perspective
     from the intersection. However, I realize that's a very
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12
     subjective point of view.
              ANDREA HICKEY: Right. So what is the total area
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    of that deck again, if you don't mind?
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               RON WITTE: I believe it's -- I can actually give
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     you -- I think I can give you a number here.
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               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: It's 900 feet.
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              RON WITTE: 900 square feet.
              ANDREA HICKEY: Yeah. That -- to me, that's a
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     lot. I'd like to see it pulled back. But I'm very much
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     open to hearing what my fellow Board members have to say.
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RON WITTE: The only thing I might add to that is

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that we see it more in the landscape to look at then in the event space to use, if you see what I mean. So it really is meant to be somewhat scenic.
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SARAH WHITING: And I would just -- this is Sarah Whiting -- and just seconding Ron's comment about if you pulled the line in -- because we have to have the railing, obviously, for safety considerations that will alter the alignment in the building. And so, from an aesthetic point of view, the purity of the building, that will correct it.

RON WITTE: It's a quite beautiful little building, in fact.

CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: It is. How high off the ground will this terrace be?

RON WITTE: I believe -- I'm going to do this a little bit off the top of my head, I apologize. I'm going to guess it's about 11 or so, 11-and 11-and-a-half feet, 12 feet off the ground.

CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: 12 feet off the ground?

RON WITTE: Yes.

CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: So it's almost at ground level, in a sense. In other words, if there had been a garage there and a yard or open space you'd have the same --

1 okay. I'm not speaking only for myself, and I'm not --2 3 like Andrea, I'm not a fan of decks and rooftops like this, but this is a unique structure, and the neighborhood is one 4 where I do not you're going to have a lot of problems. 5 And I think that's illustrated by the fact that no 6 7 neighbor has chosen to comment on this case. And I can tell 8 you sitting on this Board over the years, everybody in Cambridge has an opinion about everything. And so, the fact 9 10 that it has no comments just gives me some level of comfort 11 that the terrace --SISIA DAGLIAN: But there is someone who wishes to 12 speak. We have -- we have one person who wishes to speak. 13 14 CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: I'm sorry? 15 SISIA DAGLIAN: Is that okay? 16 CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Sure. Go ahead. 17 SISIA DAGLIAN: Kristine. 18 CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: I haven't, I'm sorry. 19 ahead. 20 KRISTINE PEREIRA-VIEW: Yeah, actually --CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: And then we'll open the 21 22 matter up to public testimony.

KRISTINE PEREIRA-VIEW: Hi.

CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Any member of the public who wishes to speak should now click the icon at the bottom of your Zoom screen that says, "Raise hand." If you're calling in by phone, you can raise your hand by pressing *9 and unmute or mute by pressing *6.

SISIA DAGLIAN: Kristine View?

KISHORE VARANASI: Yes, hi. Can you hear me?

BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Yes.

CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Yes.

RRISTINE PEREIRA-VIEW: So I am the neighbor right next door, 8 Brookshire Street, and I just have been listening, and I didn't raise my hand because I'm not in opposition of what is going on, but I actually did want to offer my support for the roof deck, because the building itself has no back yard and no outdoor space whatsoever.

Their building is immediately on our property line, and they have maybe a foot on our side, and then on the back probably a foot and a half on the opposite end. So this -- residents would literally have nowhere to go to have any outdoor space.

So I fully support the roof deck.

1 CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Thank you for taking the 2 time to give us your comments. Anyone else? 3 SARAH WHITING: If I can add one thing -- and I want to thank our neighbor for that input -- obviously in 4 5 this time of the pandemic, we have all learned to value the 6 importance of outdoor space, and neither one of us is 7 actually very keen on tending a garden. And so, we weren't 8 that upset to not have a yard. But I think the ability to enjoy the weather here 9 10 and get fresh air is ever more critical. So the ability to 11 go out there and work on a laptop to escape is very valuable. 12 CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Thank you for the comments 13 14 from the Board. No one else wishes to speak, I'm advised by 15 our technical staff. So I will close public testimony. 16 Discussion, members of the Board? Ready for a vote? 17 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Brendan Sullivan no, I'm ready 18 to vote on the matter. 19 CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Okay, I think from the comments I've heard, I think we're ready to vote. Brendan, 20 21 how do you vote on this matter? 22 BRENDAN SULLIVAN: I will support the --

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CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: I've got to make a motion.

I keep forgetting to do that, sorry. The Chair moves that

we make the following motion with regard to the relief being

sought -- that's two votes; one on the variance and one on

the special permit.

BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Right.

CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: So I'll start with the variance -- that we make the following findings with regard to the variance being sought:

That a literal enforcement of the provisions of the ordinance would involve a substantial hardship, such hardship being, and it's not peculiar to the current petitioners — the hardship is this is a nonconforming structure, an office, warehouse structure in a residentially zoned neighborhood, and that provides difficulties with regard to the use of the structure.

The hardship is owing to the fact that this structure precedes zoning -- our zoning ordinance, and therefore any change requires zoning relief.

And that relief may be granted without substantial detriment to the public good, or nullifying or substantially derogating from the intent and purpose of this ordinance.

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     In fact, what is proposed will not be substantially
     detrimental to the public good, but it will bring this
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     structure in compliance from a zoning point of view with the
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     district in which it is located; i.e., it will create one
    more residential structure in a residentially zoned
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    district.
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               So on the basis of all of these findings, the
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     Chair moves that we grant the variance requested on the
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    condition that the work proceed in accordance with plans
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    prepared by WW Architecture dated January 20, 2021, and the
11
     cover page of which has been initialed by the Chair.
               BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Brendan Sullivan yes to
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    granting of the variance.
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14
               ANDREA HICKEY: Andrea Hickey yes in favor of
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     granting the variance.
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               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Jason?
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               JASON MARSHALL: Jason Marshall yes for the
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    variance.
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               MATINA WILLIAMS: Matina Williams yes to granting
    the variance.
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               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: The Chair votes yes as
    well.
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[All vote YES]

So the variance is granted. Let's turn to the special permit now. You've touched on it already, Mr. Rafferty. Just briefly, since we've talked about other things in the meantime, review the arguments why we should grant the special permit to reduce the required amount of parking for the office use?

JAMES RAFFERTY: Yes, Mr. Chair. The reduction request -- the reduction in two parking spaces is consistent with the historical use of the property, which did not have parking.

But pursuant to the criteria in the ordinance, there's reasonable adjacency or proximity to transit, including buses along Broadway and walking distance to rapid transit in Kendall and Central Square.

CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Okay. That's short and sweet. Questions from members of the Board? Brendan?

BRENDAN SULLIVAN: I have no questions.

CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Andrea?

ANDREA HICKEY: No, I have no questions.

CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Jason?

JASON MARSHALL: Jason Marshall no questions.

1 CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Matina?

MATINA WILLIAMS: Matina Williams no questions.

CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: I don't have any questions either. So I'm going to make a motion with regard to the special permit. The Chair moves that we make the following findings with regard to the special permit that's being sought:

That the requirements of the ordinance cannot be met unless we grant the special permit.

That traffic generated or patterns of access or egress resulting from this reduction of parking will not cause congestion, hazard, or substantial change in established neighborhood character. In fact, the nature of the use of the structure isn't that that intense that it would require full compliance with our parking requirements — our being the City of Cambridge.

That the continued operation of or development of adjacent uses, as permitted in the zoning ordinance, will not be adversely affected by the reduction in parking. And again, the petitioner has addressed that. There's ample onstreet parking to benefit the neighborhood.

That no nuisance or hazard will be created to the

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     detriment of the health, safety and/or welfare of the
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     occupant of the proposed use, or the citizens of the city.
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               And generally, what is being proposed with regard
     to the parking will not impair the integrity of the district
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     or adjoining district, or otherwise derogate from the intent
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 6
     and purpose of this ordinance.
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               So on the basis of all these findings, the Chair
8
    moves that we grant the requested special permit, again on
9
    the condition that to the extent relevant, the work proceed
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     in accordance with the plans that we identified in
11
     connection with the granting of the variance. Brendan?
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               BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Brendan Sullivan yes to
    granting the special permit.
13
14
               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Andrea? Andrea, are you
15
    muted?
               ANDREA HICKEY: Yes, I'm here. Yes to granting
16
17
     the special permit.
18
               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER:
                                       Thank you. Jason?
19
               JASON MARSHALL: Jason Marshall yes in favor of
     the special permit.
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               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Matina?
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22
              MATINA WILLIAMS: Matina Williams yes in favor of
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1
     granting the special permit.
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               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: And the Chair votes yes as
     well.
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 4
               [All vote YES]
 5
               Special permit is granted as well. Thank you.
 6
               JAMES RAFFERTY: Thank you very much.
               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: You're welcome.
 7
 8
               COLLECTIVE: Thank you.
 9
               BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Good luck.
10
               RON WITTE: You too. Stay well.
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               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: It's not quite 7:45 yet.
12
               SISIA DAGLIAN: There's so many not heard cases.
               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: I know. We have to wait
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     until 7:45 to take on -- to hear our next case. So a few
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     minutes shy of that -- two minutes, to be exact.
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1 2 3 (7:44 p.m.)4 Sitting Members: Constantine Alexander, Brendan Sullivan, Andrea A. Hickey, Matina Williams and 5 Jason Marshall 6 7 CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Okay. The Chair will now 8 call Case Number 106662 -- 599-605 Mass Ave and 2-12 Essex 9 Street. Anyone here wishing to be heard on this matter? I 10 suspect there's no one here wishing to be heard because we 11 are in receipt of a communication from the petitioners' -- I 12 believe counsel, and I'll read it. 13 "Verizon Wireless needs to undertake some 14 revisions to the design of the proposal to modify the 15 existing wireless facility, and therefore pursuant to 16 General Laws 40A Section 15, the applicant hereby 17 respectfully requests that the Board of Appeals consent to 18 the withdrawal of the application [and it cites the numbers] without prejudice." 19 20 I think the petitioner has been educated in the 21 meantime, if you withdraw the petition under our ordinance,

they cannot refile for two years, unless they file something

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substantially different than what has now been proposed, and that they go through a procedure where they have to get the zoning -- Planning Board approval, formal approval, and our approval acknowledging this is a new plan, a different plan. And then we can hear the new plan.
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I believe the petitioner was told this and decided it wants to continue this case, which doesn't trigger all of these adverse results I just identified. So do we have a date that they want?

SISIA DAGLIAN: Yes, May 27.

CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: May 20 --

SISIA DAGLIAN: -- twenty-seventh.

CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Okay, thanks.

SISIA DAGLIAN: And we have no other cases that day.

CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Okay it isn't a case not heard, so we can go forward without having to check people's calendars. The Chair moves that we continue this case as a case not heard until 6:00 p.m. on May 27, subject to the following conditions.

One, that the petitioner sign a waiver of time for decision, which will allow the case to continue until May

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27. This waiver must be signed and returned to the zoning office no later than 5:00 p.m. a week from Monday. If that is not done, the case will automatically be dismissed, and

that will be the end of the case.

So the petitioner is not on the phone, I don't believe. Should be advised it's a very standard form that Cambridge uses that he needs, or it needs, to sign this by 5:00 p.m. -- this form -- by 5:00 p.m. on a week from next Monday.

Second, that to the extent -- that the petitioner needs to put up a new posting sign or a modified posting sign, and this sign must be maintained for the 14 days before May 27, just as the petitioner did with regard to the sign for tonight's hearing.

If the petitioner wishes to use the existing sign, it may do so by -- with a magic marker or what have you -- marking up, changing the date and time on the sign, or preferably getting a new sign from the Inspectional Services Department.

And lastly -- and this case could be applicable -to the extent that as a result of this continuance there
will be modified plans, specifications, drawings or the

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     like, these must be in our files no later than 5:00 p.m. on
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     the Monday before May 27.
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               And I would -- this is not part of the motion, but
     I would remind the petitioner that it should go back to the
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 5
     Planning Board to see what comments it may have or not have
    with regard to the revised plans. Brendan? How do you vote
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7
    on this?
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               BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Brendan Sullivan yes to the
    continuance.
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               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Andrea?
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               ANDREA HICKEY: Andrea Hickey yes to the
12
    continuance.
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               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Jason?
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               JASON MARSHALL: Jason Marshall yes to the
15
    continuance.
16
               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Matina?
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               MATINA WILLIAMS: Matina Williams yes to the
18
    continuance.
19
               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: The Chair votes yes as
    well.
20
21
               [All vote YES]
22
               Case continued until May 27.
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1 2 (7:47 p.m.)3 Sitting Members: Constantine Alexander, Brendan Sullivan, 4 Andrea A. Hickey, Matina Williams and 5 Jason Marshall CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: The Chair will now call 6 7 Case Number 106149 -- 169 Bent Street. Anyone here wishing 8 to be heard on this matter? JAMES RAFFERTY: Yes, good evening, Mr. Chair. 9 10 For the record, James Rafferty appearing on behalf of the 11 applicant. Also present this evening is Evan Stellman, the Project Architect. 12 13 CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Okay. The floor is yours. 14 JAMES RAFFERTY: Mr. Chair, this is a very unique 15 case, and candidly I spent a lot of effort trying to 16 understand why the Commissioner believes a variance was 17 required. Potentially what exists here --18 CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: I'm sorry, I had the same 19 question; I was going to ask you that question. Why do you 20 need relief? Why did the commissioner think you need relief? 21 22 JAMES RAFFERTY: Well, the answer is -- and I was

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not successful persuading the commissioner otherwise -- is that because the -- these are two structures on a single lot, on a lot that has frontage the lot runs from front to back on Charles Street and Bent Street, and the applicant wishes to combine the lots -- the structures.

There's an eight-foot separation between the two structures. There's plenty of GFA -- not even close, you know, 20,000 square feet. But what the setbacks in this area are -- the front setbacks are zero, but the side setbacks are based on a formula.

And the conclusion or the determination by the Commissioner was that when the two structures are joined, and there's a wall at either end of this separation now to keep people from entering that area, but it is unroofed, as you may note from the photos -- when these two areas are joined, then the length of the building changes, so the height plus length formula also changes.

Now there is no physical change in the side yard setback. The sides of the building are not moving. The setback that's there today will be the setback when the work is done. But the determination was because the building now will have a single length, and that length will have been

increased when it becomes a single structure, that it's no longer compliant with the setback -- the side yard setback It hasn't been compliant -- it's never been compliant with the side yard setback.

But at any rate, that formula, the infill of the
- in the middle of the lot -- so the space between the two

buildings -- the conclusion was that that had an effect on

what the setback requirement was at either end of the

building, even though there's no physical change in the

location of those walls, and their long-standing positions.

That's the conclusion, as explained to me. That's the purpose for the application, to allow for a variance for the side yard setbacks that have changed due to a change in the length of the building.

CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Okay. Well, Ranjit's much smarter than I am. So if he feels that's the way it's got to be?

JAMES RAFFERTY: Yeah. No, I've accepted that a long time ago. And I -- candidly I -- it does strike me as unusual when we don't have any change in the wall or the existing setback. So the setbacks aren't changing. The setback requirements have changed, to be candid. And with

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those requirements being increased, I mean I understand how he reached the determination, and I would say it's a rather simple issue before the Board.
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I think the hardship has everything to do with the lot and the existing structures on it. And I think the Board could easily conclude that there's nothing about this application that would be contrary to the intent of the ordinance.

CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: I have one other question, the name of your client. Did Alexander Graham Bell actually form this Trust? Where did that name come from?

JAMES RAFFERTY: Is that because -- that's an homage, I would say, to the inventor of the telephone. The proponent had a family business that was involved in electric motors and owns a fair bit of property in the East Cambridge outer Kendall Square neighborhood.

So yeah, this has been a long-named realty trust associated with property owned by -- yeah, but it is a notable name. No, this is not the Bell family.

CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Okay. Thank you.

Brendan, any questions?

BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Brendan Sullivan no questions.

1 CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Andrea? 2 ANDREA HICKEY: Andrea Hickey no questions. CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: 3 Jason? 4 JASON MARSHALL: Jason Marshall no questions. CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: And Matina? 5 6 MATINA WILLIAMS: Matina Williams no questions. 7 CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: And I've asked my 8 questions. I have no further questions. Okay. I will 9 close -- I will open the matter up to public testimony. 10 JAMES RAFFERTY: Mr. Stellman's compensation is 11 related to his speaking, but I quess in this case we would 12 waive that presentation, given the Board's inclination. 13 CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: I'm sorry, say that again? 14 I missed that, Mr. Rafferty. 15 JAMES RAFFERTY: I was being irreverent. 16 that Mr. Stellman's compensation was related to how much 17 speaking he does at the hearing, and I didn't know if the 18 Board wanted an architectural description of what's taken 19 place. CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: I think we can pass. 20 21 JAMES RAFFERTY: Okay. 22 CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: And even though we have a

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very quick night tonight, thanks to everything being continued, but no -- not necessary. Thank you. I will open the matter up to public testimony. I'll just have to read the instructions.

Any members of the public who wish to speak should
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Any members of the public who wish to speak should now click the icon at the bottom of your Zoom screen that says, "Raise hand." If you are calling in by phone, you can raise your hand by pressing *9 and unmute or mute by pressing *6.

Waiting to hear if anybody's calling in.

SISIA DAGLIAN: There's no --

CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: I'm being told no one is calling in. That's a surprise. So I'll close all public testimony. But we have nothing -- if I haven't mentioned it, I'll mention it now, -- we have no written communications one way or another with regards to this matter. I think we're ready for a vote. Brendan?

BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Brendan Sullivan yes. And I would add -- Mr. Sullivan -- that your work on this project speaks volumes.

CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Well, I've got to make a motion.

BRENDAN SULLIVAN: So you need not to --

CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Excuse me, I've got to

make a motion so you can say yes to that. My mistake.

BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Thank you.

CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: The Chair moves that this Board make the following findings with regard to the variance being sought:

That a literal enforcement of the provisions of the ordinance would involve a substantial hardship, financial or otherwise. That a literal enforcement -- truly literal, from my point of view, but in any event, it would require -- if we don't grant the variance -- the maintenance of this little alleyway between the two structures that serves no purpose, and it's just wasted space.

That the hardship is owing to the shape of the structure or the two structures; that they're separated by this alleyway, which I'm going to call an alleyway, and that will be eliminated by granting the variance.

And that relief may be granted without substantial detriment to the public good, or nullifying or substantially derogating from the intent or purpose of this ordinance. I think the facts speak for themselves that there's no impact

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     on the public good from joining the two structures -- the
     necessity for zoning relief is very technical in nature, and
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    without any dramatic or any impact on the public good.
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               So on the basis of all of these findings, the
 5
     Chair moves that we grant the variance requested on the
 6
    condition that the work proceed in accordance with plans
7
    prepared by Khalsa, K-h-a-l-s-a, the cover page dated
8
     February 1, the cover page of which has been initialed by
    the Chair.
9
10
               Now, Brendan.
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               BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Brendan Sullivan yes to
12
     granting the relief requested.
13
               ANDREA HICKEY: Andrea Hickey yes to granting the
     relief.
14
15
               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Jason?
16
               JASON MARSHALL: Jason Marshall yes to the relief.
17
               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: And Matina?
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               MATINA WILLIAMS: Matina yes to granting the
19
     relief.
20
               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: So there's no suspense, I
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    will grant yes as well.
22
               [All vote YES]
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1 Variance granted. Thank you. 2 JAMES RAFFERTY: Thank you very much. Have a good evening now. 3 CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Thank you. A short 4 5 evening. 6 JAMES RAFFERTY: Yes. 7 CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Congratulations. We've 8 had almost -- this is a night of continuation, except for 9 your cases. 10 JAMES RAFFERTY: It's a testament to the 11 preparation, no doubt, Mr. Chair. Appreciate the 12 compliments. CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: You're welcome. It's not 13 quite 8:00 when we have our last case, so we'll still wait 14 15 until 8:00. We've got three minutes to go. 16 17 18 19 20 21 22

1 2 (8:00 p.m.)3 Sitting Members: Constantine Alexander, Brendan Sullivan, 4 Andrea A. Hickey, Matina Williams and Jason Marshall 5 6 CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: All right. It's now 8:00. 7 Now, moving around, cut the suspense for the last case. The 8 Chair will call Case Number 106913 -- 33 Gore Street. 9 there anyone here wishing to be heard on this matter? 10 one wishes to be heard? That's probably because we are in 11 receipt of a letter from Sarah Rhatigan, as counsel for the 12 petitioner. And the letter states, 13 "This matter -- " [referring to the case we have 14 right now] "-- is scheduled to be heard by the Board of 15 Zoning Appeal, a public hearing on Thursday, February 25, 16 2021. On behalf of the petitioners, I hereby respectfully 17 request a continuance, and ask that this matter be 18 rescheduled for a public hearing on Thursday, April 8, 19 2021." 20 And this is a case not heard, so the five of us 21 don't necessarily have to be present on April 8. We do have 22 room on our calendar for this, to continue this case until

April 8. So I will -- the Chair proposes to make the following motion.

The Chair moves that this case be continued as a case not heard until 6:00 p.m. on April 8, subject to the following conditions:

One, that the petitioner sign a waiver of time for decision. Such waiver must be signed and returned to the Inspectional Services Department -- I think we have it in the file, wait a minute. The petitioner -- counsel, who's experienced in these matters. Yeah, she signed one already, so we don't need that. Eliminate that condition.

The second is that a new posting sign or a modified posting sign must be maintained for the 14 days prior to April 8, just as the sign for tonight's hearing was maintained.

I should mention -- and it should be conveyed to the petitioner's counsel -- that when I checked for the sign it was in bad condition, barely hanging on. They should take better steps to maintain a readable sign than was the case before, particularly given the fact there seems to be some issues on the merits of this case.

So that sign, I think the current sign is not in

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     condition to be modified. So our new sign should be
     obtained and maintained for the 14 days prior to April 8.
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    And lastly to the extent there are going to be new or
    modified plans, specifications, drawings or the like, they
 4
    must be in our files no later than 5:00 p.m. on the Monday
 5
    before April 8. Brendan, how do you vote?
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 7
               BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Brendan Sullivan yes to the
 8
    continuance.
               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Andrea?
 9
10
               ANDREA HICKEY: Andrea Hickey yes to the
    continuance.
11
12
               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Jason?
13
               JASON MARSHALL: Jason Marshall yes to granting
    the continuance.
14
15
               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Matina?
16
               MATINA WILLIAMS: Matina Williams yes to granting
17
    the continuance.
18
               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: And I vote continue as
19
    well. Case continued. Meeting is over. Thank you,
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     everybody.
21
               COLLECTIVE: Good night.
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               CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER: Good night.
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[08:02 p.m. End of Proceedings]
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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,					
10	nor am I financially interested in the outcome of this					
11	action.					
12	In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this					
13	4th day ofMarch, 2021.					
14						
15						
16	Notary Public					
17	My commission expires:					
18	August 6, 2021					
19	CATHERINE M. BURNS					
20	COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS My Commission Expires August 6, 2021					
21						
22						

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A	45:5,7,9,13,19	Agreed 43:5	47:2,6,13,19	68:16 69:2
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