



City of Cambridge

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IN CITY COUNCIL
June 25, 2018

COUNCILLOR KELLEY
MAYOR MCGOVERN
COUNCILLOR ZONDERVAN

- WHEREAS: Flat roofs and associated central drains on residential three-story homes can lead to more storm water entering Cambridge's sanitary sewer; and
- WHEREAS: These flat roofs may be on homes that have been insulated or otherwise improved for energy efficiency with the result that snow and/or ice during the winter may build up amounts unanticipated by the original building designers; and
- WHEREAS: Climate change appears to be bringing more episodes of heavy snow and rainfall during winter months, as experienced during the winter of 2014-2015 and again in 2017-2018, and with clogged drains this results in more buildup of snow, ice, and water on flat roofs than may be safe, especially with an energy-efficient building which helps keep rooftop ice and snow from melting away; and
- WHEREAS: Retrofitting flat roofs to allow angled drainage to the side of residential three-story houses would alleviate snow, ice, and water buildup safety concerns and would decrease the amount of storm water going into Cambridge's sanitary sewer system; and
- WHEREAS: The expensive alteration of putting a pitched roof on a flat roof could be offset by the added value of increasing interior space in the existing home and possible improving other options for room use; and
- WHEREAS: The extra height and living space created as a result of installing a pitched roof may negatively impact neighbors; and
- WHEREAS: The Special Permit process used for other challenging zoning situations may be appropriate in this case; now therefore be it
- ORDERED: That the City Council refer to the Ordinance Committee and the Planning Board, for hearing and report, the following attachment with changes to the Cambridge Zoning Ordinance in Article 5.000.
REFERRED TO PLANNING BOARD AND ORDINANCE COMMITTEE FOR HEARING AND REPORT

In City Council June 25, 2018.
Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.
Attest:- Donna P. Lopez, City Clerk

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donna P. Lopez".

Donna P. Lopez, City Clerk

REFERRED TO PLANNING BOARD AND ORDINANCE COMMITTEE FOR HEARING AND REPORT