

City of Newton, Massachusetts

Department of Planning and Development 1000 Commonwealth Avenue Newton, Massachusetts 02459 #273-14(6)

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Barney S. Heath Director

Ruthanne Fuller Mayor

PUBLIC HEARING MEMORANDUM

Public Hearing Date: April 28, 2020 Land Use Action Date: July 14, 2020 City Council Action Date: July 20, 2020 90-Day Expiration Date: July 27, 2020

DATE: April 24, 2020

TO: City Council

FROM: Barney S. Heath, Director of Planning and Development

Neil Cronin, Chief Planner for Current Planning

SUBJECT: Petition #273-14(6), for SPECIAL PERMIT/SITE PLAN APPROVAL to amend Council Order

Order #273-14(2) to amend the site plan at 5-7 Elm Street, Ward 3, West Newton, on land known as Section 33, Block 23, Lot 09 and Section 33, Block 23, Lot 16, containing approximately 26,320 sq. ft. of land in a district zoned Multi Residence 2. Ref: §7.3.3, and

§7.4, of Chapter 30 of the Newton Revised Zoning Ordinance, 2015.

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the City Council and the public with technical information and planning analysis which may be useful in the special permit decision making process of the City Council. The Planning Department's intention is to provide a balanced view of the issues with the information it has at the time of the public hearing. There may be other information presented at or after the public hearing that the Land Use Committee of the City Council will want to consider in its discussion at a subsequent Public Hearing/Working Session.



5-7 Elm Street

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The subject property located at 5-7 Elm Street consists of one lot totaling 26,320 square feet in the Multi-Residence 2 (the "MR-2") zone in West Newton. The petitioner received a special permit and a request to rezone to construct four Single-Family Attached Dwellings in February of 2015 (Council Order #273-14(2)). The petitioner then obtained Council Order #91-18A in 2018 to amend the site plan which changed the vehicular access into the site from the abutting parcel to Elm Street (Attachment A). Both Orders contained a condition requiring the petitioner to remove bollards from the frontage. The petitioner seeks to keep the bollards; therefore, a special permit is required to remove the condition. The Planning Department consulted with the Transportation Division of Public Works ("DPW") who believes that the bollards are not necessary and can be removed without negatively impacting safety. As such, the Planning Department suggests that the bollards be removed.

I. SIGNIFICANT ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

When reviewing this request, the Council should consider whether:

- The specific site is an appropriate location for the amendments to Council Order #273-14(2). (§7.3.3.C.1.)
- The site, due to the amendments to Council Order #273-14(2), as developed and operated will adversely affect the neighborhood. (§7.3.3.C.2.)
- There will be a nuisance or serious hazard to vehicles or pedestrians because of the amendments to Council Order #273-14(2). (§7.3.3.C.3.)
- Access to the site over streets is appropriate for the types and numbers of vehicles involved. (§7.3.3.C.4.)

II. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SITE AND NEIGHBORHOOD

A. <u>Neighborhood and Zoning</u>

The property is located at the corner of Elm and River Streets in the MR-1 zone in West Newton. The area contains a mix of zones such as the Multi-Residence 1 and 2 zones, the Business Use 1 zone, the Public Use zone, and the Single Residence 3 zone (Attachment B). Due to the presence of these zones, the area consists of a variety of land uses such as single-and-multi-family, commercial, and open space (Attachment C).

B. Site

The site consists of 26,319 square feet and it is comprised of four Single-Family Attached Dwellings in two structures. The site is accessed from Elm Street via a shared curb cut with the abutting property to the south. There is a fence along the entire frontage and landscaping throughout the site. The bollards are located along the River Street frontage at the northeast portion of the site.

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Graphic I: Site Plan

Existing Bollards

III. PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS

A. Land Use

The principal use of the site is and will remain multi-family.

B. Building and Site Design

The petitioner is not proposing any changes to the structures on site. The petitioner is proposing to retain the bollards along the River Street frontage which are required to be removed prior to the issuance of an occupancy permit per Council Orders #273-14(2) and #91-18A.

Before the special permit was pursued in 2014, the site was comprised of two lots: 5-7 Elm Street contained a two-family dwelling while 114 River Street was a vacant lot. 114 River Street had been improved with a retail use before it was damaged in a fire in 1999. As such, the lot was largely paved and there were bollards along the frontage as seen in the below picture.



Graphic II: Previous Condition

The petitioner wishes to keep the bollards for safety reasons as evidenced by an accident report in 2019 (Attachment D). The Planning Department consulted with DPW who believes the accident does not support the assumption the bollards are necessary. DPW further believes that this intersection is not different from any other unsignalized "T" intersection in the City, a large majority of which do not have bollards protecting property from vehicles. As such, DPW believes that they can be removed without negatively impacting safety. Given the input of DPW, the Planning Department suggests that the bollards be removed.

C. Landscaping

This petition does not affect the landscaping approved by Council Order #91-18A.

IV. TECHNICAL REVIEW

A. <u>Technical Considerations (Chapter 30, Newton Zoning Ordinance):</u>

This petition does not require any relief from the Newton Zoning Ordinance.

B. **Engineering Review**

This petition does not meet the minimum threshold for review from the Engineering Division of Public Works.

V. PETITIONER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

The petitioner should respond to the issues raised in this memorandum and other questions raised at the public hearing as necessary. Written responses to all significant issues should be provided for analysis by the Planning Department prior to being scheduled for additional public hearings. The Planning Department will prepare an updated memo prior to any future public hearings.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A: Council Order #91-18A

Attachment B: Zoning Map
Attachment C: Land Use Map

Attachment D: Accident Report, dated October 27, 2019

Property Address: 5-7 Elm Street, Newton Property Address: 11-19 Elmt Street, Newton #91-18A 5-7 Elm Street Amending #273-14(2)

CITY OF NEWTON
IN CITY COUNCIL

May 21, 2018

Maydon Otty Clerk

2018 MAY 23 PM 2: 52

David A. Olcon, OMC

Nawdon, MA 02459

ORDERED:

That the Council, finding that the public convenience and welfare will be substantially served by its action, that the use of the site will be in harmony with the conditions, safeguards and limitations set forth in the Zoning Ordinance, and that said action will be without substantial detriment to the public good, and without substantially derogating from the intent or purpose of the Zoning Ordinance, grants approval of the following SPECIAL PERMIT/SITE PLAN APPROVAL to amend Board Order #273-14(2) to amend the site plan, as recommended by the Land Use Committee for the reasons given by the Committee through its Chairman, Councilor Gregory Schwartz:

- 1. The specific site is an appropriate location for the amendments to Council Order #273-14(2) because direct access will be provided to the four Single-Family Attached Dwellings from Elm Street. (§7.3.3.C.1.)
- 2. The site, due to the amendments to Council Order #273-14(2), as developed and operated, will not adversely affect the neighborhood because the proposed shared driveway consolidates the access points onto Elm Street. (§7.3.3.C.2.)
- 3. There will be no nuisance or serious hazard to vehicles or pedestrians resulting from the amendments to Council Order #273-14(2) because adequate sight distances will be provided. (§7.3.3.C.3.)
- 4. Access to the site over streets is appropriate for the types and number of vehicles involved. (§7.3.3.C.4.)

PETITION NUMBER:

#91-18

PETITIONER:

Nicore Construction Corp.

LOCATION:

5-7 Elm Street, on land known as SBL 33, 23, 9 & 15,

containing approximately 26,290 square feet of land.

OWNER:

Nicore Construction Corp., Anthony Bonadio

ADDRESS OF OWNER:

102 Newton Street Newton, MA 02468

TO BE USED FOR:

Curb cut and asphalt driveway on Elm Street

TITLE REF. Book 63616 Page 206 (Deed)

Book 68981 Page 439 (Decision)

A True Copy Attest

Clark of Newton, Mass.

CONSTRUCTION:

Asphalt

EXPLANATORY NOTES:

§7.3.3 and §7.4 to amend Board Order #273-14(2), which allowed the construction of four townhouse style units, to construct a shared curb cut and driveway between 11-19 and

5-7 Elm Street.

ZONING:

Multi-Residence 2 District

Approved subject to the following conditions:

- 1. All buildings, parking areas, driveways, walkways, landscaping and other site features associated with this Special Permit/Site Plan approval shall be located and constructed consistent with:
 - a. Area Plan, prepared by VTP Associates Inc., signed and stamped by Joseph R. Porter Professional Land Surveyor, dated December 26, 2017, revised April 30, 2018.
 - b. Zoning Plan, prepared by VTP Associates Inc., signed and stamped by Joseph R. Porter Professional Land Surveyor, and Marc Besio Professional Engineer, dated June 9, 2014 revised November 18, 2014, May 5, 2017, December 19, 2017, and April 30, 2018.
 - c. Topographic Proposed Site Plan, prepared by VTP Associates Inc., signed and stamped by Joseph R. Porter Professional Land Surveyor, and Marc Besio Professional Engineer, dated June 9, 2014 revised November 18, 2014, November 28, 2014, January 27, 2017 December 19, 2017, and April 30, 2018.
 - d. Detail Sheet 1, prepared by VTP Associates Inc., signed and stamped by Joseph R. Porter Professional Land Surveyor, and Marc Besio Professional Engineer, dated June 6, 2014 and revised November 18, 2014.
 - e. Detail Sheet 2, prepared by VTP Associates Inc., signed and stamped by Joseph R. Porter Professional Land Surveyor, and Marc Besio Professional Engineer, dated June 6, 2014.
 - f. Detail Sheet 3, prepared by VTP Associates Inc., signed and stamped by Joseph R. Porter Professional Land Surveyor, and Marc Besio Professional Engineer, dated November 28, 2014.
 - g. Easement Plan, prepared by VTP Associates Inc., unsigned and unstamped, dated May 7, 2018.
 - h. Landscape Plans, prepared by Ryan Associates, signed and stamped by Thomas R. Ryan, Registered Landscape Architect, consisting of the following five (5) sheets:
 - Layout and Lighting Plan dated October 13, 2014, revised November 21, 2014, March 1, 2018, and April 30, 2018;
 - Grading Plan dated October 13, 2014, revised November 21, 2014 A True Copy 11. 2018, and April 30, 2018

City Clerk of Newton, Mass

Attest

- III. Planting Plan dated October 13, 2014, revised November 4, 2014, November 21, 2014, March 1, 2018, and April 30, 2018
- IV. Tree Removal and Replacement Plan dated October 13, 2014, November 4, 2014, revised November 21, 2014, March 1, 2018, and April 30, 2018
- V. Site Details dated October 13, 2014, revised and April 31, 2018
- 2. Prior to the issuance of an amended building permit, the petitioner shall submit to the City Clerk, Law Department, Department of Inspectional Services and the Department of Planning and Development, a recorded document(s) from the property owners at 11-19 and 5-7 Elm Street outlining ownership, maintenance, and further responsibilities of the shared driveway.
- 3. Prior to the issuance of an amended building permit, the petitioner shall submit to the City Clerk, Law Department, Department of Inspectional Services and the Department of Planning and Development, a recorded abandonment of easement document for the easement approved by Board Order #273-14(2).
- 4. Prior to the issuance of an amended building permit, the petitioner shall submit signed and stamped engineering drawings of the shared curb cut and "Y" driveway for review and approval. The removal of the existing curb cuts and proposed sidewalk shall also be reviewed and approved by the City Engineer.
- 5. No amended Building Permit for the shared curb cut and driveway approved by this Order #91-18 shall be issued until the petitioner has:
 - a. Recorded a certified copy of this Council Order with the Registry of Deeds for the Southern District of Middlesex County and filed a certified copy of such recorded copy with the City Clerk, the Inspectional Services Department and the Department of Planning and Development.
 - b. Submitted a recorded agreement to the City Clerk, Department of Inspectional Services and the Planning Department in accordance with Condition #2.
 - c. Submitted a recorded abandonment easement document to the City Clerk, Department of Inspectional Services and the Planning Department in accordance with Condition #3.
 - d. Filed final engineering plans for review and approval by the City Engineer, including plans for the proposed shared curb cut and the removal of the two existing curb cuts in accordance with Condition #4. A copy of such written approval shall be filed with Clerk of the Board, the Commissioner of Inspectional Services, and the Director of Planning and Development.
 - e. Obtained a written statement from the Planning Department that confirms the building permit plans are consistent with plans approved in Condition #1.
- 6. Except as amended by this Council Order, all other conditions of Board Order #273-14(2) shall remain in full force and effect.

A True Copy
Attest

Chy Clerk of Newton, Mass.

Under Suspension of Rules Readings Waived and Approved 24 yeas 0 nays

The undersigned hereby certifies that the foregoing copy of the decision of the Newton City Council granting a SPECIAL PERMIT/SITE PLAN APPROVAL is a true accurate copy of said decision, the original of which having been filed with the City Clerk on May 23, 2018. The undersigned further certifies that all statutory requirements for the issuance of such SPECIAL PERMIT/SITE PLAN APPROVAL have been complied with and that all plans referred to in the decision have been filed with the City Clerk.

ATTEST:

(SGD) DAVID A. OLSON, City Clerk

Clerk of the City Council

I, David A. Olson, as the <u>Clerk of the City Council</u> and keeper of its records and as the <u>City Clerk</u> and official keeper of the records of the <u>CITY OF NEWTON</u>, hereby certify that twenty days have elapsed since the filing of the foregoing decision of the Newton City Council in the <u>Office of the City Clerk</u> on <u>OS | S3 | IS</u> and that <u>NO APPEAL</u> of said decision pursuant to G.L. c. 40A, §17 has been filed thereto.

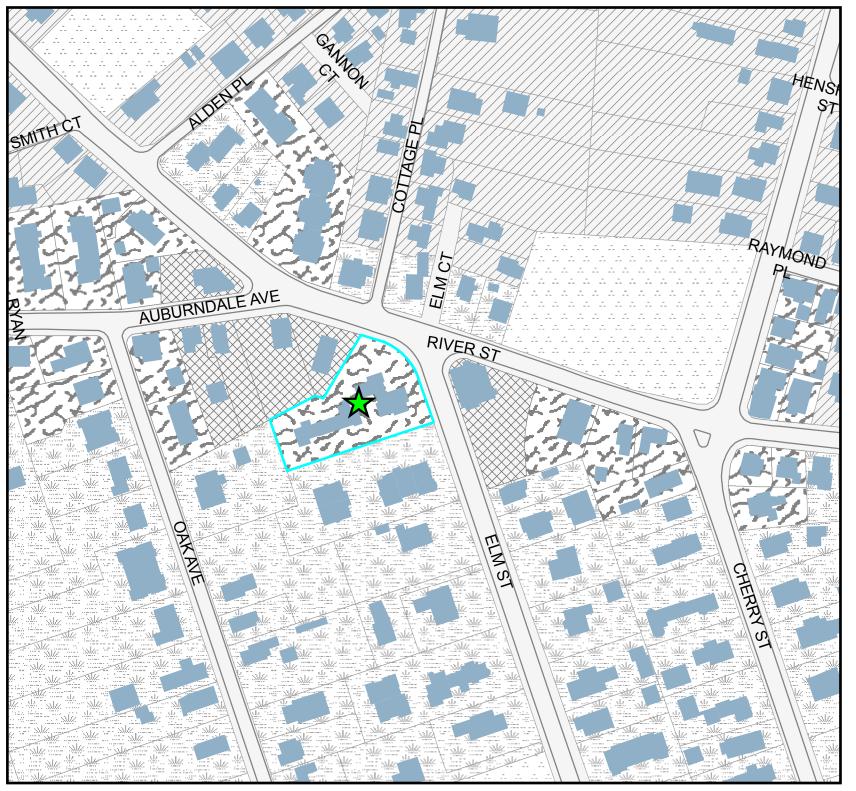
ATTEST:

(SGD) DAVID A. OLSON, City Clerk

acting Clerk of the Council

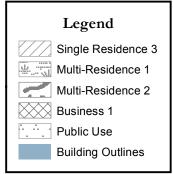
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City Clerk of Newton, Mass.



Attachment B Zoning Map Elm St., 5-7

City of Newton, Massachusetts



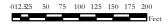






The information on this map is from the Newton Geographic Information System (GIS). The City of Newton cannot guarantee the accuracy of this information. Each user of this map is responsible for determining its suitability for his or her intended purpose. City departments will not necessarily approve applications based solely on GIS data.

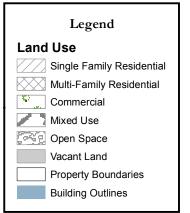
CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS Mayor - Ruthanne Fuller GIS Administrator - Douglas Greenfield





Attachment C Land Use Map Elm St., 5-7

City of Newton, Massachusetts









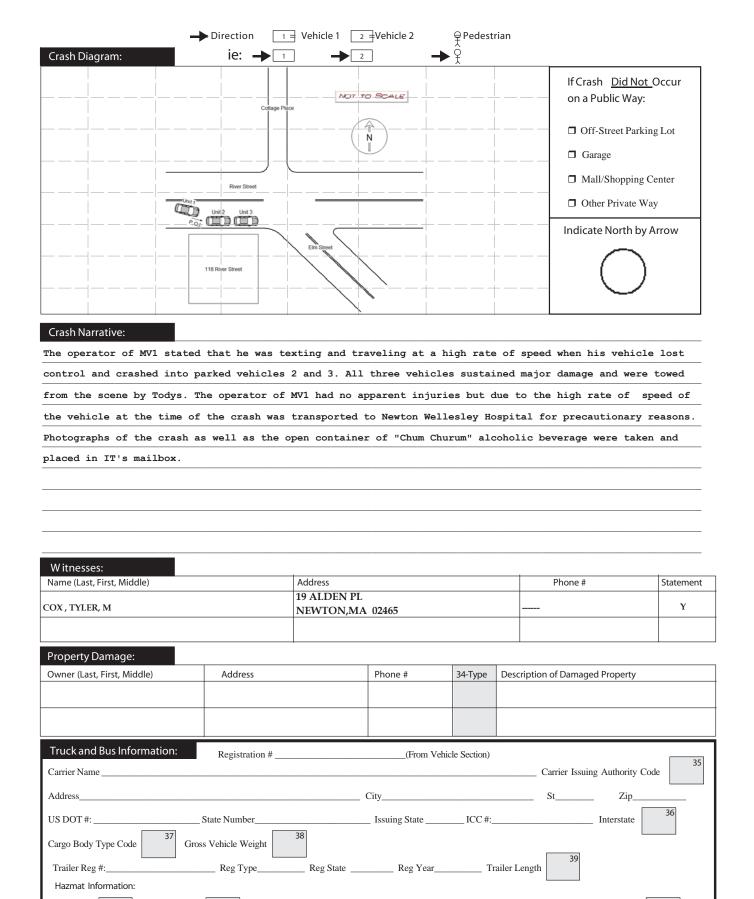
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CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS Mayor - Ruthanne Fuller GIS Administrator - Douglas Greenfield

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