

Nadia Khan

From: Andrea W. Kelley
Sent: Wednesday, January 8, 2020 9:41 PM
To: Rick Lipof; Nadia Khan
Subject: questions/comments on #12-20 55-67 Border St.

Dear Rick and Nadia, I have some questions and comments on petition #13-20 55- 57 Border St. West Newton. Will you pass these on to the petitioner and his attorney so that they can address them before this item comes back before us?

1. Who are the intended users of the proposed 46-stall parking lot, as it was stated that this is not a customer-centric business but the washing machines get delivered and picked up by truck? Are there that many employees, and/or use of the lot of other business parking needs? (The City is trying to discourage unnecessary paving with impervious surface and use of vehicles for carbon emission and traffic reasons.)
2. Is the main entry facing Border St.? If so, that is the area closest to where the two accessible parking spaces should be, not towards the rear or a side door.
3. How do vehicles access the rear parking lot area that is planned to be repaved from gravel to asphalt, as the plan shows stall striping that doesn't allow for a through access to the rear?
4. Does that rear lot have direct vehicle access to the building? It looks like that on the plan; if so, is that a rear truck delivery/pick up area?
5. I don't understand why interior planting requirement should be waived; this is a large asphaltic surface = heat island. I am not prone to want to vote in favor of waiving this requirement as the city needs more climate mitigation measures on all projects.
6. The Engineering Dept. memo lists numerous items such as sidewalk condition, width, curb cuts, etc. that I assume will be addressed at the next meeting.
7. If the petitioner would like some input on plant selection to include more native etc. I think Councilor Malakie, myself, Tree Warden Marc Welch and/or the Planning Dept. are capable to give suggestions eg. instead of Calleri Pear trees. If the Arborvitae will be against a fence vs. free standing (which is how I read the plan) that is more likely to be viable vs. not against a structure.
8. Some of the parking stalls on the Border St. edge appear to me overlapping with Border St. and the adjacent alley/roadway. Please have your surveyor check this.
9. One of our fellow Councilors suggested you consider adding solar panels/canopies over the lot. This is not necessarily an added expense, and can contribute significantly to your electricity needs and Newton's clean energy goals.

When responding, be advised that the Secretary of the Commonwealth has determined that email may be considered a public record.

Andrea

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