

Setti D. Warren Mayor

City of Newton, Massachusetts

Department of Planning and Development 1000 Commonwealth Avenue Newton, Massachusetts 02459

Telephone (617) 796-1120 Telefax (617) 796-1142 TDD/TTY (617) 796-1089 www.newtonma.gov

James Freas Acting Director

PUBLIC HEARING MEMORANDUM

February 3, 2015 Public Hearing Date: Land Use Action Date: March 3, 2015 Board of Aldermen Action Date: March 16, 2015 90-Day Expiration Date: May 4, 2015

DATE: January 30, 2015

TO: Board of Aldermen

FROM: James Freas, Acting Director of Planning and Development

Alexandra Ananth, Chief Planner for Current Planning

Stephen Pantalone, Senior Planner

Petition #360-14, 112 NEEDHAM STREET, LLC petition for a SPECIAL PERMIT/SITE SUBJECT:

> PLAN APPROVAL and EXTENSION of a NONCONFORMING STRUCTURE to demolish an existing two-story commercial building and construct a new 21/2story commercial building approximately 29' in height with a parking facility including waivers from font and side setbacks and lot area requirements; the number of parking stalls; end stall maneuvering space; and off-street loading requirement and Floor Area Ratio up to 1.5 at 112 Needham Street, Ward 8, on land known as SBL 83, 12, 7, containing approx. 7,500 sq. ft. of land in a district zoned Mixed Use 2. Ref: Sec 30-24, 30-23, 30-21(b), 30-15 Table 3, 30-19(d)(11), (15) and (m), and 30-19(h)(2)e) and, 30-19(I) Table of Off-Street Loading

Requirements of the City of Newton Rev Zoning Ord, 2012.

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the Board of Aldermen and the public with technical information and planning analysis which may be useful in the special permit decision making process of the Board of Aldermen. 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 Board of Aldermen will want to consider in its discussion at a subsequent Working Session.



112 Needham Street

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The property at 112 Needham Street consists of a 7,500 square foot lot in a Mixed Use 2 zoning district, improved with a two-story commercial building and six parking stalls. The existing structure is nonconforming, as it is located within the setbacks and its parking facilities do not meet the requirements of the Newton Zoning Ordinance (NZO). The petitioner is proposing to demolish the existing building and to construct a new 2½-story commercial building with parking and storage on the ground floor, office space on the second floor, and storage/mechanical space in the ½-story. The petitioner is seeking a special permit to extend the nonconforming structure, to exceed the Floor Area Ratio (FAR), building height, and number of stories allowed by right, to waive one parking stall, to waive the end stall maneuvering space requirement, and to waive off-street loading requirements. The staff of the Newton Historical Commission found that the existing building was not preferably preserved (ATTACHMENT A).

The existing commercial building comprises most of the site, and the pull-in parking stalls comprise the entire frontage of the lot. The petitioner is proposing to expand the footprint of the existing building by approximately 613 square feet and the height of the building by an additional half-story, or approximately ten feet. The petitioner will also close a portion of the existing curb cut, and will provide a new sidewalk and landscaping in front of the property. The front façade of the proposed building will consist of a brick material with architectural details; however a portion of the middle of the building will be open with parking stalls visible on the ground floor.

The petitioner has indicated that they will own and operate the office space for their real estate management company, Arin Realty Company which has five employees and is currently located on Lincoln Street in Newton Highlands. The petitioner also noted that some of their employees do not work full time in the office, and that the ten parking stalls are sufficient for their business needs. Based on the type of business and number of employees, the number of proposed parking stalls appears adequate. Furthermore, due to the size of the lot there is limited ability to provide the number of parking stalls required by the NZO for most types of uses.

While the Planning Department would prefer to see larger consolidation of lots within the Needham Street corridor that would allow for parking in the rear of sites and a more activated ground floor, it has no authority to force such consolidations on property owners. The Planning Department believes that the proposed project is an improvement to site, particularly in terms of safety for vehicles exiting the site and in terms of the materials of the front façade. To further improve the proposed building from the streetscape and the pedestrian environment, the Planning Department suggests utilizing a brick façade on the sides of the building and enclosing a greater portion of the ground floor, reducing the curb cut/garage entrance to 20 feet, using the ground floor windows for display in order to hide views of the parking area, and provide an awning on both sides of the front façade of the building.

I. SIGNIFICANT ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION:

When reviewing this request, the Board should consider whether:

- Literal compliance with the parking requirements, including the number of parking stalls on the site, is impracticable due to the nature of the use, or the location, size, width, depth, shape, or grade of the lot, or that such exceptions would be in the public interest. (§30-19(d)(11),(15) and §30-19(m))
- The proposed building will not be substantially more detrimental than the existing nonconforming structure is to the neighborhood. (§30-21(b))
- The specific site is an appropriate location for the proposed building and office use. (§30-24(d)(1))
- The proposed building and office use, as developed and operated will not adversely affect the neighborhood. (§30-24(d)(2))
- There will be no nuisance or serious hazard to vehicles or pedestrians (§30-24(d)(3))
- Access to the site over streets is appropriate for the types and number of vehicles involved. (§30-24(d)(4))

II. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SITE AND NEIGHBORHOOD

A. Neighborhood and Zoning

The site is located in the Needham Street commercial corridor between Rockland Ave and Columbia Ave across from the McDonalds restaurant. The land uses within the corridor consist of mostly retail, service and office types of uses (ATTACHMENT B). The site is located within a Mixed Use 2 zoning district (ATTACHMENT C).

B. Site

The site consists of a 7,500 square foot lot improved with a two-story commercial building with retail space, and six parking stalls located in front of the building. The location of the parking stalls requires cars to back out into Needham Street to exit. The site does not have any significant grading or landscaping.

The existing building is nonconforming because it is located in the side and front setback and does not have adequate parking facilities. The Planning Department

believes that the existing building façade and parking layout detracts from the streetscape.

III. PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS

A. Land Use

The petitioner is proposing to replace the existing 4,747 square foot retail use with an office use. The office space will be used for the owner's real estate management company, Arin Realty Co., which is currently located on Lincoln Street in Newton Highlands. The petitioner will use the office space for its five employees and property records and will use the ground floor storage space for its equipment. The Planning Department does not have any concerns with the proposed change in use, as the proposed use is allowed by right in this zoning district.

B. <u>Building and Site Design</u>

The proposed building will consist of 2½ stories with an FAR of 1.43. The ground floor will consist of ten parking stalls, including one handicap accessible stall, 1,328 square feet of storage space, an elevator, and a trash room; the second floor will consist of 5,360 square feet of office space; and the half-story will be used for the mechanical equipment and additional storage. The front façade of the building will consist of brick with soldier courses and a metal cornice, whereas the side and rear of the building will consist of a cementitious or stucco siding in contrasting colors. The ground floor will be open along a portion of the ground floor of the building which will allow portions of the parking to be visible from the public way. The building will have a sloped roof to allow for the additional half-story.

The proposed site plan will expand the footprint of the building by a total of 613 square feet, and will decrease the front setback by two feet, increase the side (south) by .8 feet, decrease the side setback (north) by .8 feet, and increase the rear setback by 4.4 feet. The proposed site plan will also create a new sidewalk along the front property line and provide landscaping, including street trees, in front of the property. The petitioner is proposing two drywells in front of the building and trench drains along the side and rear of the property that will collect runoff.

The Planning Department believes that the proposed building and site changes, and therefore the special permit relief requested, will be an improvement over the existing conditions, both from an aesthetic and functional perspective. The proposed building will provide a front façade with a brick material and architectural details that will be more visually appealing than the current structure and the existing pull in parking stalls. The proposed site plan will also close a portion of the

curb cut and add much needed landscaping to the corridor. However, the Planning Department believes that additional changes could further improve/activate the proposed project and its impact on the streetscape and pedestrian environment. These improvements include enclosing a greater portion of the ground floor so that the parking is not visible from the public way, continuing the brick façade around the sides of the building, reducing the curb cut/garage entrance to 20 feet, providing displays in the ground floor windows to engage pedestrians, and add an awning on both sides of the front façade of the building.

C. Traffic and Parking

The petitioner submitted a Traffic Assessment report from MDM Transportation Consultants (ATTACHMENT D), which projected trips generated by the existing and proposed uses based on the published ITE trip rates. The report found that there would be a net decrease in the amount of traffic from the site with the proposed use, even with the additional commercial space.

The change of use from retail to office and the additional storage space increases the number of onsite parking stalls required by the NZO from 18 to 23. The petitioner is proposing to increase the number of parking stalls on the site from six to ten. Because there is an existing parking credit on the site, the requested parking waiver is only one stall. The Planning Department believes that a parking waiver is reasonable, as the size of the site provides limited opportunity for expansion. The Planning Department notes that if the storage space on the ground floor were removed it may be possible that one or two more stalls could be accommodated. While the additional stalls would eliminate the need for a parking waiver, it would still fall significantly short of the spaces required by the use under the NZO calculation. The Planning Department believes that the parking layout, which will remove the current back-out parking, will be a significant improvement in terms of safety.

The petitioner has indicated that there are five employees of the family-owned/run company, some of which only work part-time, and that because they are a real estate management company, there are very few customers/tenants visiting the site. Therefore the employees will occupy a maximum of five of the ten parking stalls, leaving five stalls for the occasional customer/tenant. Based on this information it appears that despite the significant parking deficit as calculated under the NZO, the proposed number of parking stalls is adequate for the use.

D. Landscape Screening

The petitioner is proposing to plant several trees and bushes along the front of the building. The Planning Department believes this will be a significant improvement over the existing conditions on the site, and to the corridor, which has minimal vegetation along the frontage.

IV. TECHNICAL REVIEW

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

The Zoning Review Memorandum (ATTACHMENT E) provides an analysis of the proposal with regard to zoning. The petitioner is seeking the following reliefs:

- Section 30-21(b), and Section 30-15, Table 3, to allow for the extension and reconstruction of a nonconforming structure as to side and front setbacks
- Section 30-15, Table 3, to exceed FAR of 1.0 but less than 1.5
- Section 30-15, Table 3, to allow a 2½-story building
- Section 30-15, Table 3, to allow a building height greater than 24 feet but less than 36 feet
- Section 30-19(d)(11) and (15), and Section 30-19(m), to waive one parking stall
- Section 30-19(h)(2)(e), and Section 30-19(m), to allow end maneuvering aisles
 of less than five feet to a wall
- Section 30-19(I) and Table of Off-Street Loading Requirements, to waive the off-street loading requirements for structures 5,000 to 50,000 square feet in gross floor area

B. <u>Engineering Review</u>

The Engineering Division Memorandum, (ATTACHMENT F), provides an analysis of the proposal with regard to engineering issues. The Associate City Engineer notes that a drainage system is provided on the site but that a drainage study and report was not provided. The Associate City Engineer also recommends removing the infiltration trench along the property lines as it is located to close to the property line, and expanding the drainage system in front of the building. The petitioner will be required to obtain approval from the Engineering Division prior to receiving a building permit, if the special permit is approved.

C. Historical Commission Review

The staff of the Newton Historical Commission found that the existing structure was not preferably preserved (ATTACHMENT A).

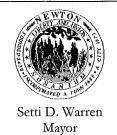
V. PETITIONER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

The petitioner should consider the suggestions made by the Planning Department regarding the proposed materials used for the side facades of the building, increasing the enclosed portion of the garage, reducing the width of the curb cut/garage entrance, providing displays in the ground floor windows, and providing an additional awning on the front of the proposed building. The petitioner should also address the recommendations in the Engineering Division Memorandum to enlarge the drainage system in front of the building and to remove the trench drains.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A: NHC Determination
Attachment B: Land Use Map
Attachment C: Zoning Map
Attachment D: Traffic Study

Attachment E: Zoning Review Memorandum
Attachment F: Engineering Memorandum



City of Newton, Massachusetts

Department of Planning and Development 1000 Commonwealth Avenue Newton, Massachusetts 02459 Telephone (617) 796-1120 Telefax (617) 796-1086 www.newtonma.gov

Candace Havens Director

REQUEST FOR DEMOLITION REVIEW

DATE RECEIVED:		PROJECT #:	
PROJECT ADDRESS: 112 Needham St	reet		
PROJECT INFORMATION			
TYPE OF DEMOLITION: PARTIA	L** V TOTAL		
(** "Partial" demolition of a structure structure. Each is calculated by square fo		val of over 50% of any single e	xterior wall surface or roof
STRUCTURE TO BE DEMOLISHED (Check al	that apply):		
HOUSE GARAG	SHED	NON-RESIDENTIAL BUILDING	OTHER
IF OTHER, PLEASE DESRCIBE:		ALM IN THE RESERVE OF THE PARTY	
WHAT YEAR WAS THE STRUCTURE BUILT:	1952		
IS THE STRUCTURE LISTED ON THE NATION	AL REGISTER OF HISTORIC F	PLACES? YES	NO
DESCRIPTION OF THE DEMOLITION REQUE The applicant proposes to de replace it with a new comme	emolish the existing	ng single-story commerc	cial building and
If Known, Briefly Describe The Knowl	I HISTORY OF THE PROPERT	γ:	
THE REVIEW APPLICATION SHOULD INCORPORTED DOCUMENTATION:	UDE THE FOLLOWING INFO	DRMATION	
PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE AFFECTED	TRUCTURE FROM THE FRON	r, REAR, AND SIDES AND STREET.	
ASSESSOR'S MAP SHOWING PROPE	RTY LOCATION		
BUILDING ELEVATION PLANS 11" >	17" OR SMALLER (FOR PART	FIAL DEMOLITIONS ONLY).	
SUGGESTED DOCUMENTS:			
BUILDING ELEVATION PLANS OR SK	ETCHES 11" X 17" OR SMALL	ER BUILDING PROD	OUCT/MATERIAL INFORMATION
SITE PLAN		PHOTOS OF NEI	GHBORHOOD
APPLICATION AUTHORIZATION			
PRODERTY OWNER: 112 Nee	dham ST LLC	Sferten ! Busthinde	7-1-14
PROPERTY OWNER: (Pr	int name)		(Date)
(All plans <u>MUST</u> be dated, drawn to sca	ile, and clearly labeled. Ar	ATTENEY FOR OWNER inaccurate or incomplete application	cation will <u>NOT</u> be accepted.
Please review the reverse of this form for	r additional information.)		
NOTE: This Appl	cation MUST be accompa	nied by a General Permit Applica	ation.



City of Newton, Massachusetts

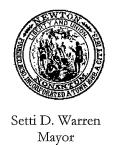
Department of Planning and Development 1000 Commonwealth Avenue Newton, Massachusetts 02459

Telephone (617) 796-1120 Telefax (617) 796-1086 www.newtonma.gov

Candace Havens

Mayor	GENERAL PERMIT APPLICATI	ion.	Director
. /			1-1.11
PROJECT #: 407008	ZONING DISTRICT: MU-2	DATE RECEIVED:	2/14
PROJECT DESCRIPTION:			
The applicant proposes to de	emolish the existing sing!	le story commercial bul	ıldıng and
ceplace it with a new comme		and the second s	
PROPERTY LOCATION INFORMATION			
STREET ADDRESS: 112 Needham Stre	eet	CITY/ZIP: Newton 0246	1
EGAL DESCRIPTION (SECTION, BLOCK, LOT)			
PROPERTY OWNER INFORMATION			
NAME: 112 Needham ST LLC	PHONE: N/A	ALT. PHONE: N/A	A
MAILING ADDRESS: N/A		RESS: N/A	
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PROPERTY OWNER CONSENT	1997 - Washington and Livel conser	in the state of th	
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 I his application for a land use permit C I (we) grant permission for officials and 	d employees of the City of Newton to acce	ess my property for the purposes of t	this application
2. I (we) grant permassion to	Comproved to the second	7-1-14	
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	,	/D=+=/	
X Stephen / Bustbend (Property Owner Signature)		7-1-14 (Date)	
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		(Date)	
(Property Owner Signature)		(Date)	to contact the
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NOTE: This form MUST accompany all other Department of Planning and Development applications.



City of Newton, Massachusetts

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Telephone (617) 796-1120 Telefax (617) 796-1142 TDD/TTY (617) 796-1089 www.newtonma.gov

Candace Havens Director

Newton Historical Commission Demolition Review Decision

Date: 7/3/2014	Zoning & Dev. Review P	roiect# 14060008
-	-	
laaress of structure:	112 Needham Street	,
Type of building:	Commercial building	
f partial demolition, feature	to be demolished is	
The building or structure:		
sis not <u>x</u> _i	in a National Register or local historic district	not visible from a public way.
sis not <u>x</u>	on the National Register or eligible for listing	•
sis notx	importantly associated with historic person(s), events, or architectural or social history
sis notx	historically or architecturally important for p	eriod, style, architect, builder, or context.
s is not <u>x</u>	located within 150 feet of a historic district a	and contextually similar.
	s defined by the Newton Demolition Delay O is not delayed and no further review is require	
s HISTORIC as def	ined by the Newton Demolition Delay Ordina	ince (See below).
The Newton Historical Comm	ission staff:	
	roposed project based upon materials submi	
<u>Demolition i</u>	is not delayed, further staff review may be re	guirea.
DOES NOT APPR	ROVE and the project requires	
	torical Commission review (See below).	
The Newton Historical Comm	nission finds the building or structure:	
s NOT PREFERABL	V DDESERVED	
	is not delayed and no further review is require	<u>ed</u> .
S PREFERABLY PRE	SERVED – (SEE BELOW).	
Delay of Demolition:		Please Note: if demolition does not occur
is in effect until		within two years of the date of expiration of the demolition delay, the demolition will
	e attached for conditions	require a resubmittal to the Historical Commission for review and may result in
Determination made by:	Madal Nac	another demolition delay.



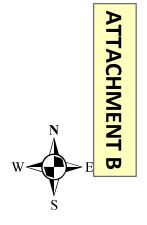
Preserving the Past Planning for the Future



Land Use Map 112 Needham Street

City of Newton, Massachusetts





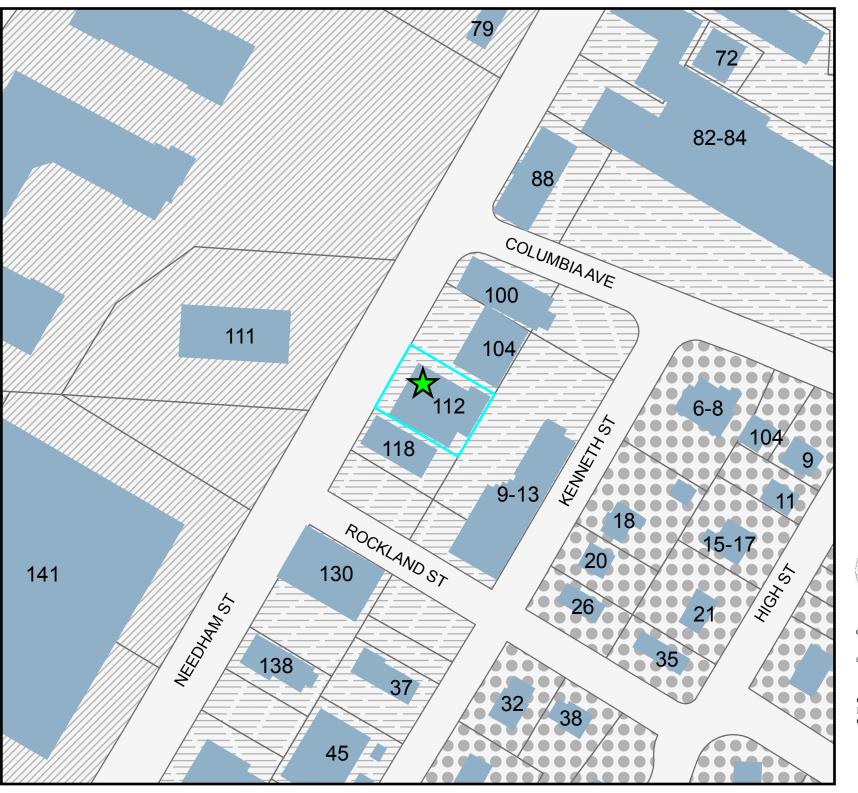




The information on this map is from the Newton Geographic Information System (G1S). The City of Newton cannot guarantee the accuracy of this information. Each user of this map is responsible for determining its suitability for his or her intended purpose. City departments will not necessarily approve applications based solely on G1S data.

CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS Mayor - Setti D. Warren GIS Administrator - Douglas Greenfield





Zoning Map 112 Needham Street

City of Newton, Massachusetts









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CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS Mayor - Setti D. Warren GIS Administrator - Douglas Greenfield



ATTACHMENT D

MDM TRANSPORTATION CONSULTANTS, INC.
Planners & Engineers

PRINCIPALS
Robert J. Michaud, P.E.
Ronald D. Desrosiers, P.E., PTOE
Daniel J. Mills, P.E., PTOE

November 20, 2014

Mr. Franklin J. Schwarzer, II Schlesinger and Buchbinder, LLP 1200 Walnut Street Newton, MA 02461

Subject: Traffic Assessment - Proposed Office Redevelopment

112 Needham Street - Newton, Massachusetts

Dear Franklin:

MDM Transportation Consultants, Inc. (MDM) has prepared this technical letter to provide a traffic assessment of the proposed redevelopment of 112 Needham Street in Newton, Massachusetts. This letter discusses the proposed access and anticipated trip generation characteristics of the proposed office use as they relate to historical site conditions.

In summary, MDM finds that the proposed office development program generally results in reduced impact relative to historical retail use at the site. Furthermore, the proposed office development is a very low traffic generator that is estimated to generate one vehicle trip every 5 minutes during peak hours. The existing curb cut will be narrowed to provide a single driveway that is subject to Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) design standards and will result in a reduction in vehicular conflicts and enhanced operating conditions.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Existing Site Conditions

The project site is an approximate 0.17-acre parcel located at 112 Needham Street in Newton, Massachusetts. The site is currently occupied by a 5,120± sf commercial building consisting of one retail tenant (Play It Again Video) and vacant retail space (recently occupied by JTC Printing). Access to the site is provided by a single, wide curb cut that extends the entire property frontage along Needham Street. On-site parking is provided with 6 marked parking spaces located perpendicular to the existing commercial building immediately adjacent to Needham Street requiring vehicles to back out onto Needham Street to exit the site.

Proposed Conditions

The current site development program includes razing the existing commercial building and constructing a 7,210± sf office building with 5,810± sf of office space designated for a single real estate office tenant and 1,400± sf of ancillary storage space. On-site parking will be provided on the first level of the proposed building with 11 marked parking spaces. The existing curb cut will be narrowed to provide a single driveway that is subject to Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) design standards. The preliminary site layout prepared by R.E. Cameron & Associates, Inc. is presented in **Figure 1**.

EXISTING ROADWAY CHARACTERISTICS

Needham Street

Needham Street is a State (MassDOT) jurisdiction roadway that is classified by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) as an Urban Minor Arterial roadway. Needham Street generally provides one travel lane in each direction with a two-way left turn lane within the site vicinity that turns into an exclusive northbound left-turn lane for vehicles traveling through the nearby Needham Street/Columbia Avenue intersection. Sidewalks are currently provided on both sides of the roadway. Land use along Needham Street in the site vicinity is primarily commercial.

MassDOT is currently in the preliminary design phase of MassDOT Project No. 606635 which includes proposed geometric improvements along the Needham Street corridor, including in front of the site. Based on the Functional Design Report¹ (FDR) prepared for the MassDOT project, Needham Street in the site vicinity carries approximately 27,600 vehicles per day (vpd). The roadway project is expected to improve traffic flow along the corridor and enhance traffic operations in the site vicinity. Re-development of the site is not expected to preclude the implementation of these improvements.

Public Transportation Facilities

The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) operates the following bus line in the area. This bus route provides service along Needham Street with a stop in at the adjacent Needham Street/Columbia Avenue intersection. Specific route and schedule information is provided in the **Attachments**.

¹ Functional Design Report, Highland Avenue/Needham Street/Winchester Street, Needham and Newton, Massachusetts, Project Nos. 601827 & 604344, prepared by Fay Spofford & Thorndike, LLC, May 2011.

NEEDHAM STREET STATE HIGHWAY PUBLIC ~ 60 FT. WIDE N30'24'00"E 75.00' 15.0 70.0 引出8部 N/F Walcott Corp. PROPOSED BUILDING 5,810± S.F. 2 STORY MASONRY BUIDING 100.00' S59.36'00'E W_00.9E.65N PARCEL AREA= 7500 S.F. 1 STORY MASONRY BUIDING 70.0 75.00' \$30'24'00"W N/F Walcott Corp.

North Scale: Not to Scale

Site Plan Source: R.E. Cameron & Associates, Inc.

Figure 1

Preliminary Site Layout

□ Route 59 – Needham Junction – Watertown Square: This line provides service between the Needham Junction commuter rail station in Needham and Watertown Square in Watertown via Needham Street in Newton.

As a conservative measure, no credit (reduction) in site trips was taken in the following section as a result of the available public transportation services.

TRIP GENERATION ESTIMATES

The proposed development consists of a 7,210± sf office building. As a point of comparison, site trip generation characteristics for the proposed office use are compared to the existing retail uses at the site. **Table 1** presents a summary comparison of traffic generation for the existing and proposed uses based on trip rates published in ITE's *Trip Generation*². Trip generation calculations are provided in the **Attachments**.

TABLE 1
TRIP-GENERATION COMPARISON

	SITE TRIPS				
Peak Hour/ Direction of Travel	Existing Use (5.12 ksf Retail) ¹	Proposed Use (7.21 ksf Office) ²	Net New Trips³		
Weekday Morning Peak Hour:					
Entering	2	10	+8		
Exiting	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>-1</u>		
Total	4	11	+7		
Weekday Evening Peak Hour:					
Entering	6	2	-4		
Exiting	<u>8</u> .	9	<u>+1</u>		
Total	14	. 11	-3		
Saturday Midday Peak Hour:					
Entering	11	2	-9		
Exiting	<u>10</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>-9</u>		
Total	21	3	-18		
Weekday Daily:	226	80	-146		
Saturday Daily:	216	18	-198		

¹ITE LUC 826 (Specialty Retail Center) trip rates applied to 5,120 sf without any adjustment for pass-by related trip activity.

² ITE LUC 710 (General Office Building) trip rates applied to 7,210 sf.

 $^{^{\}rm 3}\, {\rm Proposed}$ minus Existing trips.

²Trip Generation, Ninth Edition; Institute of Transportation Engineers; Washington, DC; 2012.

The proposed site programming as a 7,210± sf office building results in overall reduced traffic volumes compared to the historical 5,120± sf of retail use at the site with approximately 146 fewer vehicle trips on weekdays and 198 fewer vehicle trips on Saturdays. During the critical weekday morning and evening peak hours, the anticipated trip generation for the proposed office use is highly consistent with historical retail use of the site. During the Saturday midday peak hour, the proposed office use is expected to generate up to 18 fewer vehicle trips when compared to historical site retail use. Furthermore, traffic generated by the site may be reduced by the proximity of the site to the local public transportation system.

ESTIMATED TRAFFIC IMPACTS

The proposed development program generally results in a reduced impact relative to historical retail use of the site. The site will experience a reduction in traffic during the weekday evening and Saturday midday peak hours. No material change in trip generation is anticipated during the critical weekday morning peak hour with 1 additional vehicle trip every 8 minutes anticipated compared to historical site use – an amount that is imperceptible to the average motorist. Furthermore, the proposed site layout will minimize vehicular conflicts and enhance operations by formalizing a single access driveway along Needham Street and relocating parking further away from Needham Street

We trust that this technical letter provides sufficient justification for approval of the proposed project.

Sincerely,

MDM TRANSPORTATION CONSULTANTS, INC.

Robert J. Michaud, P.E.

Managing Principal

Courtney E. Jones, P.E.

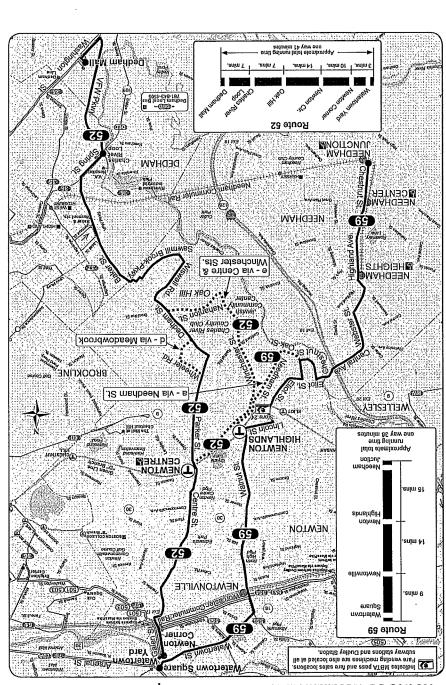
Senior Transportation Engineer

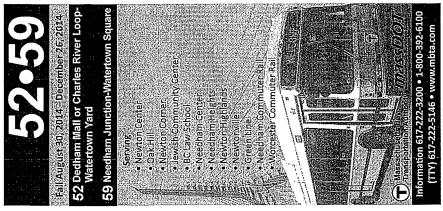
APPENDIX

- $\hfill\Box$ Public Transportation Information
- ☐ Trip Generation Calculations

 $\hfill\Box$ Public Transportation Information

Route 52 Dedham Mall or Charles River Loop - Watertown Yard Route 59 Needham Junction - Watertown Square





								1
		Arrive Needham Junction	7.32A 9.07 10:37 12:08P 1:38P 3:08 4:39 6:09	disabilities D + C	Rapid ansit 75	.75 .05 .05 or/TAP Pass	rs 65+,	-
	Outhound	Arrive Newton Highlands	7.16A 8.48 10:18 11:49 1:19P 2:49 5:49		Rapid Bus + Rapii Transit Transit \$2,107 \$2.10	Cast-on-Board (\$27.10); \$4.20 (\$2.56); \$4.75 [Edition of the control of the cont	senior/TAC Charletcut, available to Medicare cardholders, sention or whit distributes. Fall 2014 Hollidays October 13 & November 11: see Weekday September 1, November 27; & Decomber 25: see Sunday	
	day .	Leave Watertown Square,	7.05A 7.05A 7.055 7.055 7.05P 7.05P 7.05 7.05 7.05 7.05 7.05 7.05 7.05 7.05	ccessible to persons w	Bus + Bus Tr. \$1.60 \$2	4.20	le to Medicare co Holidays ber 11: see W , & December	
	Sunday	Arrive Waterlown Squere	3:56 6:51	ccessible i	Local Bus Bus = \$1.60	2.10 % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % %	irliecard, availabi illes. Fall 2014 i er 13 & Novem , November 27	
	Inbound	Arrive Newton Highlands	3:39 6:36 6:36	uses are a	Card \$	PBOard S	s Senior/TAP Che sons with disabil Octob September 1,	
	59	Leave Needham Junction	7.50.4 7.50.7 10:50 12:20P 1:50 3:20 4:50 6:20	All b	Fare Charlle	Cash-or SenorTra SenorTra CharlCan SenorTra CharlCan (\$25,00)Mo.); (\$25,	** Ratulre and per	
		Arrive Needharr Junction	8.21 9.55 11.25 1.00P 2.27 3.57 6.54			Homer Homer		
	Outbound	Arrive Newton Highlands	6.31 9:37 11:07 12:37P 2:07 3:37 5:05 6:35		n Square to	n Square to		
	rday	Leave Waterlown Square	7:50 9:20 10:50 12:20P 1:50 3:20 6:20		Approximate running time from Watertown Square to Newtonville Square is 7 minutes. Approximate running time from Needham Junction to Newtonville Square is 25 minutes.	Approximate running time from Watertown Square to Homer and Walnut Streets is 11 minutes. Approximate running time from Needham Junction to Homer and Walnut Streets is 18 minutes.		
	Saturday	Arrive Watertown Square	7.40A 9:10 10:40 12:14P 1:42P 3:10 4:39 6:09 7:35		ig time from is 7 minute ig time from is 25 minu	ig time from is 11 minul ig time from is 18 minul		
	punoquj	Arrive Newton Highlands	7.25A 10.25 11.25P 2:54 4:23 5:53 7:22		nate runnir ille Square nate runnir ille Square	nate runnir nut Streets nate runnir nut Streets		·
	65	Leave Needham Junction	2.35 4.05 7.05 7.05 7.05	NOTE	Approxir Newton Approxir Newton	Approxinand Wal		
		Arrive Needham Junction	5.38A 7.07 7.53 7.53 8.31 9.03 9.03 10.08 11.13 11.13	12:43P 2:27 3:22 3:57 3:57 4:34 5:08 5:43 5:43 5:43 5:43 6:43	7:22		uare	
	Outbound	Arrive Newton Highlands		72:21 72:21 73:44 73:44 73:49 73:49 73:49	7:02		own Sq	
	cday	Leave Watertovm Squere	a 5:35 a 7:10 a 7:45 a 8:20 a 8:55 a 9:30 a 10:35 11:20	a 12:05P 12:50 2:50 2:05 2:05 3:50 a 4:25 a 4:55 5:50 5:50	6:45 am Street		Route 59 Needham Junction-Watertown Square	
	Weekday	Arrive Watertown Squere	8:524 7:31 8:17 8:43 9:21 9:51 10:25 11:10	25.12 25.13	7.33 4.5.03 8:11 6:45 a-Via Needham Street	•	Route 59 nction-Wat	
	penoquj	Arrive Newton Highlands	9:35 10:10 10:54 11:40 12:25 10:25 10:25 11:40	11.1.2 2.3.4.2 3.3.5 5.3.0 6.1.3 6.1	7:57 7:57 a		ıam Ju	
	29	Lasve Needham Junction	a 6:55 a 6:55 7:30 8:05 a 8:40 a 9:15 a 11:20 12:05P	21250 2250	7:40		Needl	
		ve Arrive ries Dedham er Mail	8:46A 8:46A 9:32 10:16 11:49	3:41 4:29 5:16 5:52 6:26 6:59			-doo	
	paragraphy	Arrive Arrive Newton Charles Center River		3:00 3:23 3:12 3:33 4:01 4:21 4:47 5:08 5:25 5:47 5:57 6:18 7:05 7:23	Roads ets vacation	e on lay	River L d	
	rday		d 7:25 d 8:05 e 8:30 9:00 9:45 e 11:15 1	ds 2:47 e 3:00 3:50 e 4:35 5:10 e 5:45 6:20 6:55 7:30	& Wheeler hester Stre ing school	servic or Sunc	Route 52 or Charles tertown Yar	
	Weekday	Arrive Arrivo Leave Newton Walerfown Waterfown Center Yard Yard	7.13 7.15 7.56 8.19 8.49 9.35 11:39 9.35	3 2:11 3 3:00 3 3:00 6 4:29 6 5:02 2 5:25 7 6:50	b-To Newton Comer d-Via Meadowbrook & Wheeler Roads e-Via Centre & Winchester Streets s-Does NOT run during school vacation	No Route 52 service on Saturday or Sunday	Route 52 Dedham Mall or Charles River Loop- Watertown Yard	
	od all	Lv/Arrive Arrivo Charles Newto River Cents	- C	1:34 1:53 2:24 2:43 3:09 3:28 3:54 4:16 4:32 4:48 4:49 5:55 6:49 7:12	b-To New d-Via Me: e-Via Cer s-Does N	No Ro Sati	nam Ma	
·	52	Lesve tv Dedhem Cl Mall F	6.45 bs 7.05 d 7.45 d 8.15 9.00 9:13 9:10:30 10:30 12:111	d 1:30F 1 d 2:20 2 d 3:05 3 d 3:05 3 d 3:05 3 d 3:05 4:25 4 d 4:25 4 d 3:05 4:25 d 5:30 5 d 5			Dedi	·

☐ Trip Generation Calculations

Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) 9th Edition Land Use Code (LUC) 826 - Specialty Retail Center

Average Vehicle Trips Ends vs:

1,000 Sq. Feet Gross Leasable Area

Independent Variable (X): 5.12

AVERAGE WEEKDAY DAILY

T = 44.32 * (X)

(Small Sample Size - Use with Caution)

T = 44.32 * 5.12

T = 226.92

T = 226 vehicle trips

with 50% (113 vpd) entering and 50% (

113 vpd) exiting.

WEEKDAY MORNING PEAK HOUR OF ADJACENT STREET TRAFFIC

ITE LUC 820 Weekday Morning Trip Rate
TTE LUC 820 Weekday Evening Trip Rate

ITE LUC 826 Weekday Morning Trip Rate
ITE LUC 826 Weekday Evening Trip Rate

$$\frac{0.96}{3.73} = \frac{(Y)}{2.71}$$
 Y = 0.69747989

 $T = Y^* \qquad 5.1$

T = 3.5711

T = 4 vehicle trips

with 62% (2 vph) entering and 38% (2 vph) exiting.

(same distribution split as ITE LUC 820 during the weekday morning peak hour of adjacent street traffic)

WEEKDAY EVENING PEAK HOUR OF ADJACENT STREET TRAFFIC

T = 2.71 * (X)

(Small Sample Size - Use with Caution)

T = 2.71 * 5.1

T = 13.88

T = 14 vehicle trips

with 44% (6 vph) entering and 56% (

8 vph) exiting.

SATURDAY DAILY

T = 42.040 * (X)

(Small Sample Size - Use with Caution)

T = 42.040 * 5.12

T = 215.24

T = 216 vehicle trips

with 50% (108 vpd) entering and 50% (

108 vpd) exiting.

SATURDAY MIDDAY PEAK HOUR

ITE LUC 820 Saturday Midday Trip Rate

ITE LUC 826 Saturday Midday Trip Rate

ITE LUC 820 Saturday Daily Trip Rate

ITE LUC 826 Saturday Daily Trip Rate

$$\frac{4.82}{49.97} = \frac{(Y)}{42.04}$$
 Y = 4.05508905

T = Y* 5.1

T = 20.762

T = 21 vehicle trips

with 52% (11 vph) entering and 48% (10 vph) exiting.

(same distribution split as ITE LUC 820 during the Saturday midday peak hour of generator)

Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) 9th Edition Land Use Code (LUC) 710 - General Office Building

Average Vehicle Trips Ends vs:

1000 Sq. Feet Gross Floor Area

Independent Variable (X):

7.21

AVERAGE WEEKDAY DAILY

T = 11.03 * (X)

T = 11.03 * 7.21

T = 79.53

T = 80 vehicle trips

with 50% (40 vpd) entering and 50% (40 vpd) exiting.

WEEKDAY MORNING PEAK HOUR OF ADJACENT STREET TRAFFIC

T = 1:56 * (X)

T = 1.56 * 7.21

T = 11.25

T = 11 vehicle trips

with 88% (10 vph) entering and 12% (1 vph) exiting.

WEEKDAY EVENING PEAK HOUR OF ADJACENT STREET TRAFFIC

T = 1.49 * (X)

T = 1.49 * 7.21

T = 10.74

T = 11 vehicle trips

with 17% (2 vph) entering and 83% (9 vph) exiting.

SATURDAY DAILY

T = 2.46 * (x)

T = 2.46 * 7.21

T = 17.74

T = 18 vehicle trips

with 50% (9 vpd) entering and 50% (9 vpd) exiting.

SATURDAY MIDDAY PEAK HOUR OF GENERATOR

T = 0.43 * (X)

T = 0.43 * 7.21

T = 3.10

T = 3

vehicle trips

with 54% (2 vph) entering and 46% (1 vph) exiting.

ATTACHMENT E



City of Newton, Massachusetts

Telephone (617) 796-1120 Telefax (617) 796-1142 TDD/TTY (617) 796-1089 www.newtonma.gov

Department of Planning and Development 1000 Commonwealth Avenue Newton, Massachusetts 02459

James Freas Acting Director

ZONING REVIEW MEMORANDUM

Date: January 29, 2015

To: John Lojek, Commissioner of Inspectional Services

From: Jane Santosuosso, Chief Zoning Code Official

Alexandra Ananth, Chief Planner for Current Planning

Cc: Stephen J. Buchbinder, Attorney for the applicant

James Freas, Acting Director of Planning and Development

Ouida Young, Associate City Solicitor

RE: Request to extend a nonconforming structure, to exceed FAR, building height and number of

stories, and for a waiver from the number of parking stalls and the off-street loading

requirements.

Applicant: 112 Needham Street, LLC				
Site: 112 Needham Street SBL: 83012 0007				
Zoning: MU2	Lot Area: 7,500 square feet			
Current use: Vacant Proposed use: Office				

BACKGROUND:

The property at 112 Needham Street consists of a 7,500 square foot lot improved with a two-story commercial building built in 1952 and a surface parking area in front. The applicant proposes to demolish the existing structure and build a new two and one-half story commercial building. The proposed building will have a parking facility with 10 stalls and 1,300 square feet of storage on the first floor, and 5,360 square feet of office space on the second floor. An additional 2,393 square feet of unoccupied storage space will be located in the half-story above the second floor.

The following review is based on plans and materials submitted to date as noted below.

- Zoning Review Application, prepared Stephen J. Buchbinder, Attorney, dated 8/25/2014
- Newton Historical Commission Demolition Review Decision, dated 7/3/2014
- Parking calculation
- FAR worksheet
- Average Grade Plane Calculation Worksheet, prepared by David Andersson, dated 8/15/2014
- Parcel Map, prepared by R.E. Cameron & Associates, Inc, dated 4/29/2014, revised 7/1/2014 and 8/14/2014

- Existing Conditions Plan, prepared by R.E. Cameron & Associates, Inc, dated 8/18/2014
- Proposed Conditions, prepared by R.E. Cameron & Associates, Inc, dated 8/18/2014, revised 1/14/2015
- Floor Plans and Elevations, signed and stamped by Jonathan Leavitt, dated 8/20/2014, revised 1/14/2015
- Landscape Plan, signed and stamped by Jonathan Leavitt, dated 8/20/2014

ADMINISTRATIVE DETERMINATIONS:

- 1. The existing building is nonconforming due to 2.2 foot and 5.8 foot side setbacks, where 7.5 feet is required. The applicant proposes 3 and 5 foot side setbacks for the proposed building. To build to a 3 setback requires a special permit to extend a nonconforming structure, per Section 30-21(b) of the Ordinance.
- 2. The proposed floor area ratio for the new building is 1.43. An FAR of 1.00 to 1.50 is allowed by special permit per Section 30-15, Table 3.
- 3. The applicant proposes to replace the existing two-story building with a two and one-half story building. Per Section 30-15, Table 3, a building up to three stories is allowed by special permit.
- 4. The proposed building has a height of 29 feet. Section 30-15, Table 3 allows for buildings with heights up to 36 feet by special permit.
- 5. The applicant proposes to build a street-level parking garage with 10 parking stalls. The proposed building will have 5,360 square feet of office space and 1,300 square feet of storage. Section 30-19(d)(11) requires one stall per every 250 square feet of office space. Section 30-19(d)(15) requires one stall for 2,500 square feet of storage space. The parking requirement for the new building and use is 23 stalls. The previous retail use of the site required 18 stalls, where six were physically available in front of the store backing out on to Needham Street. When utilizing the A-B+C equation found in 30-19(c)(2)(a), where:

A (stalls required for proposed use [23]) – B (stalls required for previous use [18]) + C (stalls available previously [6]) = the required number of stalls is **11**

The applicant proposes a parking garage with 11 stalls, therefore, a waiver of one stall is required.

6. The previous building was 4,747 square feet. The applicant proposes to build a new structure with a 5,360 square foot first-floor parking facility and storage, and 5,360 square feet of office space on the second floor. The additional square footage requires the applicant to meet the off-street loading requirements for structures from 5,000 to 50,000 square feet, per Section 30-19, Table of Off-Street Loading Requirements. A special permit is necessary to waive this requirement.

Mixed Use 2	Required	Existing	Proposed
Lot Area	10,000 square feet	7,500 square feet	No change
Setbacks			
• Front	29 ft.	17.5 feet	15 feet
• Side	7.5 ft.	2.2/5.8 feet	3.0/5.0 feet
• Rear	0 ft.	0.6 feet	5 feet
Floor Area Ratio	1.00 (1.50 by SP)	.83	1.43
Building Height	24 feet (36' by SP)	19.7 feet	29 feet
Maximum Number of	2 (3 by SP)	2	2.5
Stories			

7. See "Zoning Relief Summary" below:

Zoning Relief Required				
Ordinance	Required Relief	Action Required		
§30-21(b)	To allow for extension and reconstruction of a nonconforming structure	S.P. per §30-24		
§30-15, Table 3	To exceed FAR of 1.0 but less than 1.5	S.P. per §30-24		
§30-15, Table 3	To allow a 2.5 story building	S.P. per §30-24		
§30-15, Table 3	To allow a building height greater than 24 but less than 36 feet	S.P. per §30-24		
§30-19(d)(11) §30-19(d)(15) §30-19(m)	To waive one parking stall	S.P. per §30-24		
§30-19, Table of Off-Street Loading Req's	To waive the off-street loading requirements for structures 5,000 to 50,000 square feet in gross floor area	S.P. per §30-24		

CITY OF NEWTON DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS ENGINEERING DIVISION

MEMORANDUM

To: Alderman Mark Laredo, Land Use Committee Chairman

From: John Daghlian, Associate City Engineer

Re: Special Permit – 112 Needham Street

Date: January 30, 2015

CC: Lou Taverna, PE City Engineer

Linda Finucane, Associate City Clerk Alexandria Ananth, Chief Planner

Dan Sexton, Sr. Planner

In reference to the above site, I have the following comments for a plan entitled:

Proposed Conditions
112 Needham Street
Newton, MA
Prepared by: R.E. Cameron & Associates Inc.
Dated: 1/14/'15

Executive Summary:

An existing one story commercial building is to be razed and a new two story building with on-site parking on the ground floor and retail space above is proposed. The plan indicates that an on-site drainage system is proposed, however; no drainage study or report was received for evaluation. Furthermore the infiltration trench that surrounds the building is too close to the property lines; the engineer of record should consider expanding the proposed system in the front of the property and eliminate the infiltration trench. The applicant will have to apply to MassDOT for the proposed modifications of the curb cut on the state road. The site plan does not indicate any proposed grading for

112 Needham Street Page 1 of 5

the final product. Finished grades are needed and the plans should be stamped by a Professional Engineer.

Construction Management:

- 1. A construction management plan is needed for this project. At a minimum, it must address the following: staging site for construction equipment, construction materials, parking of construction worker's vehicles, phasing of the project with anticipated completion dates and milestones, safety precautions, emergency contact personnel of contractor. It shall also address any anticipated dewatering during construction, site safety & stability, and impact to abutting properties.
- 2. Stabilized driveway entrances are needed during construction which will provide a tire wash and mud removal to ensure City streets are kept clean.
- **3.** A temporary construction safety fence is needed surrounding the property for the duration of the project.

Drainage:

- A drainage analysis needs to be performed based on the City of Newton's 100-year storm event of 6-inches over a 24-hour period. All runoff from impervious areas need to be infiltrated on site, for the project. The design of the proposed on site drainage system needs to comply with the MassDEP Stormwater Regulations and City Ordinances.
- 2. An on-site soil evaluation needs to be performed to obtain the seasonal high groundwater elevation, percolation rate in accordance to Title V. This information must be submitted with the drainage study. The locations of these tests need to be shown on the site plan and must be performed within 25-feet of a proposed system.

Environmental:

- 1. Has a 21E investigation & report been performed on the site, if so copies of the report should be submitted the Newton Board of Health and the Engineering Division.
- 2. Are there any existing underground oil or fuel tanks, are they to be removed, if they have been evidence should be submitted to the Newton Fire Department, and Newton Board of Health.

112 Needham Street Page 2 of 5

Sewer:

- 1. A sewer manhole is needed where there is 90° bend in the flow of the sewerage.
- 2. A detailed profile is needed which shows the existing water main, proposed water service(s), sewer main and proposed sewer service(s) with the slopes and inverts labeled to ensure that there are no conflicts between the sewer services and the water service. The minimum slope for a service is 2.0%, with a maximum of 10%. Pipe material shall be 6" diameter SDR 35 PVC pipe within 10" of the dwelling then 4" pipe per Massachusetts State Plumbing Code. In order to verify the slopes and inverts of the proposed service connection, two manholes of the existing sanitary sewer system need to be identified on the plan with rim & invert elevations. The crown of the service connection & the sewer man need to match.
- **3.** The existing water & sewer services to the building shall be cut and capped at the main and be completely removed from the main and the site then properly back filled. The Engineering Division must inspect this work; failure to having this work inspected may result in the delay of issuance of the Utility Connection Permit. *This note must be added to the final approved plans.*
- **4.** Use City of Newton Details as they are in PDF format on the City's website.
- 5. With the exception of natural gas service(s), all utility trenches with the right of way shall be backfilled with Control Density Fill (CDF) Excavatable Type I-E, detail is available in the city of Newton Construction Standards Detail Book.
- 6. As Needham Street has been repaved within the last year, the utility trenches and roadway will have to be milled 25' on both sides of the utility trenches from curb line to curb line; then paved with 1-1/2" of Type I-1 Bituminous Concrete. This is a state road and will require MassDOT approvals.
- 7. All new sewer service and/or structures shall be pressure tested or video taped after final installation is complete. Method of final inspection shall be determined solely by the construction inspector from the City Engineering Division. All sewer manholes shall be vacuum tested in accordance to the City's Construction Standards & Specifications. The sewer service will NOT be accepted until one of the two methods stated above is completed. All testing MUST be witnessed by a

112 Needham Street Page 3 of 5

- representative of the Engineering Division. A Certificate of Occupancy will not be recommended until this test is completed and a written report is received by the City Engineer. *This note must be added to the final approved plans*.
- 8. All sewer manholes shall be vacuum tested in accordance to the City's Construction Standards & Specifications. The sewer service will NOT be accepted until one of the two methods stated above is completed. All testing MUST be witnessed by a representative of the Engineering Division. A Certificate of Occupancy will not be recommended until this test is completed and a written report is received by the City Engineer. *This note must be added to the final approved plans*.

Water:

- 1. Water service(s) are needed for the building. A minimum 1" Type K copper service is needed for the project.
- 2. The Newton Fire Department and or the State Building Code may require a fire suppression system for the proposed building the applicant must submitted plans to the Newton Fire Department for review & approval.
- 3. All water connections shall be chlorinated & pressure tested in accordance to AWWA and the City of Newton Construction Standards and Specifications prior to opening the connection to existing pipes.
- 4. Approval of the final configuration of the water service(s) shall be determined by the Utilities Division, the engineer of record should submit a plan to the Director of Utilities for approval.

General:

- 1. All trench excavation contractors shall comply with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 82A, Trench Excavation Safety Requirements, to protect the general public from unauthorized access to unattended trenches. Trench Excavation Permit required. This applies to all trenches on public and private property. *This note shall be incorporated onto the plans*.
- 2. All tree removal shall comply with the City's Tree Ordinance.

112 Needham Street Page 4 of 5

- 3. The contractor is responsible for contacting the Engineering Division and scheduling an appointment 48 hours prior to the date when the utilities will be made available for an inspection of water services, sewer service, and drainage system installation. The utility is question shall be fully exposed for the inspector to view; backfilling shall only take place when the City's Inspector has given their approval. This note should be incorporated onto the plans.
- **4.** The applicant will have to apply for Street Opening, Sidewalk Crossing Permits with the MassDOT. Utilities Connection permit with the Department of Public Works prior to any construction. *This note must be incorporated onto the site plan*.
- 5. The applicant will have to apply for a Building Permits with the Department of Inspectional Service prior to any construction.
- 6. Prior to Occupancy Permit being issued, an As-Built Plan shall be submitted to the Engineering Division in both digital format and in hard copy. The plan should show all utilities and final grades, any easements and final grading. *This note must be incorporated onto the site plan*.
- 7. If a Certificate of Occupancy is requested prior to all site work being completed. *This note must be incorporated onto the site plan.*

Note: If the plans are updated it is the responsibility of the Applicant to provide all City Departments [Conservation Commission, ISD, and Engineering] involved in the permitting and approval process with complete and consistent plans.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me @ 617-796-1023.

112 Needham Street Page 5 of 5