



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF STRATEGIC PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
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DANA LEWINTER, ALT.

November 24, 2010

The Honorable Board of Aldermen
City Hall
93 Highland Avenue
Somerville, MA 02143

Re: An ordinance amending the Somerville Zoning Ordinance (SZO) to revise the review process for Special Permits, Special Permits with Site Plan Review and Variances.

Dear Honorable Board of Aldermen:

In keeping with its lawful responsibilities, the Planning Board submits to your Honorable Board its recommendation on proposed amendments to revise the review process for Special Permits, Special Permits with Site Plan Review and Variances.

On November 4, 2010, at 6:00 p.m. the Planning Board held a duly advertised public hearing jointly with your Board's Land Use Committee in the Aldermanic Chambers, City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue. The purpose of the hearing was to solicit public comments on the proposed amendments and to evaluate the amendments in the context of testimony received and the findings and analysis of the Planning Staff. The public hearing was continued on November 18, 2010, at 6:00 PM in the Aldermanic Chambers, City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue. The Planning Board voted to recommend **APPROVAL** of the proposed amendments as recommended by Planning Staff.



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FORMAT OF REPORTS

These amendments were addressed in an initial staff report provided to your honorable board on September 23, 2010, with the initial version of the proposed amendments.

Two members of the public testified in favor of the amendment and two members testified in opposition. Public comment centered around a discussion of the impacts on residents that participate in the development review process. Those testifying in favor highlighted how the simplification of the meeting schedule will limit the need for members of the public to attend multiple meetings and allow for public input earlier in the development review process. Those testifying in opposition stated that they did not oppose the idea of a better process but wanted to ensure that there was extensive opportunity for public feedback on development review.

PLANNING BOARD RECOMMENDATION

Following discussion, James Kirylo made a motion to approve the proposed amendment. Dana LeWinter seconded the motion, which carried 4-1.

The Planning Board recommends APPROVAL of the attached zoning amendment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Elizabeth J. Moroney". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Elizabeth Moroney
Acting Chair