



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

SUSAN B. SCHLESINGER
*Assistant City Manager for
Community Development*

BETH RUBENSTEIN
*Deputy Director for
Community Development*

To: Robert W. Healy
City Manager

From: Susan Schlesinger

Re: Arlington Hotel Project

Date: June 16, 1998

The Community Development Department has had two contacts related to the Arlington Hotel Project. The project filed an environmental notification form which was published in the Environmental Monitor. We requested a copy of the ENF, reviewed it, and attended the site visit. The MEPA representative clarified that the Agency's jurisdiction was limited to wetland issues and that traffic issues were beyond MEPA jurisdiction.

As required by State Law the City was sent a notice of the Special Permit hearing by Arlington. It has been the practice of Planning Board staff to receive these notices and in general not to forward them to the Board.

The current status of the hotel project in Arlington is that the special permit has been issued and has been appealed to the Superior Court. The Wetlands Order of Condition was also appealed to the Department of Environmental Protection.

SBS:jcm

Attachments:

City Hall Annex
57 Inman Street
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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

SUSAN B. SCHLESINGER

*Assistant City Manager for
Community Development*

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*Deputy Director for
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June 8, 1998

To: Susan Schlesinger, Assistant City Manager for Community Development

From: Lester Barber

RE: Amended Calendar Item #3, June 8, 1998

The Planning Board, as required by state statute, received notice of a hearing for the special permit to be issued by the Arlington Redevelopment Board for a hotel at Alewife Brook Parkway. Belmont, Somerville, and Watertown, as well as Arlington, routinely send such notices. The notices are received at the Community Development Department, representing the office of the Planning Board.

The notices, which are overwhelmingly concerned with modest variance or special permit requests, are reviewed briefly by the staff of the Department. The staff may follow up on items that deal with issues that have been identified in the past as of some interest. Highly unusual proposals may result in further inquiry. It has not been the practice in the past to forward the notices to the members of the Board.

Memorandum

To: Susan Schlesinger, Assistant City Manager for Community Development
From: John Bolduc, Environmental Planner *JB*
Date: June 16, 1998
Re: Arlington Hotel Project

A notice of availability for the Environmental Notification Form (ENF) for the Arlington Hotel project was published in the *Environmental Monitor*, a state publication that lists submittals to the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs MEPA Unit, on March 25, 1998. The Community Development Department routinely requested a copy of the ENF.

The ENF was reviewed by the Department and the Environmental Planner attended the on-site consultation meeting held by the MEPA Unit on April 14. Those present included Janet Hutchins (MEPA staff), Alan McClennan (Arlington Planning Director), Susan Brent (Arlington Conservation Commission) the developer's representatives, and a few neighbors.

Janet Hutchins, the MEPA Unit reviewer was very clear that their jurisdiction was limited to wetlands issues. The ENF was required because abutters appealed the Order of Conditions issued by the Arlington Conservation Commission under the state Wetlands Protection Act to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The project would be located in floodplain and riverfront areas. Ms. Hutchins directly stated that traffic was beyond their jurisdiction. Based on this information, the Department did not submit written comments.

The Secretary of Environmental Affairs issued a decision on April 24, 1998 and did not require an Environmental Impact Report. The DEP can now proceed with the wetlands appeal process.

The Environmental Notification Form is attached without the exhibits.

ENVIRONMENTAL & TRANSPORTATION PLANNING
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

June 22, 1998

To The Honorable, The City Council:

In response to Awaiting Report Item No. 15, regarding a report on how building height is determined, Inspectional Services Commissioner Robert Bersani reports the following:

"Height of building" is defined in accordance with Article 2.000 (Definitions) of the Zoning Ordinance as ..."The vertical distance of the highest point of the roof above the mean grade of the ground adjoining the building."

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mec

Consent Agenda #4

Cal. 1
5305

Relative to a report on how
building height is determined.

In City Council June 22, 1998

CHARTER RIGHT

BY Councillor Sullivan

7/27/98

PLACED ON FILE