

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

This Memorandum of agreement is entered into as of the date below by and between the Department of Traffic, Parking and Transportation and the Department of Inspectional Services.

1. This Memorandum of Agreement sets forth the duties and responsibilities of the above-referenced municipal agencies necessary in order to implement and enforce § 6.43.4(c) of the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Cambridge.
2. §6.43.4(c) of the Zoning Ordinance provides that:

Driveways for off street parking facilities shall comply with the following standards:

...

- (c) The grade and design of any driveway providing access to an off street parking facility shall permit a clear view, to the driver of any car exiting from the facility, of traffic on the street and of pedestrians.

In determining compliance with this section of the Zoning Ordinance, the Commissioner of Inspectional Services ("Commissioner") shall refer all plans for off street parking facilities, filed in connection with a building permit or other application, to the Director of Traffic, Parking and Transportation ("Director") for review and assessment of traffic safety considerations.

3. The Director, or his or her designee, shall review said plans in accordance with the following guidelines:

A. Angle: Two-way driveways should be oriented as near to ninety (90) degrees perpendicular to the street as is possible. Deviations from this perpendicular orientation may trigger, when necessary or advisable, the requirement of special measures to insure safety, or, where such measures will not assure reasonable safety for pedestrians and vehicular traffic, may lead to a recommendation against approval. One-way driveways may be angled up to forty-five (45) degrees where left turns are restricted. Where necessary or advisable, special measures to insure safety may be required with regard to one-way driveways.

B. Grades: The slope of a driveway is a very important design element with respect to a driver's ability to stop before crossing the sidewalk, his visibility of pedestrians and vehicles traveling in the public way, and potential damage to the underside of the vehicle. Slope will be reviewed and assessed in accordance with the following criteria:

- A slope of 0% to $\pm 3\%$ will require no further consideration.
- A slope of $\pm 3\%$ to $\pm 8\%$ will require special measures to assure the safety of pedestrians and vehicular traffic, and where such measures will not assure reasonable safety for pedestrians and vehicular traffic, may lead to a recommendation against approval.
- A slope greater than $\pm 8\%$ within 15 feet of the sidewalk is deemed unsafe and shall not be approved.

C. Radii and width: The width of the curb cut should allow vehicles making a right turn into or out of the driveway to do so without having to cross the center line of the street into an on-coming traffic lane. §§6.43.3 and 6.43.4 of the Zoning Ordinance specify minimum and maximum curb cut widths.

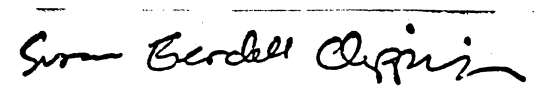
D. Sight distance: The exiting driver shall have a clear view of a pedestrian within 20 feet of the driveway when stopped at the edge of the sidewalk and adequate visibility of vehicular traffic to determine when it is safe to enter the flow of traffic. Deviations from these requirements may trigger, when necessary or advisable, the requirement of special measures to assure safety, or, where such measures will not assure reasonable safety for pedestrians and vehicular traffic, may lead to a recommendation against approval. The use and placement of fencing and similar barriers will be critically reviewed to insure that they do not impact adversely on the driver's ability to safely identify approaching pedestrians and vehicles.

E. Spacing: Adequate spacing should be maintained between driveways and from intersections appropriate to the character of the driveway and the street. §6.43.4(b) and §6.43.5(c) of the Zoning Ordinance specify minimum distances.

4. The Director shall review plans for driveways in accordance with the criteria identified in ¶3, above. After review the Director shall recommend approval, approval subject to the adoption of special measures, or disapproval. The Commissioner shall then approve, approve subject to special measures, or disapprove the plans for the driveway in connection with his review of the building permit or other application.

5. When appropriate, the Commissioner and the Director shall seek the advice of the Department of Public Works, the Community Development department, and other appropriate City departments or agencies.



Commissioner of Inspectional Services
Department of Inspectional Services

Director of Traffic, Parking and Transportation
department of Traffic, Parking and TransportationDate: 6/29/98



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

TEL. 349-4300
FAX. 349-4307



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

July 27, 1998

RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

To The Honorable, The City Council:

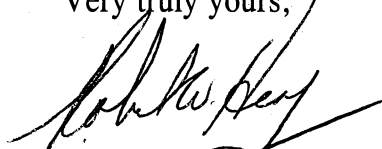
In response to Awaiting Report Item No. 9, regarding a report on whether the garage and ramp for the housing development at the corner of Walden and Garden Streets conform with relevant rules, regulations and safety standards, please be advised of the following:

On July 13th, the Developer's engineer submitted proposals for review by the Inspectional Services and Traffic, Parking & Transportation Departments to minimize the potential for safety problems associated with the use of this driveway. In addition to signage, the measures consist of a flashing light that would be activated by operation of the garage door to alert pedestrians and passing motorists to the use of the driveway, and reflector mirrors to help insure that the traffic is visible to the driver backing out of the driveway. The curb cut at this location appears to be of sufficient width (20 ft.) such that it should not be a problem for cars to back out into the north bound lane of Garden Street without crossing into the opposite lane.

The Inspectional Services Department will insure these measures are in place and demonstrated prior to issuance of a certificate of occupancy for this property.

In addition, in an effort to ensure future development proposals comply with Section 6.43.3 (c) of the Zoning Ordinance, the Traffic, Parking & Transportation and Inspectional Services Departments have signed a Memorandum of Agreement detailing how the City will review driveways. The Memorandum details several design guidelines including slope and sight distance and will be available to developers at both departments.

Very truly yours,


Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mec
Attachment

Consent Agenda #12

4965

Relative to AR #9 regarding a report on whether the garage and ramp for the housing development at the corner of Walden and Garden Streets conform with relevant rules, regulations and safety standards.

In City Council July 27, 1998

PLACED ON FILE