

**Planning Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, June 19, 2017**  
**Library, 660 High Street – Small Meeting Room (changed from children’s room)**  
**Westwood, MA 02090**

**Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Laubenstein at 7:10 PM

**Present:**

Planning Board members present: Steven H. Olanoff, David L. Atkins, Jr., Michael L. McCusker, Trevor W. Laubenstein, and Brian D. Gorman. Staff members present: Town Planner Abigail McCabe and Planning & Land Use Specialist Janice Barba.

**321-323 Washington Street – Request for modification to FMUOD Special Permit to change the parking garage’s traffic controls and consider alternatives for vehicles exiting and entering the garage.**

Ms. McCabe summarized that the plans approved with the 2016 FMUOD Special Permit for the new mixed use building included the mechanical arms or gates as a car enters and exits the parking garage. The Applicant, Mr. Petruzzello, contacted the Planning Office about alternatives because the gates are not attractive and will be visible from the street.

Mr. Laubenstein summarized that the members had the opportunity for a site visit and were able to view the specific area and see where the garage arms/gates would be located.

The Applicant, Mr. Petruzzello, added that the purpose of this request to remove the gates that were proposed and approved to be located at the entrance and outside of the building for the exiting vehicles is for aesthetics because the approved arms do not match the building and are clearly visible from Washington Street. Mr. Petruzzello said that the garage will have the audio alarm system still in place that will be activated by a motion detector. He suggested a garage door that could be placed at the bottom of the ramp and would not be visible from street.

*Board Discussion:*

Mr. Gorman suggested the possibility of a speed bump to slow cars before the sidewalk. Mr. McCusker suggested additional signage about pedestrians crossing. Members agreed that the sight visibility was good. Mr. Atkins commented that the gated physical barrier was a good way to help slow and stop the vehicles in an area where there will be more street activity and suggested moving the gate back. Mr. Olanoff noted that the grade change helps slows cars because it goes from steep to flat prior to the sidewalk and doesn’t think the gate is necessary. The Board discussed having a stop that lights up, pedestrian crossing signs at the sidewalk, paint STOP on the ground just before the sidewalk, signage for cars entering that it’s private parking only so they know before pulling in, and would like to revisit this to see how it’s working after the building is occupied.

*Public Comment:*

Chairmen Laubenstein asked for public comment.

N. Fabrizio, 32 Webster St. – Commented on the importance of pedestrians needing to be aware of cars coming and going.

M. Lemire-Campion, 6 Brookfield Rd. – Commented that safety is the biggest concern especially with children as this is an area where there are many kids walking, biking, running in the area.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Olanoff, seconded by Mr. McCusker, the Board voted 4-1 (D. Atkins voting against) to eliminate the mechanical arms in the garage with the following conditions:

1. There shall be two automatically activated signs facing the Washington Street sidewalks (north and south) alerting pedestrian of exiting vehicles.

2. A lighted automatically activated stop sign and a pedestrian crossing sign shall be installed on the exit ramp.
3. "STOP" to be painted on the pavement on the ramp's exit lane before the sidewalk.
4. There shall be an auto-activated pedestrian audible alarm including red lights.
5. The parking garage shall have signage indicating the private or restricted parking and be visible from the road to prevent prohibited vehicles from backing up.
6. A final signage package with the above conditions shall be submitted to the Town Planner for review and approval prior to installation.
7. The Planning Board reserves the right to revisit the garage's safety measures 90 days after full occupancy.

### **Municipal Facilities Task Force**

Ms. McCabe explained that there will be a newly created Municipal Facilities Task Force that will begin meeting right away and will meet through the rest of the year. This group is charged with comprehensively reviewing Town facilities and buildings and will make recommendations for next year's town meeting in the spring. The Board of Selectmen have asked for Planning Board representative to serve on this Task Force. Mr. McCusker volunteered to serve on the committee.

The Board voted to have Michael McCusker as the Planning Board representative on the Municipal Facilities Task Force. The meeting adjourned at 7:47 pm.

### **List of Documents**

• Electronic Mail from Giorgio Petruzzello to Abigail McCabe, Re: Garage Gates, sent June 9, 2017. Attached photographs.	PDF
• Approved Proposed First Floor Plan for 301-315 Washington Street, dated April 7, 2016.	PDF
• Mission Statement for Municipal Facilities Task Force	PDF