

To the Board:

A request was made yesterday that a Word version of the draft decision be posted for public review. Instead, two more PDF versions have appeared.

There are now a total of four versions of the Mugar draft decision posted on the website: two on the Thorndike Place main page; and two on the agenda page, all with different names, all in PDF format with heavy markup making review difficult. It turns out that, names notwithstanding, there are two identical pairs. Those on the main page duplicate those on the agenda, leaving two versions to deal with.

I find it unacceptable that the board and applicant would give the public multiple versions of this critical document one work day before the hearing. While perhaps unintentional, this has made it impossible for the public, other Town staff, and peer reviewers to understand what the board has before it as it contemplates closing the hearing. The board and applicant must provide a definitive version of the draft, including markup from the prior version the public has seen (as opposed to some interim versions that may have passed between the board and applicant). And they must agree on an extension of time for the public to review.

The need for additional review was driven home for me this week by the discovery that certain language suggested by me in connection with open space was successfully inserted into the then-current draft at the behest of one of the board members. That same language has now disappeared from all the various current versions, without the board member's knowledge.

If that finding could be edited out, whether by accident or intent, and its absence be a surprise to a board member, then what other critical details intended to support conditions on the project may have gone missing?

We all want this hearing to be brought to a close, but the management of these documents has made it impossible for the public to have meaningful input by Tuesday. Please extend.

Thanks and best regards.
~Brian Rehrig

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