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Cc: Jenny Raitt <JRaitt@town.arlington.ma.us>
Date: Thu, 24 Mar 2022 17:48:31 -0400
Subject: Correspondence and suggestion re: Docket #3690, 34 Dudley St.

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Dear Board Members and Director Raitt:

Please add this letter to the correspondence record for the Monday, March 28 ARB hearing on agenda item 2, the proposed self-storage project at 34 Dudley St.

Section II of the Board's memo on this project deals with the application of Special Permit criteria. The comments on Section 3.3.3.F note that "the rear façade will be visible from the adjacent Mill Book and Wellington Park. The Applicant could consider introducing windows or other architectural detailing along the rear façade to minimize the massing of the building. The Applicant could also consider moving from pre-finished metal to prefabricated masonry."

And in Section III, sub-section 2, dealing with EDR-2 standards, the Board further notes that "While the 'face' of the building visible from Wellington Park is actually the back of the building, additional treatments to diminish the impact of overall building height and appearance should be considered. Further, while the ground floor storefront and front façade meets transparency requirements, its relationship to Dudley Street could be improved. An overall improved building façade treatment addresses and minimizes the building massing would improve the relationship of the building to the environment."

Improving the appearance from Wellington Park by adding windows might be problematic for a self-storage facility. But printed screening offers an idea for a simple approach to architectural detailing. The first two images below are of a nearby parking structure, located on the inbound side of Rt. 2, opposite Thorndike Field, between the Tempo 2 Cambridge apartment complex and the AC Marriott Hotel.

The bottom two image shows garages in Cleveland and Texas with tensile mesh screens, in appealing designs.

If applied to the rear facade of 34 Dudley St., a printed screen could hold any image, would not require washing as windows would, and would be a relatively simple and cost-effective element to incorporate into the design. The printed images could reference the Mill Brook, the flora and fauna in the area, the nature playground it will stand over, or any other compatible imagery.

To see more ideas and for some info:

<https://flexfacades.com/materials/fabric-vs-metal-screening/>

Please present these images during the discussion about the appearance of this building, for consideration by the Board and the design team.

Thank you!

Wynelle

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