

From: Carole Bellew
Date: Mon, Feb 24, 2014 at 9:46 PM
To: "Paden, Liza" <lpaden@cambridgema.gov>

Liza -

I wanted to write sooner rather than later on the issue of the Special Permit for the above project coming to the Planning Board on March 4th.

I believe that the renovation of the Court House Building violates the provisions of the Cambridge zoning Ordinance. It also violates the stipulations made by the State agency disposing of the property. The change of use puts this building over the top for changes and seems to be the real issue here in Cambridge. From a building with a lot fewer people in it, and used exclusively for court issues to a fully occupied commercial building seems like a complete turn of events, not only with the amount of people but the cars that will add to the already exhausted situation on Third St.

The use of this as a commercial building violates the change of use provisions stipulated in the ordinance. This building should be turned back into a renewed public purpose building at the cost to the State, and not a private developer.

The environmental impact of any reuse of the building has not been presented fully either. And the Planning Board should deny any request for a waiver of project review under the Massachusetts environmental Protection Act. We request that you request the State take full responsibility for the building and remove this toxic site from the City of Cambridge so that it can be used for community purposes in an already crowded and over used road situation.

This area of Cambridge can ill afford to absorb over 2000 people arriving on a daily basis in the AM and leaving in the PM at all hours of the day and night on the roads that are already overburdened with traffic at key points in the day. The parking alone becomes an issue with the number of people arriving with cars. Even with the city renting them space in a city garage, they are still under the actual count of cars that will arrive on a daily basis. Something is very wrong in all that has gone on with this project.

The State should deal with this properly and get rid of the building with all of the toxic issues that it has at this point.

Thank you for reading the many letters that have come to you all on this project and we hope you take this one to heart and not allow the State or Leggatt McCall to go forward on this.

Sincerely,

Carole Bellew
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