

Site Walk Notes – Historic District Commission
19 Main Street Parking Lot and Entrance
December 10, 2020 – 1:00 p.m.

A quorum of HDC members was not present so these are only notes from the site walk.

Historic District Commission

Larry Brickner-Wood, vice chair

Charlotte Hitchcock

Carolyn Singer

Michael Behrendt, Town Planner

Applicant

Pete Murphy

Mike Sievert, engineer

Others

Brendan O’Sullivan, Deputy Fire Chief

Nancy Sandberg, Durham Historic Association

Janet Wall

The site walk commenced at 1:05 p.m. Mike Sievert led the group through the site. The group started at the entrance. Mike said the entrance could be a single conventional driveway rather than a separated boulevard-style driveway. He said the design would be about 24 feet wide but possibly it could be narrower. He said 14 would probably be needed for the entrance and exit if the driveway were separated.

Nancy Sandberg said having a conventional driveway would provide a wider setback from the two historic properties adjacent to the driveway. Charlotte said having a conventional driveway would be more like a driveway rather than a street.

Mike said the existing exit drive is 18 feet from the curb to the stripes between parking spaces. He said we did not need a sidewalk on the Red Tower side if there is a conventional driveway. He showed an image of what a conventional driveway would look like. Tim Murphy, the applicant, created it.

Carolyn said we need to be careful that individual comments from members may not constitute a consensus of the HDC.

Mike said the Fire Department was concerned about having trees in an island. Brendan O’Sullivan said a conventional driveway would work better for the Fire Department. With narrower separate lanes the outriggers might reach beyond 14 feet. Michael asked Mike which design was more efficient. Mike did not have an answer to this question.

Mike said they might not have to move the electric pole with a conventional driveway which would be helpful. He said the electric lines would go underground from this pole. There would be a transformer on the pole or further back on the site.

He said the grade of the entrance has to rise.

Carolyn asked if there would need to be a traffic light at the entrance. Mike said no. Carolyn said that traffic here on a Friday afternoon is very busy and that it could be difficult getting out then.

The group discussed the stone wall in the middle of the access. It is fairly broken down. There was discussion about the wall being reconstructed as a low retaining wall, with grass/plantings between the wall and the white building, and placing a brick sidewalk in the middle there leading to the rear. Mike and Pete Murphy said they could look at that.

The site walk ended around 1:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted.

Michael Behrendt, Durham Town Planner