

Site Walk Notes
Mill Plaza Redevelopment – 7 Mill Road
December 16, 2020

Planning Board

Paul Rasmussen
Lorne Parnell
Barbara Dill
James Bubar
Heather Grant
Sally Tobias
Michael Lambert
Richard Kelley
Guy Johnson

Rick Taintor, Planning Consultant

Applicant

Sean McCauley
Joseph Persechino, Tighe & Bond

Durham Fire Department (partial list)

Peter Leavitt
Brendan O’Sullivan

Others (partial list)

Janice Aviza
Sandra Hebert
Joshua Meyrowitz

Paul Rasmussen called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm.

Joe Persechino pointed out the orange cones that he had placed to mark the southerly corners of proposed buildings B and C.

The Durham Fire Department provided its ladder truck to assist in visualizing the height of the proposed buildings.

The photographs below show the height of proposed Building B. The orange cone in front of the dry cleaner represents the southeast corner of Building B. The bottom of the basket is at 51 feet



The fire truck was then moved behind the building to illustrate the height of proposed Building C. In the photo below, the cone behind the truck indicates the southeast corner of Building C.



View from partway down the path to Chesley Drive – the bottom of the basket on the ladder is approximately at the elevation of the roof of proposed Building C.



View from footbridge across College Brook
(red line indicates approximate roof elevation of Building C)



View from end of Chesley Drive
(red line indicates approximate roof elevation of Building C)



Next there was discussion about the location and height of the proposed retaining wall. The parking lot surface level at the wall will be about 6 feet higher than existing conditions. As a result, the top of the wall will be about 12 feet above the lowest point on the path to Chesley Drive.

The southeast corner of Building C will be at elevation 42 = about 4 feet above the existing elevation and about 6 feet above the parking area at the retaining wall.

The stone wall on the property boundary with 19-21 Main Street was pointed out (see photo below). The wall will not be removed except possibly to provide pedestrian access between the parcels.



The path from Mill Plaza to Main Street will be reconfigured as a set of switchback steps.



Richard Kelley and Guy Johnson left the meeting at 12:55 pm.

In the photo below, the tree in the foreground, left of center, is the approximate location of the “bumpout” at the back of Building C (Orion building in background).



There was a brief review of the Traffic Safety Committee's discussion about the two Mill Road crosswalks and the possibility of turning the site driveway intersection into a 3-way stop controlled intersection.

The meeting adjourned at 1:07 pm.