

Subj: (no subject)
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3/14/08

Ed--

I would like to follow-up a bit on my question of last night. A great deal is being done with the berm and plantings to visually shield your project from Walnut Street. This is good. But I see a visual gap on the left side of the entrance, the Whole Foods side. There is no berm there just plantings and existing trees. I am not sure that what is being shown will sufficiently shield the parking lot and to a lesser extent the building. The land there will be a gentle rise up to an elevated area of the parking lot and supermarket that may need additional landscape screening. This area is the anchor piece of your project and will probably be on a daily and hourly basis the busiest area with the most cars coming and going. Yet it may be the most exposed. Sufficient visual and to an extent sound screening there is then very important. Otherwise this busy hive of activity (motion and noise) would serve to undercut what you are trying to do in the other areas. I am not suggesting a berm but I do think that maybe a couple dozen evergreen trees (a green berm?) in the grassy area between the existing trees and the parking lot trees would go a long way (for a small price) to shield the view into and the sounds coming from that area. One of my neighbors (three houses from Walnut) on the south side of Alexandra Road has told me that during the summer when he sits in this backyard he can clearly hear the sounds coming from what is now the Colonial conference center. That area will become the parking lot and supermarket. Some evergreen may serve to alleviate these odd acoustics.

I would also ask what if anything you are planning for the mature trees and bushes along the southern edge of the property along the highway. I am hoping that they will stay "as is". To remove them would result in a naked view in that I think would be unattractive. I hope you can remember Don Harris asking about keeping as many mature trees as possible early in this process. That would be great.

Thanks,
Joe DeMaina

cc: Planning Board