

Issued: October 19, 2021

**DESIGN REVIEW ADVISORY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2021
ROOM 314, TOWN HALL, WEST HARTFORD, CT**

Call to Order/Roll Call: 4:30 P.M.

DRAC ATTENDANCE: Jeffrey Gebrian, Chair; Sheldon Crosby, Vice Chair; Commissioners: Kimberly Parsons-Whitaker; Alternates: David Hines, C, James Lawler.

Staff: Todd Dumais, Town Planner & Brian Pudlik, Associate Planner

Referral from the Town Planner:

1. **920-924 Farmington Avenue** – Study session preparatory to the submission of a new Special Development District application. The applicant is contemplating the demolition of the existing office buildings and the construction of a new mixed use commercial and residential building. (Initial study session on 9-2-21)

Mr. Dumais introduced the application and provided some background from the DRAC meeting held on September 2, 2021 regarding some of the design elements that the DRAC requested the applicant revisit. The DRAC raised questions regarding parking lot circulation, particularly in the garage as well as loading for potential commercial tenants. Questions were also raised about the decision to use brisollets on the southerly façade, particularly in front of windows where they may be objectionable to some potential tenants. It was made clear through the applicant's testimony and presentation that substantial work remains on designing the structural elements of the building and the DRAC raised concerns over the "constructability" of the some of the building's elements. Signage was discussed briefly, specifically around the rationale for the sign on the easterly façade. The applicant agreed to review the sign proposal prior to the next meeting. Overall, The DRAC praised the applicant's efforts to date and enthusiastically encouraged the applicant to continue to refine the building.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

2. September 22, 2021 – Motion Lawler/Second Crosby; Approved

TOWN PLANNER'S REPORT:

3. None.

ADJOURNMENT – 5:35 p.m.

C: Matthew Hart, Town Manager
Essie Labrot, Town Clerk

Dallas Dodge, Corporation Counsel
Todd Dumais, Town Planner