Planning Board Public Hearing Minutes
Special Permit – Parking on an Adjacent Parcel.
Greater Holyoke YMCA
(meeting is being recorded)

On Tuesday, January 26, 2016, the Holyoke Planning Board continued the Public Hearing regarding a Special Permit for parking on an adjacent lot, for the property located at 399 Appleton Street, submitted by Greater Holyoke YMCA. The meeting was held in the 4th Floor Conference Room, City Hall Annex, 20 Korean Veterans Plaza, Holyoke, Massachusetts at 5:00 p.m.

Attendance:

Planning Board

Mimi Panitch	Chairperson
Christian LaChapelle.....	Vice-Chairman
Eileen Regan	Secretary
John Kelley	Member
Harry Montalvo	Associate

Planning Staff

Marcos Marrero	Director
Jeffrey Burkott	Principal Planner
Sharon Konstantinidis	Head Clerk

Others Present

Karen Betournay	YMCA	Atty Thomas Wilson	YMCA
Aimee Bell	Fuss & O'Neil	Atty Martin J. Owen	YMCA
Dan Delany	Fuss & O'Neil	Barbara Barand	YMCA
David Bartley	Ward 3 City Councilor	Jennifer Gilburg	YMCA

MIMI PANITCH, at 5:05 p.m., called for a motion to open the Public Hearing. A motion was made by JOHN KELLEY and seconded by CHRIS LACHAPELLE. The motion carried 4-0.

DAN DELANY stated that there were outstanding Planning Department and City Engineer comments left to address from the last meeting. He noted that a Stormwater Permit had since been obtained. He explained that the revisions/additions included:

1- A crosswalk over Pine Street, linking the proposed parking lot to the existing parking lot.
2- A "no parking area" sign to meet the DOT requirement of no parking 25 feet from a crosswalk.
3- A red flashing solar powered beacon (light) that pedestrians would trigger to cross.

DAN DELANY added that the additions would alleviate many pedestrian safety concerns. He was originally against this addition from an engineering position, but the YMCA wanted to address the safety concerns. He added that additional striping was proposed at the crosswalk and the restriping of the existing parking lot to better define the vehicle circulation.

JEFFREY BURKOTT reviewed the Planning Department comment letter dated 1/23/16. DAN DELANY responded regarding #2, that revisions to the plans would represent the appropriate lettering, and regarding #4, appropriate species "columner" details will be included on the final plan set.

JEFFREY BURKOTT asked how the total number of parking spaces was affected with the inclusion of the mid-block crosswalk. DAN DELANEY responded that 1-1/2 spaces would be lost, but there would be a gain of 1 space due to the reduction of the apron width on Pine Street.

JEFFREY BURKOTT noted that the Planning Departments comments have been addressed. JOHN KELLEY acknowledged that he appreciation of the way in which the pedestrian access safety concerns were addressed.

MIMI PANITCH asked for those that wish to speak in favor or against, or to ask questions to come forward. No one was forthcoming.

At 5:20 p.m., there being no further business to come before the Planning Board, a motion was made by JONH KELLEY and seconded by CHRIS LACHAPELLE to close the Public Hearing. The motion carried 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Regan

Eileen Regan,
Holyoke Planning Board