

Dear Zoning Board,

I am a resident of South Walpole and RTM of Precinct 5. I have submit many letters regarding the Omni Development at 55 Summer St, but as their project is ever changing, I have more concerns after attending the meeting with David Hale and the Conservation Commission which was held a few days ago.

David Hale has changed the plans for the Development, yet again, and it now includes TWO 6-story buildings. This is simply unacceptable for South Walpole. South Walpole is enriched with history. Our small community is the host to historical homes, buildings, abandoned buildings (Bird Machine), a wonderful Church, all brought together by the signature South Walpole sign. Adding a 300 unit complex, now including 6-story buildings, severely compromises the character of this neighborhood. I encourage you to please take this into consideration, this Development does not belong here the way that it is designed right now.

They have also changed single family homes into duplexes. I believe they changed 4 single family homes, to create 4 duplexes that will host 8 families instead of 4. This increases the car load for each family, and will increase traffic problems for both drivers and pedestrians. As I have stated in the past, these intersections and streets are already swarmed with speeders, and children walk to both Boyden and the South Walpole preschool.

Also, we have spoken to the Fire Chief. They are short staffed as is, and South Walpole is the farthest away from the Station. Adding 6-story units, to a location that abuts the train track, where fire trucks will already have difficulty getting to, because there's also only one entrance and exit, is a huge safety issue. I am baffled that the State would allow such a project to be built this way. Affordable units or not, developments should NOT be allowed to be built when they compromise the safety of current and future residents.

Finally, Omni will be tearing down 57 acres of trees in this build out. Trees where mosquito eating, bats reside. If the bats are relocated, the mosquito population will increase, thus increasing the risk of EEE for those who live here. EEE was a huge threat in Walpole, especially a few summers ago, with the Board of Health creating a curfew and canceling all night sports and town wide events. Our mosquito problem is high enough as is due to the Neponset River and wetlands surrounding us. Please help us fight for Omni to create a solid remediation plan, whether it be planting more trees or providing a sufficient amount of bat houses to compensate. Otherwise our health is now further at risk.

Thank you again for all of your time and effort,

Erica Burdon