

Dear members of the Board of Zoning Appeals and Ms. Pacheco,

I do not believe that the requested approval for BZA Case number 017309-2020 conforms the City of Cambridge health and safety guidelines, and therefore the request should be denied.

The 402 Rindge Ave. site is **vulnerable to serious climate change impacts**, including flooding from rain and storm surge, which could endanger current and potential future residents. Specifically, the proposed construction by Just-A-Start in that location will worsen a serious nuisance or hazard to the detriment of the health, safety and/or welfare of the current and future occupants of the site, and the citizens of the city, particularly in adjacent areas.

The City of Cambridge has identified flood risks close to 402 Rindge (<https://www.cambridgema.gov/Services/FloodMap>), and shows serious flooding around Jerry's Pit and the end of Rindge Avenue in the scenario of "Sea Level Rise/Storm Surge Flooding - 2070 - 100 year storm." That scenario is a storm that has a 1% probability of occurring in any year (2070 plus/minus 20-30 years), combined with projected sea-level rise. However, a "100-year storm" has a 1 in 4 (25%) chance of occurring over a 30 year time period. **Therefore, the City of Cambridge has identified clear and definable risks to the health, safety, and welfare of residents at that site.**

Furthermore, the City noted in its vulnerability assessment that storm surge will be high enough to bypass the Amelia Earhart Dam around 2045 (plus/minus 20 years), which would then impact the Alewife-Fresh Pond area. The report (Part 2) concludes:

"By 2070, storm surge modeling shows that large swaths of the Alewife-Fresh Pond area could be subject to annual probabilities of flooding up to 20 percent or once every five years." (https://www.cambridgema.gov/-/media/Files/CDD/Climate/vulnerabilityassessment/finalreport_ccvpart2_mar2017_final2_web.pdf, p. 5)

That report goes on to note that the rain flooding and storm surge will be so extreme that no standard flood mitigation approaches - including those proposed by JAS - will be sufficient to protect life and property. **Therefore, the proposed risk mitigation strategy by JAS is insufficient to protect the health, safety, and well-being of residents at that site.**

Please note that those flooding maps were created in 2017 on information available then on projected climate change impacts, including flooding from rain and storm surge, from technical studies in 2012. More recent data indicates that both flooding from rain and sea level rise are increasing more rapidly than expected, which increases the probability of flooding in the nearer future.

Best regards,
Dr. Sarah Slaughter
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