

Jim Young

From: Liz Shea <LShea@abingtonma.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 13, 2022 10:00 AM
To: Jim Young
Cc: rpwoodsjr@gmail.com
Subject: SRA application for 99 room hotel at Union Point - Comment from Abington Planning Board

Good morning Mr. Young,

Thank you and the Board for the opportunity to comment on the application before you.

The Abington Planning Board wishes to express its opposition to this project at its proposed location.

The board understands the importance of attracting commercial investment to the Union Point development, and is aware of the lack of lodging options in the region.

However, the board feels it would be extraordinarily short-sighted to locate this project at what has become the signature entrance to Union Point.

As Route 18 gets increasingly developed, the Memorial Drive entrance has remained a verdant gateway to the promise that is Union Point.

The Board feels redeveloping this corner will actually harm the long term efforts to attract larger commercial investments.

Instead of replacing the greenspace with asphalt and an x story building, the Authority should actually be moving in the opposite direction, and highlighting that space on marketing materials, displaying the site's overall attractiveness.

We support the construction of a hotel on the property. However, we think it would be just as successful if located inside the site. Unlike the days of roadside motor lodges, hotels depend far more on online travel and booking sites than roadside visibility. In fact, we'd be surprised if customers didn't appreciate being located away from the thousands of cars that travel down Route 18 daily.

On behalf of the Planning Board,

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