

MINUTES
Public Hearing – Heywood Hospital
October 14, 2008
City Hall Annex, 115 Pleasant Street
Gardner, Massachusetts

Members present: Allen L. Gross, Chairman; Robert J. Bettez, Sr., Vice Chairman; Laura M. Casker, Peter J. Sabettini, Mark Schafron, Members; and Robert L. Hubbard, Director/City Planner

Alternate Member absent: Timothy Vatour, Alternate Member

Also present: Terri Hillman, Robert Hankinson, City Engineer, and those listed on the attached sign-in-sheets

Mr. Gross, Chairperson, opened the public hearing at 7 p.m.

Present for Heywood Hospital: Jim Mullen, Senior Vice President; Larry Williams, Director of Facility Services; Sandra Brock and Jared Gentilucci, Nitsch Engineering; and Mike Quinlan, TRO Jung Brannen; and Kevin Walsh, Murphy & McManus.

Mike Quinlan, TRO Jung Brannen, presented the proposed plan for the construction of an addition of a 72,000 sq. ft., three-story building to the existing Heywood Hospital premises, 242 Green Street, Gardner. Specifically, the project calls for expansion and renovation of the first floor lobby, relocation of the emergency department, relocation of the Intensive Care Unit, relocation of Telemetry/Medical Surgical Unit, and the creation of shell space on the third floor of the new building. Imaging services, specifically CT service, will also be relocated.

Sandra Brock, Nitsch Engineering, gave a quick paper tour around the site. The general circulation around the hospital will be same as it is now. She also explained that the project will be connected to the existing sewer line that runs down to the bike path. There will be a net loss of 56 parking spaces and valet parking will be maintained. There will be a two lane drop-off in front of the hospital for valet parking and patients in private cars. This will allow for circulation if there is queuing.

The drainage will mimic what is there now and some drainage may be sent out back to the lake. There will be 200 feet less of impervious surface when the new construction is finished. For this project, not very much impervious surface will be added. All discharge points have been looked at and mitigation will be done for erosion. Some erosion is going on right now. There will not be a detention basin. The runoff from the parking lot will flow into a sand treatment system and will discharge after cleaning. A catch basin has been added as a backup to pick up water which might collect if there is a large snow bank and then a rain storm.

Noise abatement during the heavy construction phase was discussed. All work will be scheduled for regular working hours. The side of the building where the construction will take place does not face a residential area.

Most of the utilities will be taken care of on site by an extension of the services that are there now.

Larry Williams spoke about the exterior lighting. There will be post lights on the island but the rest of the lighting has not been determined as yet.

Speaking in favor of the project was Jim Mullen, 151 Parker Hill Road, Gardner. This expansion and new equipment will bring a potential for cutting edge medicine to Heywood Hospital.

No one spoke in opposition to the project.

Mr. Gross closed the public hearing at 7:25 p.m.