

The Washington Club - Zoning Pre-Application for Siting of Tennis Courts

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To: Shelley White <swhite@washingtonct.org>

Cc: 'President Washington Club' <president@washingtonclub.net>; Paul Smith <gm@washingtonclub.net>; Brian Carey <BCarey@landtechconsult.com>; talbotarch petertalbotarchitects.com <talbotarch@petertalbotarchitects.com>

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February 21, 2024

Town of Washington Zoning Commission
Town Hall
Bryan Memorial Plaza
Washington Depot, CT 06794

Re: The Washington Club – Zoning - Pre-Application for Siting of Tennis Courts

Dear Zoning Chair Janet Hill & Commission Members,

I am writing to request an informal hearing on Monday, February 26, 2024 to discuss the future plans of the Washington Club. The Washington Club has been in existence in the town for well over 100 years and has shared a relationship with the Fredrick Gunn School (FGS) for almost as long. Since the 1920's the tennis section of the club has used the school's tennis courts in the summer for its programming. This has been a very beneficial relationship for both parties.

In April of 2022, Head of School at the time, Peter Becker, informed the Washington Club that the future plans of FGS for the east side of campus would not include retaining the current tennis courts. Per the requirements of the lease, on June 1, 2022, the school notified the club that it will be terminating the lease as of June 1, 2025. Since then we have been able to negotiate that termination date to September 1, 2026, essentially giving us until the 2027 summer season to find a new location/facility for our Racquets section.

Through many hours of work on the part of club members and with the help of various professionals, it has been determined that the best location for this new facility is on the land that the club owns on Sabbaday Lane near the current golf course and golf practice facility. The current plan is for this facility to be owned by the Washington Club but use will be in collaboration with FGS, as their tennis program will be in need of a new location as well. This will continue the long standing connection between the club and the school and their use dovetails fairly well with the use of the facility by club members.

Attached are initial renderings and a conceptual plan for this new facility and we are hoping to gain some guidance from the commission as to how to proceed next. Please let me know if

there is anything else we should provide in advance of or at your next meeting on Monday, February 26.

Thank you in advance,

Michael Gorra
President

Washington Club
PO Box 400
Washington Depot, CT 06794
860.868.0376

Encl: 3 Renderings & a Preliminary Site Plans dated as included in the OneDrive link here:
[https://link.zixcentral.com/u/882529cc/KjEV0cXQ7hGVMF3ahnsoMg?
u=https%3A%2F%2F1drv.ms%2Ff%2Fs%21AuiWy-PcZrIPg4h66N3_nI7puKo9AQ%3Fe%3D3pgrku](https://link.zixcentral.com/u/882529cc/KjEV0cXQ7hGVMF3ahnsoMg?u=https%3A%2F%2F1drv.ms%2Ff%2Fs%21AuiWy-PcZrIPg4h66N3_nI7puKo9AQ%3Fe%3D3pgrku)

cc: Paul Smith, Brian Carey PWS, Peter Talbot AIA

Dear Shelley,
Michael is traveling, please reach out to either me or Paul Smith if you have any questions or need further information before the meeting.

Thank you,
Sincerely,
Peter

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