



Massachusetts Housing Finance Agency
One Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02108

TEL: 617.854.1000 | FAX: 617.854.1091
Vp: 866.758.1435 | www.masshousing.com

October 11, 2013

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL

Mr. Robert Sweeney, Chairman
Stoneham Board of Selectmen
~~35 Central Street~~
Stoneham, MA 02180
Project # SA-13-007

Dear Mr. Sweeney:

The Massachusetts Housing Finance Agency (MassHousing) is currently reviewing an application for Site Approval submitted by Weiss Farm, LLC. The proposed development (The Commons at Weiss Farm) will consist of 264 rental apartment homes on a 25.7-acre site on the north side of Franklin Street. Of the 264 units, 66 will be made available to low-moderate-income residents. The Commons at Weiss Farm will also include a clubhouse and 456 parking spaces (42 covered spaces and 414 surface spaces).

The site approval process is offered to project sponsors who intend to apply for a comprehensive permit under Chapter 40B. MassHousing's review involves an evaluation of the site, the design concept, the financial feasibility of the proposal, and the appropriateness of the proposal in relation to local housing needs and strategies. As part of our review, we are soliciting comments from the local community and we would appreciate your input. You also may wish to include in your response issues or concerns raised by other town boards, officials or other interested parties. Pursuant to the Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40B regulations (760 CMR 56.00) your comments may include information regarding municipal actions previously taken to meet affordable housing needs such as inclusionary zoning, multifamily districts adopted under G.L. c.40A and overlay districts adopted under G.L. c.40R. Your comments will be considered as part of our review.

We have been informed by Weiss Farm LLC that the Town has received a copy of the application and plans for the Commons at Weiss Farm. Please inform us of any issues that have been raised or are anticipated in the Town's review of this application. We request that you submit your comments to this office within 30 days so we may process this application in a timely manner.

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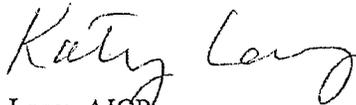
During the course of its review, MassHousing will conduct a site visit, which Local Boards, as defined in 760 CMR 56.02, may attend. The site visit for The Commons at Weiss Farm has been scheduled for Monday, October 28 at 2:30 P.M. Please notify me promptly if any representatives of your office or if other Local Boards plan to attend the scheduled site visit.

Please note that if and when an application is submitted for a comprehensive permit, assistance is available to Stoneham Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) to review the permit application. The Massachusetts Housing Partnership's (MHP) *Ch. 40B Technical Assistance Program* administers grants to municipalities for up to \$10,000 to engage qualified third-party consultants to work with the Stoneham ZBA in reviewing the Chapter 40B proposal. For more information about MHP's technical assistance grant visit MHP's web site, www.mhp.net/40B or e-mail MHP at communityinfo@mhp.net. Also available at MHP's web site are the "Local 40B Review and Decision Guidelines" that were released in November 2005 to provide guidance to local officials as they review comprehensive permit applications. The Chapter 40B regulations and accompanying guidelines issued by DHCD, however, take legal precedence over the MHP guidelines.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to telephone me at (617) 854-1098, or Gregory Watson, Manager, Comprehensive Permit Programs at (617-854-1880)

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Katharine Lacy, AICP
Permitting and Monitoring Specialist
Comprehensive Permit Program

cc: David Ragucci, Town Administrator

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bcc: Bob Quealy, MassHousing
Diane Georgopulos, MassHousing
