

Item 8 - Correspondence

From: [German, Phil](#)
To: [MCP-Chair](#)
Subject: Charles W. Woodward High School Re-opening: Final Forest Conservation Plan, No. MR2020022
Date: Wednesday, September 23, 2020 9:34:04 AM

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Mr. Casey Anderson, Chairman
Montgomery County Planning Board

Dear Mr. Anderson:

I ask that the following be considered by the Board in its Mandatory Review 2020022.

As a nearby homeowner, I continue to be concerned with the project before the Planning Board.

During the community involvement process, we have repeatedly been told that moving ahead with Phase 0 and Phase 1 portions in no way will affect the Phase 2 planning; however the truth is that in the process of approving Phases 0 and 1, the “envelope” of Phase 2 activities becomes certain.

Within the last 13 months, the plans presented for the Project have and continue to change with varying options for Phase 2 activities. In the August 26, 2019 presentation, there were 5 studies presented; and while the layouts for Phase 2 illustrated a shortage of parking, all 3 fields fit within the property currently owned by MCPS. There were 3 options (“A”, “B”, & “C”) presented at the January 21, 2020 community meeting, and again all 3 options presented did not intrude into the Edson Lane Forest. A week later, the current Option “D” made its appearance.

The result of the footprint of the proposed high school being significantly larger than existing, the addition of surface parking, and being set back further from Old Georgetown Road results in a loss of existing green space by approximately 50% (my calculations). This dramatically impacts the options available for Phase 2.

The decision by MCPS not to utilize Timberlawn Park. further restricts Phase 2 planning. It essentially leaves 1 rectangular field for 2,700 students. Certainly, this is a future problem which should be addressed currently.

Frankly, while the Forest Conservation Plan before you has been submitted to address the legal requirements; it does not meet the intended spirit. I believe that the Board should approve Phase 0 (demolition) activities, but demand a more innovative site design in order to preserve more of the forest and provide more open space and recreational land; prior to Phase I approval.

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