

## Item 7 - Correspondence

**From:** [Robin Ziek](#)  
**To:** [MCP-Chair](#)  
**Subject:** Sandy Spring Museum Development 11996032B & 81996010B  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 28, 2023 6:06:51 PM  
**Attachments:** [Museum development project.docx](#)

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**[EXTERNAL EMAIL]** Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Please see my attached letter, with comments about the above proposed work.

Thank you - Robin Ziek, 18000 Bentley Road, Sandy Spring MD 2860

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for your consideration of my comments on the proposed additional development at the Sandy Spring Museum (Plan Number: 81996010B). I live down the street from the Museum and I have a few concerns:

- 1) My property is a drainage route for all of the Museum's run-off collected and directed to Bentley Road. I am concerned, now, with the level of run-off and would be more concerned if the proposed work created additional run-off on my property. Erosion is a big concern as a deep swale has developed over the years. In addition, is this run-off considered an intermittent stream? I don't know the answer, but I would be concerned if this were to affect any future use of my property.

The water retention system on the Museum grounds along Bentley Road is just inadequate. The low area with trees just south of the proposed new parking lot exit frequently has standing water and I don't think the standing water is good for the remaining trees in this area. This flooding is exacerbated by the debris that accumulates at the first outflow that leads to my property (there are two). The amount of water flow here has exposed the edge of the road by more than ten inches, illustrating the speed and amount of water flow along this edge. And I doubt that additional impervious or semi-impervious material in the form of a walking path parallel to the road is needed or fits in with the character of Bentley Road, designated as a Rustic Road in the County's program. I didn't see any mention of the Rustic Road designation in the proposal and this rustic character should be considered. It would help if our street sign were brown, like all the other Rustic Road street signs.

- 2) The materials sent out, as required by the Planning process, did not include any information about the north portion of the Museum property that is protected by a Category I forest easement. My understanding is that the Museum is currently working with a Boy Scout and locals to install a walking trail through this Category I forest area. Please note that the existing trails in portions of the forest closer to the Museum (not Category I) are scraped ground varying in width from 5 – 11 feet wide. This may not be appropriate in a Category I protected area, and I direct your attention to this for your review.
- 3) Many trees have died on the property over the 20+ years since the Museum was established here. The Ash Tree die-back has affected us all. With their loss, and with the added pressure on the woods due to new development and the resulting loss of fields and forest for the deer, it is not clear that the forest is regenerating. Is it already so, or can the Museum be designated as a receiving area for other developers so that new trees may be planted on the Museum property, and especially in the forested areas? I know this non-profit organization is an important community member, and they do a lot with a little. Some help would be appreciated to maintain the tree cover.
- 4) Finally, the new proposal constructs a performance space in the northeast corner, adjacent to a private residence on Bentley Road. Will there be a limited schedule of performances here to protect the privacy and quiet for this residence? In the past, a stage was located here for the Strawberry Festival. But that is only for two days a year, and we all love the Festival. I would hope that there will be some coordination and consideration given to this adjacent private home.

Yours truly,

Robin D. Ziek  
18000 Bentley Road, Sandy Spring MD 20860

**From:** [Robin Ziek](#)  
**To:** [MCP-Chair](#)  
**Subject:** Spring Museum (Plan Number: 81996010B)  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 26, 2023 11:13:47 AM

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April 26, 2023

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for your consideration of my comments on the proposed additional development at the Sandy Spring Museum.

I live down the street from the Museum and have been an active member since 1993. I am concerned about the impact on the mature trees because of the proposed additional driveway connection at the north end of the Museum parking lot.

When the Museum was under construction in 1992, then-Board Chair John Cirtea asked me to take a petition around to all the neighbors on Bentley Road asking the Planning Board to approve their application with the deletion of the driveway segment at this north end of the parking lot. I did so and all the neighbors agreed with this change. The Planning Board agreed and it was not built.

The existing parking layout at the Museum, with one entrance/exit, has a dual effect: it keeps Museum traffic at the end of the street, and it protects the trees at the north end of the parking lot. My concern is that the mature trees (7) have sent out surface roots to the area exactly where they will be impacted (cut/covered) by a proposed exit driveway. These trees have compensated for the excess water pooling along their roadside edge during rain events. With the loss of air on this side, the trees have sent out roots in the opposite direction. Drainage here is a problem, as I wrote in my letter of February 27th, and I don't think the current Museum plan will address this. With the Ash tree dieback of recent years, the Museum has lost many mature trees. While planting 5 or 6 new trees is good (because the deer eat young trees.), it doesn't compensate for the loss of all the mature trees. I'm very concerned with this project because we will lose more mature and

living trees that contribute to the character of the Museum site and of Bentley Road and of the rural Sandy Spring community.

The Museum has limited parking on-site, but a terrific agreement with the public high school across the street for overflow parking. This helps everyone, including the planet, with the result that there is less asphalt in our rural area. It also maximizes the use of the existing asphalt. Please suggest that the Museum save money and not build this driveway..

With my thanks,

Robin Ziek (18000 Bentley Road, Sandy Spring MD 20860)