

From Mayor Mike Cahill

As the Beverly Planning Board reconvenes the public hearing tonight on the CEA Group's special permit application to build a retail plaza along Brimbal Ave that would include a Whole Foods market, I want to share some information on how we foresee the public process unfolding from this point forward. After conferring with Planning Director Aaron Clausen and Planning Board Chair John Thompson, this is what the public can expect.

Tonight - Tuesday, January 13th - Special Meeting of the Planning Board - 7 PM - We expect that CEA's traffic engineer and the peer review traffic engineer (hired by the city and paid for by CEA as required by state law) will each present to and will likely be asked questions by members of the Planning Board. This will take some time, perhaps up to 90 minutes. Then, a minimum of 90 minutes of testimony from the public will take place, with a goal of recessing the hearing by 10 PM.

Wednesday, January 21st - Regular January meeting of the Planning Board - 7 PM - Public testimony on this matter will be taken for at least 90 minutes, after which the public hearing on CEA's proposal will likely be recessed again so that the Planning Board can address the balance of its agenda.

Regular February meeting of Planning Board - (typically third Tuesday, may be third Wednesday due to Presidents Day holiday - exact date TBA) - In advance of this meeting, the Parking and Traffic Commission will meet in early February and likely finalize its recommendation re: the CEA Group's proposal for submission to the Planning Board.

The Planning Board will likely reconvene the public hearing on this proposal and hear all remaining public testimony on this matter. After which, at the February meeting, the Planning Board may potentially close the public hearing and vote on the matter. This will depend on whether the Planning Board determines the public hearing process has reached its conclusion, and whether they are ready to vote on the matter.

Please don't hesitate to call my office at City Hall with questions - 978 605-2333. Thank you for your interest in this proposed retail development and in the public process. Mayor Mike Cahill