

Iwicki, Brad

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 16, 2024 9:28 AM  
**To:** Planning  
**Subject:** COA 24-3620

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I am writing to comment on COA 24-3620 (new driveway access at 219 Center Street). [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] The proposed driveway would be placed just north of my property and along most of my property line.

I am not opposed to a driveway being added in this area as this is the only driveway access available short of the owner of the School of Rock property granting some sort of access through their parking lot which I'm guessing won't happen.

Therefore, if a new driveway is to be constructed, I would like the city to consider the effects of stormwater runoff on the existing properties. I have lived at 215 Center since 2004. Every spring, portions of my backyard as well as portions of 219 Center Street (and 209 Center Street) backyards turn into swamps during heavy rains. This has occurred despite many trees, bushes, and shrubs occupying a large portion of the 219 back and side yards. Unfortunately, nearly 100% of the greenery at 219 was removed late last spring so there is no longer anything in place to absorb the rainwater there except for the lawn. Removal of the greenery occurred later in spring after most of the heavy rains so I did not get to see the effects on the backyard swamps. This alone is a concern. Now, in addition to the deforestation, the yard (including most of the lawn and existing semi-permeable gravel) will be covered with over 1500 square feet of impermeable asphalt (over 20% of the lot will be paved) and possibly pitched in the direction of my property. I am deeply concerned not just about a swampy backyard (occurring more often and to a greater degree) but now with flooding of my basement.

I'm fairly certain that the city cannot mandate what materials can be used for this project but I believe permeable pavers would go a long way in mitigating this issue. Likewise, limiting the amount of paving area or keeping the driveway as far from the property line as possible would help. Finally, mandating certain pitch directions or curbs to promote runoff onto Center Street or into 219's far backyard could help. If none of this can be done, I would like the City to consider adding an extension to the storm sewer on center street that would extend along the property line with a drain located at the low point between the homes. This would help alleviate much of the potential issues with stormwater.

I hope my concerns are considered and that we can be proactive in preventing / minimizing any problems.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]