



TOWN OF SWAMPSCOTT

OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN COMMITTEE

ELIHU THOMSON ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
22 MONUMENT AVENUE, SWAMPSCOTT, MA 01907

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August 10, 2017

Pete Kane
Planning Department
22 Monument Avenue
Swampscott, MA 01907

RE: Open Space & Recreation Plan Committee Comments on Petition 17-16

Mr. Kane,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the "Senior Residences at the Machon" project plan. The Open Space & Recreation Plan Committee would like to echo the recent comments of the Conservation Commission.

The "Proposed Ground Coverage Data, Landscaping/Buffers" section of the plan notes that the area in front of the building will be re-landscaped "to include an attractive mix of ornamental plantings including shrubs and trees." Given the problems associated with the spreading of non-native invasive species on town-owned land, and the costs associated with addressing such infestations, like the Commission, we strongly recommend that no invasive species be used in implementation of this project. Information on invasive species, including list of plants can be found on: <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dfg/dfw/natural-heritage/land-protection-and-management/invasive-species/invasive-plants.html>

In choosing shrubs, trees and plants, we recommend that native species be used if possible.

We further recommend avoiding the use of pesticides and herbicides in the maintenance of the property and using organic lawn and plant care instead. Given that the Senior Residences will be near a school playing field and playground, only environmentally friendly landscaping maintenance practices, free of pesticides and herbicides, should be employed.

Sincerely,

Tonia Bandrowicz
Open Space & Recreation Plan Committee, Vice Chair