TOWN OF EASTCHESTER BUILDING AND PLANNING DEPARTMENT TRANSCRIPT OF TOWN OF EASTCHESTER ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD MEETING MAY 5, 2016 Я 10 HELD AT: Eastchester Town Hall Rastchester, Now York 10709 7:00 p.m. 40 Mill Road 11 12 13 BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: 14 LAURA RAFFIANI, CHAIRPERSON ENDA MCINTYRE, MEMBER SILVIO LUCA, MEMBER 15 16 EASTCHESTER EMPLOYEES IN ATTENDANCE: 17 18 MARGARET UHLE, DIRECTOR OF PLANNING MICHAEL VERNON, ASSISTANT PLANNER 19 20 21 Dina M. Morgan, Reporter 25 Colonial Road Bronxville, New York 1070 (914) 469-6353 22 10708 23 24 2.5

This application was presented to the 20 Zoning Board and two area variances were 21 granted on April 12th. The first was for a

22 front yard setback to the principal building 23 and the second was for a front yard setback to

**FASTCHESTER ARB - 5/5/16** 

is John Iannacito. I'm an architect, and I'm representing Mr. and Mrs. William McCarthy this

evening, the owners of the subject property.

We're proposing additions and alterations to

The proposed scope of work will

The proposed site alterations will

include removal of paved areas at the rear and

at the side of the property, and it will result

in a net decrease to the overall coverage on

the existing residence located at 41 Rose

include a two story addition at the front of

the front of the existing residence, and site

the existing residence, a new entry portico at

MR. IANNACITO: Good evening. My name

the new portico, which is shown on the site 24 25

plan.

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Avenue.

alterations.

this property.

### DINA M. MORGAN, REPORTER

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### EASTCHESTER ARB - 5/5/16

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THE CHAIRPERSON: Good evening,

DINA M. MORGAN, REPORTER

everyone. Welcome to the May 5th Architectural 3 4 Review Board meeting.

5 Margaret, would you call the roll,

6 please.

MS. UHLE: Sure. Enda McIntyre.

8 MR. MCINTYRE: Here.

MS, UHLE: Laura Rafflani.

10 THE CHAIRPERSON: Here.

MS. UHLE: Sllvio Luca.

12 MR. LUCA: Here.

13 THE CHAIRPERSON: Would everyone rise

14 to say the Pledge of Allegiance.

15 (Whereupon, the Pledge of Allegiance

16 was said.)

THE CHAIRPERSON: The minutes I don't

18 think we have the proper quorum.

19 MS. UHLE: No. So we'll hold them to

20 the next meeting, and it's only one set, that's

21 pretty good.

22 THE CHAIRPERSON: Not bad. We caught

23 up and then we're behind again.

24 First item on the agenda is

25 Application 16-11, 41 Rose Avenue.

DINA M. MORGAN, REPORTER

#### FASTCHESTER ARB - 5/5/16

The floor plans: On the first floor,

3 the addition will consist of an expansion of

4 the existing dining room and expansion of the

5 entrance hall, and then on the second floor the

6 addition consists of an expansion of the master

7 suite, a bedroom, sitting room, and master

8 bathroom.

9 Elevations: This is the front elevation with the two story addition and the new portico. The left side elevation showing a 12 two story addition tied into an existing dormer here between the two gables and the new front 13 portico. At the rear, you're not really going 14 15 to see much of the addition, it's just the roof 16 further beyond, and then on the right side 17 here's the two story addition with the portico.

On the proposed materials -- I brought a photograph of the existing residence -- all materials will match existing. On the siding, we will have vinyl siding to match existing in a cream color. The roof will be asphalt to match existing in a gray finish. The shutters and front door will be blue to match existing. All the trim will be AZEK in a white finish to

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ı	1	EASTCHESTER ARB - 5/5/16	1	EASTCHESTER ARB - 5/5/16
1	2	match. The railings will also be white vinyl	2	of the garage or anything?
l	3	to match.	3	MR. IANNACITO: The garage is at the
l	4	That's pretty much it. Thank you and	4	back of the house and we're not doing anything
ł	5	I'm happy to answer any questions you have.	5	back there.
١	6	THE CHAIRPERSON: I notice that you	6	THE CHAIRPERSON: Will they have to
ı	7	kind of the previous front of the facade	7	put any additional like AC units or anything
1	8	kind of went with the line of the street, I	8	like that?
١	9	guess, the property line more in the direction	9	MR. MCINTYRE: There is no air
l	10	of the street?	10	conditioning in the house right now, and we're
1	11	MR. MCINTYRE: I think that just	11	not proposing to add air conditioning.
	12	the	12	THE CHAIRPERSON: I guess that's it.
1	13	MR. IANNACITO: That dotted line is	13	Pretty straightforward. Any other comments,
1	14	the setback line. The angle of the facade	14	anybody?
١	15	didn't change. It's still the same.	15	(No comments.)
1	16	THE CHAIRPERSON: Oh, okay.	16	THE CHAIRPERSON: Then I would like to
1	17	MR. MCINTYRE: So is all of the home	17	make a motion to pass along Application 16-11
١	18	getting re-wrapped in vinyl siding, because I	18	along to the Planning Board with a
1	19	know you're doing some window work on the left	19	recommendation for approval.
١	20	side elevation also?	20	MR. MCINTYRE: Second that.
١	21	MR. IANNACITO: We will do some on the	21	THE CHAIRPERSON: All in favor.
1	22	dormer here. The existing siding wasn't done	22	(All aye.)
1	23	that long ago, so it should match up pretty	23	MR. MCINTYRE: Thank you.
1	24	good.	24	MR. IANNACITO: Thanks.
١	25	THE CHAIRPERSON: I would like to make	25	THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you and good
		DINA M. MORGAN, REPORTER		DINA M. MORGAN, REPORTER
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9 **EASTCHESTER ARB - 5/5/16** 1 landscaping, delineation of parking, some 2 pedestrian safety measures, and some site 3 4 lighting. I have the site plan up on the screen 5 6 here. MR. MCINTYRE: Do you have the color 7 rendition? 8 MS. MARTIN: I have the landscaping 9 plan, is that what you're looking for? 10 MS. UHLE: She's just showing existing 11 conditions now, and then I think she's going to 12 13 move on. 14 MR. MCINTYRE: Okay. MS. MARTIN: This is the proposed 15 landscape plan. I'm happy to show that. 16 17 MR. MCINTYRE: Can that be blown up at all? Can you expand that? 18 MS. MARTIN: Yes, I can. 19 MR. MCINTYRE: So maybe for 20 everybody's benefit maybe you could kind of 21 iust sort of talk us through -- because I know 22 23 there are some members of the community here -and just sort of highlight existing structure, 24 existing foliage, existing parking spots, so DINA M. MORGAN, REPORTER

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# EASTCHESTER ARB - 5/5/16

that everybody could kind of visually understand what's there and what you're 3 4 proposing.

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MS. MARTIN: I would be happy to, and actually I think what might help is we do have an existing rendition of this as well.

So this is what currently exists on 8 9 the site. As you can see, this is the current 10 outline of the building. That outline will 11 remain moving forward with a slight addition 12 which takes over this area back here that 13 currently has a trailer in it. The gasoline 14 function remains the same. The function within 15 this building will alter, but the structure

16 itself will remain. Currently, there are no parking spots 17 18 delineated and the overall traffic flow is a 19 little haphazard. So our plan is to clean that up and put some function to it. We are looking 20 21 to increase the landscaping. What is here is 22 currently a little overgrown and unkept. We are maintaining the price sign in this corner 23 here, but it will get some landscaping and some

curbing around that. The parking will be

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EASTCHESTER ARB - 5/5/16 1 delineated here and the crosswalk will be 2 3 moving to aid in pedestrian safety.

This is the proposed plan --4 MS. UHLE: Can you go back to the

5 existing ---6

MS. MARTIN: Sure.

MS. UHLE: -- I just wanted to point 8 out a couple of things. 9

MS. MARTIN: Please.

because I know there were questions about the landscaping at the rear of the property -- in 13 the back where it's vegetated, that's kind of a 14 wooded slope, and then you could see right now 15 in back of the building there's a large area of asphalt pavement, a trailer, and then some kind 17 of concrete pad. I just wanted you to see that 18 in relationship to what's proposed. 19

MS. UHLE: You can see in the back --

Also, with regard to the curb cuts, they're really not defined curb cuts at this point. They're just sort of dropped curbs for significant portions of the site. Go ahead, Jillian.

> MS. MARTIN: Correct. So as we move DINA M. MORGAN, REPORTER

> > 12

# **EASTCHESTER ARB - 5/5/16**

forward, you could see that there is a more

delineated in and out function with curbing and 3

landscaping to go along with those curb cuts. 4

Like I said, the addition is shown here in the

darker brown color. Behind the building, there

no longer will be that trailer. There is 7

currently proposed some mechanical equipment 8

here, which is surrounded by the wooded area as

well as has a gate on it on the end of the 10

building. There is a enclosure for the 11

12 dumpsters proposed here, delineated parking for

six of the -- six spots here, and the air and 13

the vacuum machines are remaining. There is 14

some exterior lighting as well, and as you can 15

see, quite a bit of landscaping to try to get 16

the most of the small site that we have here. 17

MR. MCINTYRE: In terms of the hard-scape, are you doing anything to the service area?

MS. MARTIN: It would get re-paved 21 during the process of the renovation. 22

MR. MCINTYRE: Okay. With what?

MS. MARTIN: It would be an asphalt payement. The area directly under the canopy

4 of 15 sheets

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# EASTCHESTER ARB - 5/5/16

is a concrete pad, that would remain, it's the nature of gas stations, but the remaining area would be asphalt and striping.

MR. MCINTYRE: Again, to sort of just bring everybody up to speed, the existing means of entry and egress to the gas station, they remain unchanged?

MS. MARTIN: As you go see here, we have a specific in here, as well as an in and out here. If I remember correctly from our 12 traffic discussions, this is no longer an out, it is an in only.

MS. UHLE: Again, these were gone over, this same plan, but I think it's really here for the aesthetic review, and it was a public hearing a number of times this very plan explained. Plus, it may be modified more during site plan approval. I know the traffic engineer will continue to be involved. Right now that's based on the Zoning Board's analysis and the traffic engineer's analysis what the circulation is on site.

THE CHAIRPERSON: So then aesthetically as far as the elevations are

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#### EASTCHESTER ARB - 5/5/16

concerned?

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MS, UHLE: This the Zoning Board 4 didn't look at at all.

MS. MARTIN: So here is what we are proposing aesthetically. We are, you know, adding on here in this section, which is primarily cooler space in the back of the building. The building would obviously get a 10 new roof and a face lift, large storefront windows in the front there. It's a Hardie 11 12 Board siding. I do have samples of the colors 13 that we typically go with, if you would like to see them.

> (Whereupon, Ms. Martin handed the Board samples.)

MS. MARTIN: So what I've provided is our typical heather moss Hardie Board siding and the Hardie Board trim in the off-white that 20 we typically go with, as well as the asphalt 21 shingle, the standing seam green meadow roof, 22 there's a piece of that, there's a piece of the 23 stockade fencing, which I know was discussed 24 the last time we came around to the ARB, as well as a piece of the storefront.

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EASTCHESTER ARB - 5/5/16
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THE CHAIRPERSON: That stockade

3 fencing goes along --

MS. MARTIN: That would be around the dumpster enclosure, part of it at least. It would be the front of the dumpster enclosure. We have walls around the back with bollards to prevent the garbage truck from moving anything

inadvertently, and it would also be along the 9 10 back of the building to the wooded area to

enclose the condensers and the mechanical 11 12 equipment.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Is there anything happening to the canopy?

MS. MARTIN: It would get a facelift. We would do some aesthetics to it, but it would remain in it's shape and size and location.

MR. MCINTYRE: What's the roofing material on the canopy right now?

MS. MARTIN: It would be a metal roof. 20 I could put up a picture for everyone, I 21 believe. We would while doing the renovation 22 23 obviously make sure that there's no leaking going on on the roof and we would do some 24 maintenance to it while we were in the middle

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### EASTCHESTER ARB - 5/5/16

of doing all the other maintenance. Whatever 2

3 it needs to get it back up to snuff. I believe

it would also be getting some updated LED light

fixtures. They should be on your lighting

6 plan, that very colorful, very large plan. I

7 could bring them up on the screen if that's

easier. 8

Something else that this picture reminds me of is obviously as we remove the maintenance function, the maintenance bay doors are coming out, and we would have the single unified look along the front with the 13 storefront windows. 14

THE CHAIRPERSON: On the landscaping plan, the roof is noted in a different color but really it will just be -- the addition is noted in a different color but --

18 19 MS. MARTIN: No, no. That was just to show in plan view the differentiation between 20 existing versus addition. No, the entire roof 21 22 would have a single color. It would that asphalt, typically our asphalt shingle that I 23 submitted. As you can see, we're adding this 24

front piece here, but we're keeping the major **DINA M. MORGAN. REPORTER** 

Page 13 to 16 of 57

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that is not existing.

especially in the wintertime.

EASTCHESTER ARB - 5/5/16 1 roof line and extending it over the addition 2 and keeping the tower. 3 4 THE CHAIRPERSON: I would like to make a motion to open up Application 13-36 for the 5 public hearing. 6 MR. MCINTYRE: I second that. 7 THE CHAIRPERSON: All in favor. 8 9 (All ave.) THE CHAIRPERSON: Anyone here from the 10 community that would like to -- please come to 11 the mic and say your name and address. 12 MS. MARTIN: Is there a particular 13 14 document that would be best to have up for you at this point? 15 THE CHAIRPERSON: I 'm not really sure 16 17 because I'm not really sure what --MS. UHLE: Maybe the elevations at 18 least to start with and then maybe you could 19 flip back to the plan. 20 MS. MARTIN: Sure. 21 22 MS. URBINA: Hi. Good evening, everyone. I'm Katherine Urbina. I live at 19 23 Hillcrest Road, which is directly behind this 24 25 location. I very much appreciate the **DINA M. MORGAN, REPORTER** 18

Lastly, my last comment is we would 17 like to ensure that the existing hedge on 18 Hillcrest Road please be replaced and be pruned 19 in such a way to increase the line of site. 20 What's currently there now, not only is it 21 visually -- where is the picture -- right 22 23 here -- not only is it just visually horrible looking, but I can tell you from living there 24 20 years this summer, that there's way too many DINA M. MORGAN, REPORTER 20

EASTCHESTER ARB - 5/5/16

MS. URBINA: No problem. It is our

We also seriously suggest that the

THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.

suggestion the highest fence permitted should

be required and the existing fence be replaced

because, like I said, we could see everything,

condenser units and the mechanicals be placed

than facing our home. They look like they're a

pretty substantial size, and I'm sure that they

could, perhaps, go a long way in minimizing the

will be very noisy. This one little change

noise that we'll be exposed to in our home.

on the west wall facing the restaurant rather

EASTCHESTER ARB - 5/5/16 1 opportunity to be heard this evening. So the site landscaping plan is a bit 3 deceiving. It appears that the wooded area 4 behind the gas station on the south side is 5 6 dense. The rendering gives that idea and it's 7 far from it. We can see everything that's 8 there and happens around that area right from our kitchen window. For example, aside from 10 the garbage, you know, we frequently have 11 snapped photos of people who urinate back that. 12 So we could see everything. It's not dense 13 foliage whatsoever. The pictures that we've 14 submitted prior of the garbage issue back 15 there, which is frequent and draws in a lot of 16 raccoons and other vermin. THE CHAIRPERSON: I don't mean to 17 18 interrupt, but I know the fence you spoke 19 about, the fence around the garbage, is that something that doesn't exist now? 20 21 MS. MARTIN: Correct. THE CHAIRPERSON: So it's a new thing 22 23 that it will be fenced in?

MS. MARTIN: Yes. There will dumpster

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garbage specific enclosure with the renovation

EASTCHESTER ARB - 5/5/16 1 close calls. Cars exit there and they don't 2 see kids, and we do have some elderly neighbors, several that are in like sort of an electric wheelchair coming down that sidewalk and there's just too many close calls that we've witnessed and called the police about to leave things as is. For example, although they've attempted to improve the traffic flow down New Rochelle Road, frequently people will edge their way in to make three lanes and when they get stopped at the light, they'll cut through the deli and the gas station and zoom out onto New Rochelle Road. We would hate for something like to happen, because we even requested that the bus stop for the school be moved and they wouldn't move it. So kids have to wait on that corner and they come right down that sidewalk. So that's really a safety issue. So we ask that there be something that increases the line of sight. I thank you very much for listening. 22 MS. UHLE: Could I make a couple of

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24 comments?

THE CHAIRPERSON: Sure.

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#### EASTCHESTER ARB - 5/5/16

MS. UHLE: I agree with a lot of your

comments with regard to the landscaping 3

especially. I know the applicant did hire a 4

landscape architect to do this plan. I think 5

that we did talk to them initially about 6

7 looking at what I'm calling the "wooded" area

to the back there about both cleaning it up and

9 potentially supplementing it or putting in the

fence. I agree with you about the hedge on 10

Hillcrest Road, just even the condition of the 11

12 hedge, and then the traffic engineer that

worked with the Zoning Board called me after

the last meeting before the Zoning Board and 14

15 said when it gets to the Planning Board he's

going to reevaluate that intersection there 16

because there were some further concerns that 17

were raised at the meeting. I just wanted you 18

19 to know I agree with you on most of these, and

I think they're things that can be addressed.

MR. MCINTYRE: Yes, absolutely. Let's

22 give everybody the opportunity to speak, and

then we could have the applicant come up and 23

maybe address some of the concerns that have 24

been aired. 25

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# EASTCHESTER ARB - 5/5/16

MS. URBINA: Thank you again. I

appreciate it.

MR. DECHANCE: Good evening. My name

is Mike DeChance. I live at 17 Alta Drive, and

my property also borders the rear of this 6

property. As Kate said, I have a lot of 7

concerns as well because as I go out my back

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yard, I look straight down onto this property,

and I have many of the concerns Kate has. 10

That back area, that wooded area has

12 not been cleaned for years. What we see back

13 there is garbage, compound buckets, plastic

14 planters, and anything anybody felt like

throwing back there for years is still there 15

and it has not been cleaned. 16

The shrubs on Hillcrest, as Kate said,

you know, is a real danger for people who are

walking in that area, as well as children 19

getting off the bus because in the summer they 20

don't cut them. So they grow out now and 21

you're walking in the street to get by. 22

23 There are dead branches that are

24 hanging over our properties. There's one in

particular. It's a small tree, but it's 25

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#### **EASTCHESTER ARB - 5/5/16**

2 leaning like this towards my property and it

would take out my fence. So a lot of the dead 3

branches and trees that are in that wooded area 4

need to be looked at and taken care of.

I, too, have a concern about those condenser motors. I brought it up at the

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Zoning Board meeting and I'm going to bring it 8

up here tonight. I'm concerned about the 9

placement. They're going to run 24/7 and 10

11 Kate's going to hear them, I'm going to hear them as well. We asked for a change or 12

something to be done about that, and I still 13

haven't heard a remedy for that problem. It's 14

15 going to affect only a few people, and we're

the people that it's going to affect. So we 16

have a real concern about that. 17

I would ask the board to really take a look at it and require the applicant to really

20 clean that area up, do a thorough cleaning back

21 there, require them, as I heard Margaret say

it, about a fence, but the fence to go all the 22

way around all four sides so that it borders 23

the entire property not just one part. Require 24

the applicant to maintain the rear property on 25

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#### EASTCHESTER ARB - 5/5/16

a weekly basis. They want to be a good 2

3 neighbor, we're asking them to keep the

4 property clean. We keep our properties clean,

I don't want to look over a fence and see 5

garbage or people urinating or other things of 6

that nature taking place. 7

I want to also look and ask the

9 applicant to trim those dead branches down. I

know there are some overhanging on my property, 10

11 I know there's others in there, and there's

been a few storms we hear a big crack and you 12

look and you just see the branches coming down. 13

I know Kate's shaking her head, because one 14

time I thought one fell right on her house. It 15

fell right next to the fence. If you go back 16

17 there, it's still laying there and you'll see

that. But really they need to maintain the 18

19 existing property in a clean fashion.

Also, I'm not sure if the board, this

board or the Planning Board where you make 21

22 recommendations about operational hours. We're

23 real concerned as a community about the

operational hours of this proposed project. 24

Chester Heights is a family area. Our lights 25

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#### EASTCHESTER ARB - 5/5/16

go off 9:30, 10:00 at night and all the 2

3 businesses in that area close 9:30, 10. The

existing, you know, petroleum station now stays 4

open until 11. We're asking that if the other 5

businesses close between 9:30 and 10, that they 7

be restricted to operation hours no later than 10 p.m. as well.

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Those are my concerns. I want to thank you tonight for hearing them.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you for coming. I think that some of the points that

you make are more Planning Board, but I 13

understand that, you know, you come here to be 14

15 heard, but they are things that the Planning

Board can do something about. We're really 16

more concerned about aesthetics than anything

else, the Architectural Review Board, but we

19 welcome your comments.

> MS. UHLE: And it allows the applicant when they do come before the Planning Board to be prepared to hopefully illustrate a lot of these things.

THE CHAIRPERSON: So that would give them a chance to make those changes if anything

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### EASTCHESTER ARB - 5/5/16

could be done.

MS. ROSAMONDA: Hi. My name is Pat

Rosamonda and I live at 215 Hillcrest Road.

Although my address is the first home in Mount

Vernon, I am no more than 400 feet from the 6

proposed site. 7

> I concur with everything that my neighbors have previously mentioned. The

9 condition of the gas station -- I'm not really 10

11 sure how long this owner has owned the gas

12 station -- but it has never been kept

13 aesthetically to go along with the

14 neighborhood, except for within the last week

15 some mulch and some little shrubbery has been

16 added to the little mini island, but it really

17 is basically an eyesore, as well as the fact of

the hedges along Hillcrest Road. Yes, we do 18

have a high population of walkers going up and

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down the street. The traffic situation is 20

going to be difficult. 21

> Now, I know you had mentioned that the crosswalk was one of the proposed things to be

moved. You may wish to consider that that 24

light where the crosswalk is going to be moved 25

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EASTCHESTER ARB - 5/5/16

2 closer to, if you have any idea of what New

Rochelle Road is like, many drivers blow right 3

4 past through that light. Sometimes the

Eastchester Police will catch them, sometimes 5

they don't. If you've got the pedestrian 6

crosswalk right there, that's a tragedy waiting 7

to happen, because the traffic impact at that 8

corner is awful. 9

Now, when I go down Hillcrest Road to make the left onto New Rochelle Road, I have to

deal with the Bee Line bus, a school bus, plus 12 the traffic coming out of the gas station, 13

which they are not cognisant of the fact that 14

there is another car on that street. Also, as 15

I had previously asked Margaret at the last 16

17 Zoning Board meeting, this new plan seems to

show all of the traffic exiting onto Hillcrest 18

Road. The Mayor of Mount Vernon did write a 19

20 letter, and I'm sure you've received it, that 21

he was in opposition of this entire plan. MS. UHLE: I've got to clarify. No,

22 no, no. He did not write a letter indicating 23

that he was in opposition. He wrote a letter 24

asking about the notice, and I would be happy

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EASTCHESTER ARB - 5/5/16

to share that letter with you. It was actually

inaccurate with regard to notice requirements, 3

and the city of Mount Vernon was noticed and we 4

have a record of that. He did not say that he 5

was in opposition. I just wanted to make that 6

clear. He had indicated that residents had 7

approached him concerned about the notice

requirements. So those are two different 9

10 things.

By the way, I left a voicemail message 11 for their Commissioner of Planning and two 12

13 voicemail messages for their law department to

discuss the application, and I have not 14

received any calls back. I do want to make 15

clear I followed up with Mount Vernon and we 16 actually did notify Mount Vernon prior to 17

hearing from the Mayor. 18

19 MS. ROSAMONDA: Yes. I saw that in the resolution, but at the time, because the 20

plan was revised in February, when I approached 21 the mayor, the new plan had been proposed that 22

all of the traffic exit out onto Hillcrest 23

Road. That is going to be a nightmare waiting 24

25 to happen.

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#### EASTCHESTER ARB - 5/5/16

2 Also, with regard to the hours, I agree with, again, my neighbors. CVS, the 3 restaurants, Gordy's, Elia Taverna, all of 4

those businesses shut down by 9:30, 10:00. CVS

is essential merchant to the community. A 6

convenience store is not. We do not want that 7

convenience store open until 12:00 at night,

because then I propose to you; is Eastchester

Police Department prepared to add extra patrols 10

11 to that portion of Hillcrest Road in light of 12

the approval of this project? 13

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Thank you very much.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Is there anyone else here tonight to voice any questions, opinions, or anything else? Maybe you can --

MS. URBINA: I'm sorry, I did forget something.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Sure.

MS. URBINA: Again, perhaps this is not for you guys but as far as aesthetics I would just like to, you know, full disclosure

that about it being open until midnight, we'll 23

be in that house right behind there for 24

20 years, and I could name on one hand alone 25

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# EASTCHESTER ARB - 5/5/16

even in the past six years that there have been

armed attempted robbery attempts at the gas 3

station so far as the police coming to us and

then rummaging through our garden for discarded

weapons. So I think that that makes that area

with all the bright lights visually attractive 7

to perhaps not the right crowd of people. So

that's the other thing, that it could encourage

crime. So thanks.

MS. MARTIN: I just want to try to 12 address at least some of the comments, those are pertaining to the purview of this board. I 14 do not be believe the operation hours are the purview of ARB, but it is something that Margaret and I have discussed in the past and

16 17 we will figure that out.

MS. UHLE: Just to clarify that, the applicant initially did indicate ideally they

would like to be open 24 hours. The Zoning

Board made it very clear that nobody would 21 permit a 24-hour operation. I consulted with 22

23 the police department as well and they said

they would not sign off on a 24-hour operation. 24 Other than that, then the applicant 25

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EASTCHESTER ARB - 5/5/16

2 said, well, if we can't have the 24 hours, we

would like to be open from six to midnight.

4 That is something that they will have to broach

before the Planning Board and it's certainly 5

the Planning Board's determination and that 7

will be subject to a public hearing as well.

So right now there really hasn't been a lot of discussion other than the Zoning Board saying, nobody is going to agree to the 24 hours, we understand you're wanting six to midnight now, but we're going to defer to the Planning Board because they really have the

13 authority to establish those hours of 14

operation. 15

> MS. MARTIN: So we will discuss that further at a later time.

> As far as the fence, there is an existing fence line, which is probably a little bit difficult to see with the rendering, but it's a line with X's shown back here. I understand that it is in disrepair. We do plan to repair or replace as needed that existing chain link fence. If it is of a concern, we

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#### EASTCHESTER ARB - 5/5/16

weave in there or something like to help the

can certainly potentially put some privacy

buffer. We are open to that sort of 3

accommodation to the neighbors behind us. 4

As far as the condensers are concerned, currently they are shown here. Part

7 of the reason they are shown there is

previously there was an increased addition on

this portion of the building, which is no 9

longer there. There is now some landscaping 10

there. If that's something that would make 11

everyone happier, it is possible for us to move 12

the condensers there. Previously that wasn't 13

an option because of where the building was 14

situated. That's certainly something that 15

we're open to. 16

MS. UHLE: We can also, and I think 17 the Planning Board will ask for catalogue cut 18 sheets with regard to decibel levels. 19

MS. MARTIN: They were actually submitted to the ARB already.

MR. MCINTYRE: I think to that

23 point --

MS. MARTIN: Those are, of course, not 24 fully designed yet given that we're still 25

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EASTCHESTER ARB - 5/5/16

designing the building.

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MR. MCINTYRE: I just think your north arrow on the plot plan is pointing the wrong way, because the particular individual who lives at 19 Hillcrest did make reference that they would like to see the condensers moved to the west side of the building and if you're looking at your north side, it should be pointing to the right.

MS. UHLE: I think it's correct on the larger scale plans. I think it's rendering. It looks like John Meyer Consulting just used the typical title block, unfortunately, with the north being up.

MS. MARTIN: Understood. Understood. 17 On this plan I believe it is correct. If I need to submit that plan again, I will have that fixed, but that's certainly something that we're open to moving the condensers if that's something that's going to make everyone happy. That would, of course, change the landscaping in that area. As long as everyone is okay with that, that's fine by me.

> As far as the operational aspect, I'm DINA M. MORGAN, REPORTER

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EASTCHESTER ARB - 5/5/16

not personally involved in the operational

aspects, but I can certainly take those

concerns to those who are. We have not owned

5 it for the entire time that it has been here.

We are relatively new owners of this site, and 6

7 know that they have been making an effort, as

you said there is some recent landscaping, but

I will make sure that I mention that and try to

keep those efforts up. Same with the dead 10

branches and the pruning of the hedges, I will

pass that information along. 12

The traffic concerns, again, those we'll wait for another time.

MS. UHLE: The traffic engineer -- I'm repeating myself a little bit -- but he will be at the Planning Board meeting and certain things like the relocation of the crosswalk was specifically to address pedestrian safety concerns and in his professional opinion that was a better location than where it is. He did 22 tell me subsequent to the other meeting, that

based on some of the comments about issues on 23

24 Hillcrest Road that he thought there were

modifications that could address that. So he

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EASTCHESTER ARB - 5/5/16

will still be involved in the process with the 2 Planning Board. 3

4 MS. MARTIN: As far as the things that are of the purview of this board, I believe 5

those are the main points that were addressed 6 by the public, but I'm happy to answer any 7

other questions.

9 MR. MCINTYRE: Again, because this is, you know, sort of right in the middle of sort 10 of a residential area, I think basic sort of 11 site maintenance and making sure the space is, 12 you know, visually well kept and clean and 13 just, you know, basic requirements that you 14 would implement if you were a homeowner. This 15 is kind of considered a home even though it's a 16 17 place of business but it's surrounded by homes

for. MS. MARTIN: I will certainly pass those requests on to those who have control over the day-to-day operations.

so I certainly think that's not a lot to ask

MR. MCINTYRE: Again, I respect that, but I'm not necessarily sure that that's the answer to the question we're looking for. If **DINA M. MORGAN, REPORTER** 

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**EASTCHESTER ARB - 5/5/16** 

you're not in a position to sort of give us the

3 answer, then we would certainly like

somebody --4

MS. MARTIN: I will make sure that it 5 6 happens.

MR. MCINTYRE: Okav.

MS. UHLE: Also, a couple of things.

One, until recently my department until the 9 application came before the board, we hadn't 10

11 received complaints about, you know, garbage

behind the building or anything like that. 12

13 Since the application has appeared before the

board, we have a code enforcement officer 14

that's been out there more often to check on 15

things or to respond to complaints. 16

MS. MARTIN: I believe he came by the store yesterday and spoke with our area manager. We took down a sign that he had a problem with. So we're certainly being --

MS. UHLE: So one thing to do -unless you have called the department and not had luck with -- issues about just property maintenance under any circumstances people can

call the Building Department now, but also I 25

EASTCHESTER ARB - 5/5/16 1 think as a condition of the Planning Board 2 3 approval they could make it very clear that there could be significant consequences if the property is not maintained properly on a 5 regular basis. 6 7 MR. DECHANCE: In the past, I've gone

down to the station personally and spoken to the manager and he said they would take care of it. Margaret, before you got here, we went an 10 11 nothing was ever done. You come to a point when you say --12 13

MR. MCINTYRE: We're looking to put it 14 in a place where it should be.

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MS. UHLE: Also, if you ever hear that the Building Department is not responsive, give me a call. It's important that we are responsive. Years ago, the department did not have a code enforcement officer. Right now we have one, and he's a busy guy, but he's very responsive and he will go out there.

Unfortunately, unlike some other communities, we don't have code enforcement officers that are patrolling the streets looking for things so a lot of it is complaint

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38

### EASTCHESTER ARB - 5/5/16

driven but if we receive a complaint, it's really important for us to be as responsive as 3 possible. So feel free to call.

MR. MCINTYRE: Again, I'm only making comments based on a photograph of the back of the building that was submitted as part of your application, and it looks untidy to me.

MS. UHLE: It does.

MS. MARTIN: The plan is to clean that up and to keep it clean. 11

12 THE CHAIRPERSON: Then I know you mentioned something about a sign, but are you 13 coming before the --14

15 MS. MARTIN: No. The sign that exists is to remain. We are not changing the signage. 16

MS. UHLE: I think there was a complaint about a number of stores in that 18 neighborhood putting up additional signage. So 19 Steve went down there to make them take it 20 **21** down.

MS. MARTIN: It was a temporary sign 22 that was like -- I think it was zip tied to the 23 light pole or something like that. That's 24 25 since been removed.

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EASTCHESTER ARB - 5/5/16

THE CHAIRPERSON: So this sign here 2

that says, "food mart coffee shop," that's

what's going to be there or that's there 4 already? 5

6 MS. MARTIN: No, that is currently not there. The sign that is there that is to

remain is the price sign on the corner of

Hillcrest and New Rochelle. That sign is to

remain. 10

THE CHAIRPERSON: The monument sign.

Okay. 12

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MS. MARTIN: The monument sign, yes. 13

It will get some landscaping and lighting and 14

things like that, but the sign itself will 15

remain. 16

MS. UHLE: Then you would have to come 17 in for a sign permit for anything that's going 18 19 on the building.

MS. MARTIN: Correct. At this time, we show the sign on the architecturals. Right now it is more of a placeholder because our actual design is not complete yet. So as it's built, that sign would not be put up without coming back for a sign permit and that's

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### EASTCHESTER ARB - 5/5/16

2 understood.

3 MR. MCINTYRE: I know we talked about

it the last time also, but there is not any 4

sort of neon or flashing sign inside on the 5 windows?

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MS. MARTIN: The most that they may put up is an "open" sign, and we could make sure it's one that does not flash if that is 9

against your town code. 10

MS. UHLE: You're only permitted an 11 "open" neon sign -- the only kind of neon sign 12 you're permitted is one that says "open" and 13 none of the signs are permitted to flash. 14

MS. MARTIN: Understood, Understood.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Any more comments

from the public hearing?

18 MR. DECHANCE: I didn't hear anything about the trees being addressed, and if the 19 mechanicals are going to be moved to the west 20

21 side, can it be moved forward as much as possible toward New Rochelle Road away from the

22 homes? And thirdly, that section there is no 23

fence there, is there going to be shrubbery all 24

along that area right there? 25

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41 EASTCHESTER ARB - 5/5/16 1 2 MS. MARTIN: Here, correct? MR. DECHANCE: Yes. There is no fence 3 4 there. MS. MARTIN: We can certainly add the 5 fence to go to where the shrubbery is here. 6 MR. DECHANCE: I'm talking in the 7 back. 8 9

MS, MARTIN: Okay. Currently it's shown as an existing wooded area to be managed and maintained, but we will make sure that there is enough.

MS. UHLE: I think maybe what you could do for the next time, whether it's coming back to this board or the next board, maybe do a larger scale landscape plan and really detail it out with regard to where you're proposing fences, what the style of fence is, the height, the style, the location, if there's areas that -- you know, including things that are going to be screened from the rear of the building, or if there is any supplemental planting that will facilitate screening. I would just have a more detailed plan.

> MS. ROSAMONDA: If I can address all **DINA M. MORGAN, REPORTER**

EASTCHESTER ARB - 5/5/16

that --

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MR. MCINTYRE: We would ask you to come up to the microphone.

MS. ROSAMONDA: The pedestrian crosswalk that I am referring to, if you look at the picture, the bolded new pedestrian crosswalk is closer to the light that I am making reference to. We live in a very

residential, very family oriented neighborhood. 10

Many families use that crosswalk to cross over 11

to the park that's over by the firehouse, okay. 12 13 Again, that traffic light and the way the

drivers come through that light, that's where 14

my concern is that someone is going to be 15

16 seriously injured or even worse fatally injured

because of the move of that crosswalk. At 17

least with the crosswalk the way it is now, 18

19 there's enough footage should a car have to

stop, but that is very, very close to that 20

21 traffic light. So just as an extra precaution. 22

Also, I am very interested in knowing about the exit of all of that so-called convenience store traffic coming out onto

Hillcrest Road. Thank you. 25

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EASTCHESTER ARB - 5/5/16

2 MS. URBINA: As you were explaining some of the details, so in the back currently 3 there's a very large, square, white light that 4 faces our house, perhaps that's an attempt to 5 increase security back there, however, it is 7 definitely not attractive and, you know, it's really bright. It shines right into our house and it's on all night. And again, yes, as far 9

as the trees go or, you know, what you were 10 mentioning that there's been an improvement in 11 some of the way it looks visually, and pardon 12

my cynicism but every time I've gone down there 13 to be polite and appropriate, it has been met 14

with doing nothing, including ten times this 15 winter where I politely said, you need to 16

17 shovel that walk. MS. UHLE: And we did contact the 18

police department about that. Again, so it 19 needed to get to the point where the police 20 department was contacted in order to tell them 21

that they had to shovel the walk. So this is 22 23 something I'm aware of as well.

MS. URBINA: Any aesthetic improvement 24 there along the curb, what I noticed is someone 25

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**EASTCHESTER ARB - 5/5/16** 

just went in and chopped the bottom of those 2

trees, which looks awful, and then to clean up 3

the weeds and the dandelions or whatever

debris, their leaf blower guy comes along and 5 blows it up to our very nice, manicured garden. 6

So frequently I sweep it up myself and I bring 7

it down to him, which makes it pretty easy to

deposit somewhere. However, it's not nice to

have that not nice neighborly relationship. So 10

we're a little cynical. So we would definitely like to be a part of the solution. Thanks.

MS. UHLE: Can I say one other thing? 13 At the Zoning Board meeting and here at this 14 meeting it seems like a lot of the concern 15

about the project has been the owner or whoever 16

is occupying the site right now just not being 17 a good neighbor. I mean, that's probably 18

19 delayed the project more than anything else at

this point. I think you do need to express 20

21 that that's a big issue. 22

MS. MARTIN: Not a problem. We can show the lighting plan if you

23 do want to look at the lighting for the back of 24 the building if that's something you like to be 25

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#### 45 EASTCHESTER ARB - 5/5/16 1 2 seen. MS. UHLE: Do you have any comments 3 about the facade or the building material, the 4 design? 5 6 MR. MCINTYRE: No. MS. UHLE: It does seem like most of 7 the issues are the landscaping, site features. 8 MR. MCINTYRE: Site maintenance, good 9 housekeeping. 10 11 MS. UHLE: You may want to ask them to come back here with regard to the style of the 12 proposed fencing, the height of the proposed 13 fencing. Those are site plan issues but 14 they're also ARB issues. I think that, again, 15 16 the issues about the crosswalk, hours of operation, that kind of thing is really the 17 Planning Board, but I do think it's fair to 18 19 say, give us a much more detailed landscape plan at a larger scale that really shows some 20 of the other site elements, the location of the 21 22 proposed fencing, more detailed location of any proposed screening, the relocation of the 23

condensers units, which may give you an

opportunity to do something else at the back of

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EASTCHESTER ARB - 5/5/16
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   the building, to provide -- I don't know --
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   reevaluating the hedge along Hillcrest Road.
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           MR. MCINTYRE: So do we want to --
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           THE CHAIRPERSON: Take a look at the
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   lights.
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           MS. MARTIN: Yes. My apologies. We
   do have our photometric plan and lighting plan
   for this site. As I said earlier, we would be
   putting in new LED canopy lights just to
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11 freshen up the lights, and they're more energy
12 efficient and better for the environment all
13 around. You can see the site lights, which
   were positioned in accordance with the
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15 discussions as well. Along the building, we
16 are currently showing four lights within the
   soffit above the front entrance and it looks
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18 like six wall pack fixtures along the exterior
   of the building. I'll give you a better idea
   of what those look like. These are the wall
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   mounted fixtures that would be on the outside
   of the building, although they will be white.
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            MS. UHLE: Those are directed down?
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           MR. LUCA: Those are in a soffit?
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           MS. MARTIN: No, these are mounted off
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EASTCHESTER ARB - 5/5/16
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2 the side.

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MS. UHLE: So it's perpendicular to 3 the building, is that how that's mounted? That image is kind of hard to see actually. Is it mounted perpendicular to the building so that the light is directed down? 7 8

MS. MARTIN: Correct.

MS. UHLE: That's something different 10 than what's there now.

MS. MARTIN: Let me see, do I still 11 12 have the photos? I'm not sure if you get a good view of that. Is the light you're 13 concerned about on the other side of this trailer? 15

16 MS. UHLE: It looks like there is one on the right-hand corner too. Is that a light 17 on the back? 18

MS. MARTIN: Is this it here? 19 20 MR. MCINTYRE: Right above the meter 21 it's like a spotlight.

MS. MARTIN: This right here.

MS. UHLE: One thing that might be 23 slightly beneficial to you is that if you see 24 in the elevations that that wall is not going

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EASTCHESTER ARB - 5/5/16

to be as high anymore.

MS. MARTIN: Correct. Because of the 3 addition, this will come down further. 4

5 THE CHAIRPERSON: That brings the roof down.

MR. LUCA: The key is just to have the 7 light illuminate what it needs to and not to go 9 off the property --

MS. MARTIN: It will be shaded.

MR. LUCA: -- 47 feet from the back of 11 12 the building.

MS. MARTIN: Yes.

14 MR. LUCA: It doesn't need to project 47 feet. 15

MS. MARTIN: So this is where the 16 current building ends. So the roof line will 17 drop, which will help as well. 18

MS. UHLE: So the lights need to be 19 directed down and shielded. 20

MS. MARTIN: Yes. I believe they 21 already are shielded but, yes, I will confirm. 22 There are some specifics on the lights here. 23

Is there anything else that I can show you at 25

this point in time?

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EASTCHESTER ARB - 5/5/16 1 THE CHAIRPERSON: I'm sorry. 2 MS. MARTIN: Is there anything else 3 that I could present to you that will help 4 answer any questions that you have at this 5 6 point in time? THE CHAIRPERSON: I think that's about 7

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MS. UHLE: Do you want them to come back with the details that we had talked about? MR. MCINTYRE: Yes, I think there are enough items that we talked about tonight I think that would warrant a subsequent review with regard to the fencing at the back, possibly the addition of fencing on the west side of the property, the site maintenance that we talked about, the sort of demonstration by the operator possibly owner that they're going to be cognisant of their neighbors and their pretty basic request to maintain the property as it should be maintained.

MS. MARTIN: Understood.

MR. MCINTYRE: The addition of adequate landscaping to ensure that the adjacent neighbors' concerns have kind of been

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# EASTCHESTER ARB - 5/5/16

heard and listened to. I certainly think that that's something we would like to see addressed and have some more specificity in terms of the

type of fencing and the height of the fence. 5

MR. LUCA: A more solid fence. I know this is what you show but --

MS. MARTIN: That's specifically for the dumpster enclosure.

MR. LUCA: Okay. I think it would help also the homeowners -- it looks like their properties are higher -- if you draw a cross section so you could visually figure out how high the fence really should be. Maybe a 4 foot fence -- visually they're looking down, the higher the fence --

MS. MARTIN: I'm just thinking off the top, is there a restriction on how high a fence can be?

MS. UHLE: There is. I believe 6 feet but confirm with me tomorrow. It's in our zoning law. It depends on which district vou're in.

24 MR. MCINTYRE: Obviously you've been

25 to the site; right?

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EASTCHESTER ARB - 5/5/16

MS. MARTIN: Yes.

MR. MCINTYRE: Have you walked up Hillcrest and sort of taken a look down?

MS. MARTIN: I'm going to be entirely honest with you, the last time I was there I was very large and pregnant and I didn't walk up it, but I will go back and revisit it.

MR. MCINTYRE: I just think that would be -- that would give you the perspective of some of the people that are here this evening, and I think you would be able to see exactly 12 what their concerns are and how interested they are to have these concerns addressed as part of 15 this application.

16 MS. UHLE: Jillian and the landscape architect and I did meet out there before they 17 18 had prepared a landscape plan to talk about some of these concerns and then this is what 19 20 was submitted. So that was sort of the next 21 step.

MS. MARTIN: Yes, and we will follow along with that progression.

MR. MCINTYRE: So I think it's 24 probably prudent to leave the public hearing 25 **DINA M. MORGAN, REPORTER** 

52

# EASTCHESTER ARB - 5/5/16

open at this juncture so that the public and

the community's concerns, as aired this

evening, you can feel that they have been

addressed hopefully at the next meeting, and hopefully that will give you a sense that your

voices have been heard.

8 MS. MARTIN: Something I do want to 9 point out, with moving the condensers over to this area of the property, we will need to 10 11 reevaluate the landscaping, because I want to make sure we have enough distance as far as 12 leaves getting in the condensers and things 13 14 like that. Like this larger tree may no 15 longer --

16 MR. LUCA: You could create screening. I think the main thing is sound. I don't think 17 they're really large units. They look like 18 they're almost --19 20

MS. MARTIN: They're pretty much residential.

22 MR. LUCA: They're 75 decibels and the seer is only 13. If you brought your seer up, 23 the sound will go down and screening would help 24 25

around the units.

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