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Subject: Re: A problem

From: "David Knight" < knight@atmos.albany.edu>

Date: Mon, September 10, 2007 10:29 pm

To: dreeb@albany.edu

Cc: dsmith161@verizon.net (more)

Priority: Normal

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I think this is a unique situation. I'm not too concerned about a precedent. But maybe I'm nieve. As I understand it all of Fuller road, and much of western is zoned residential. (The problem is of course, that to be honest I don't think I'd like to live directly on either street, and, I'm sure I'm not the only one who feels that way - but that is another issue).

Anyway, getting back to the Shabos house. I consider them as much a neighbor as anybody else. They live in their house. They have guests over occasionally. I think their proposed expansion should be judged on the same terms as the expansion of any other house in McKownville. Set backs, etc should all be observed. The problem I see with their plan is that the house is too large - it is out of caracter with other houses. Is this a problem? Probably. I don't know. Regarding parking - do they need parking? I thought all their guests lived on the University. Or if not commuted, which would mean they already have the right to park. I do not see how the University can give permission for visitors of the Shabos house to park on campus, without also giving permission for all guests to park there. Are they going to create a parking lot that requires no parking permit? Are they going to issue parking permits to Shabos visitors? What assurance is there that the next University administration will not change their mind about parking? They have been known to do that! (They'll have to be very careful how they do this, if students find out that some groups get (free?) parking they may not be very happy about it - or Shabos may have many guests that don't actually visit. . .) If the Shabos, or the Town, believes they need parking then clearly this is not a residential use. If it is not primarily a residential use then it does not belong in a residential neighborhood. . .

If the University decides to buy up lots I think we are screwed. As we have found, the University can pretty much do whatever they want with their land. No need to get Town approval.

I believe the area is zoned single family residential. Doesn't that protect us from frat houses, or large apartment complexes? (I always thought is was strange not to have more apartments near a campus, but now I know why it is this way)

David