

Good afternoon, Chairman Hanson, Members of the Board.

My name is Sylvia Bell, and I am a resident of Ashton.

The residents of Sandy Spring, Ashton and surrounding areas are doing their best to encourage the rejuvenation of the village of Sandy Spring; and, with its historic connections to the Underground Railroad and the Quakers, it is surely worth the effort.

Since we moved to Ashton nearly nine years ago, we have seen changes. We welcomed new retail businesses such as the French Confection bakery, and more recently, Willoughby's Market. We delighted in Miche Booz's addition to the Sandy Spring Museum, and we have waited to see what else would happen. What we did not want to happen was for Sandy Spring to become industrialized. Whenever we see self storage facilities they are in urban/industrial areas, and most of them stand out in a rather disagreeable way - certainly not what we want in Sandy Spring. A storage facility will not increase foot traffic in the village, one of the aims of the rejuvenation efforts. It is unlikely to encourage retail businesses to locate there. Storage facility customers are not, in general, on shopping trips, but are more likely to be running a business or in the process of moving house. I would not think that they would be likely to patronize Sandy Spring's retail businesses.

The Ashton Sandy Spring Master Plan calls for the use of active fronts. As I am sure you remember one of the major problems with the original design for Ashton Meeting Place was the lack of active fronts. The Planning Board at the time agreed and, for that and other reasons, voted to deny the original application. The original design of AMP also included fake windows to which many people took exception. Fake windows add little to anything except architectural drawings. We fought for active fronts and the elimination of fake windows for AMP, and similarly, we do not want the inactive fronts and fake windows that ezStorage would provide.

Two of my grandchildren live in Ashton, and are of course very interested in proposed developments in the area. They were horrified when they were told about ezStorage plans to build across from "our" Museum, and the next time they were with us when we drove past an ezStorage facility there was a loud hissing from the back seat!

Please, please do not spoil this historic village by allowing ezStorage to build there.

Thank you

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