



**WHARTON FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC.**

*Established 1904*

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September 30, 2020

Borough of Wharton  
Planning Board  
10 Robert Street  
Wharton, NJ 07885

Re: 170 North Main Street

The Wharton Fire Department Board of Engineers and Project Plans Review Committee (WFD) conducted a meeting in relation to the supplied preliminary plans (Attached). Due to the fact that the preliminary supplied plans do not provide all pertinent measurements as well as additional relevant information the WFD can only identify potential concerns based on the information provided.

**Potential Concerns**

1. Based on the preliminary plans and existing high voltage power lines on north bound North Main Street, aerial/ladder operations from the roadway during an emergency at the proposed structure would not be possible. In addition, the numerous proposed parking on the North Main Street side of the structure would impede any type of fire emergency operation. In situations of high fire volume, a potential collapse zone must be established. The basic rule of establishing the collapse zone is one and half times the wall height. This means fire apparatus and firefighters should be at this minimum distance from the base of structure.
2. The understructure parking access points present a potential issue as we cannot identify at this time how close our apparatus can get to the egress areas. In the event of a fire response within this area, firefighting operations may be hampered due to several factors. These being but not limited to minimal points of ventilation, access to points of entry/exit, potential limited operational space under the structure, and hydrant distance.
3. The number of parking spaces indicated on the proposed plans does not appear to be enough to accommodate living units and potential retail space. Therefore, the WFD feels overflow parking from the proposed structure may accumulate on Ross Street. Due to the existing both sides of the street parking on this narrow roadway, the potential additional vehicles parked on this street would impede emergency apparatus responding to the area. Additionally being Main Street is a major therefore, response to this potential structure could cause the following streets to be closed and impassable, North & South Bound Main Street, Ross Street, and North Main Street extension. The committee expresses deep concern pertaining to a structure of this size and potential vehicles associated with such in this area as potentially causing a traffic congestion hazard, not only for response

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to this potential structure but any fire emergency in the North, North East, and North West of the borough. It was understood that the North Main Street Extension would ease already existing congestion in this area. It is felt construction of the proposed would potentially create congestion issues to this area, theoretically impeding emergency response to the North, North East, and North West of the borough.

4. Plans provided do not identify the width of roadway entry points to the property only locations. Therefore, the WFD cannot fully comment pertaining to if apparatus could safely enter the property. Based on locations identified on the preliminary plans the WFD feels the openings will have to be significantly larger than the normal twenty-four feet due to potential rear swing hazards such as vehicles traveling and parked. It is felt the provided preliminary plan indicates responding apparatus will not be able to enter or exit the property without intruding into on-coming lanes of travel. As stated previous due to the potential congestion issues this may not be possible.
5. The WFD is concerned that during an emergency response to the proposed building there does not appear to be a location of adequate space away from the structure whereas residents can congregate, outside the emergency operations area. Being the structure neighbors two very active roadways and the property is consumed by parking the potential of civilians being in the emergency operations area is high.
6. No indication of any fire lanes in front, sides or rear of the structure. Parking spaces completely encompassing the structure will impede firefighting operations.
7. Our committee is awaiting the opening of the North Main Street extension to have a better idea of traffic flow and access.

In conclusion, the Wharton Fire Department Board of Engineers and Project Plans Review Committee have reviewed the supplied and attached preliminary plans with safety of our citizens and firefighters in mind. Our above stated concerns are based on standard firefighting practices, regulatory agency standards, firefighting journals, and personal knowledge. We hope our concerns are noted and we look forward to working with the planning board in the future.

Respectfully,

Brian Cronin  
Department Chief