

**Town of Clinton Historic Preservation Commission**

**43 Leigh Street, Clinton NJ 08809**

September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020

To whom it may concern:

The Clinton Historic Preservation Commission is pleased with the results of several discussions with Mr. Geoff Long and his architects regarding the former A&P site. Mr. Long first joined the commission at a meeting several months back via zoom to go over his initial proposal for the site. The commission was not happy with the initial design, as it was very generic and did not fit with the character of Clinton. During this meeting, the commission discussed some of the architecture in Clinton and ways that could assist in bringing the building into a style that fit better with our town. Details such as use of columns, brick, detailing around windows, dormers and copulas, and so forth were mentioned. The Municipal Building was used as an example of some of the finest architecture in Clinton.

After this, Councilman Ross Traphagen invited Mr. Long and his team to come to Clinton to do a walking tour of the historic district to better see these details the commission discussed up close in person. They came shortly after, and Councilman Traphagen, Mr. Long, and his team walked around the Municipal Building, throughout Main Street, and up Center Street. After, Councilman Traphagen was informed that this was very beneficial for the team, which is evident in the revisions they then sent.

Once the revisions were completed, Mr. Long and his team attended another commission meeting via zoom and presented their new plans. The commission was very happy with these changes. The use of brick and more detailing, a larger covered area with columns, the use of dormers to make the fourth story appear less intrusive and obvious, etc. The work they did to make the front of the building better blend with our community was quite the improvement. However, many members had concerns about the sides of the building. Being that most people will first see the building from the sides when walking or driving by, the commission felt it was needed to also do more of what was done to the front to the sides. One of the main areas requested to change was removing the column style "tower" looking decks on the sides, and also to add some of the detailing from the front to the sides.

After this second meeting, the changes discussed were then also revised by Mr. Long and his team and sent back via email to review. Everyone was pleased once again with the revisions, mainly being the removal of the tower like decks into ones that were set into the building more. The two areas that was not altered enough was the use of dormers and softening of the roof line and use of brick and other detailing from the front. This was requested to be changed as well, and shortly after this was done. Mr. Long sent via email revised side and rear elevations which show brick and a changed roof line per the commission's request. Everyone was satisfied with these changes as well.

Overall, after several meetings and email exchanges, the commission was able to work with Mr. Long to change the styling of the building to better reflect the historic character of Clinton. By using brick, columns around the entrance, covered walking areas with columns by the retail space, various detailing and use of materials to enhance the building, dormers and a more softened roofline to lessen the impact of the fourth floor and make it almost appear as a three story building, and decks that are more nestled into the building rather than protruding out with columns, all help to accomplish the commission's goals. The commission approves of these designs and is grateful for the cooperation of Mr. Long and his team during this process.

Respectfully,

**The Town of Clinton Historic Preservation Commission**

Roger Mellick, Chairperson

Rosemarie Platt, Member

Richard Miller, Town Historian

Carol Beader, Member

Carol Crawford-Jones, Member

*Donna Van Weeren, Land Use Board Liaison*

Marcia Hansen, Member

*Ross Traphagen, Council Liaison*

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