



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS**  
**MAYOR'S OFFICE OF STRATEGIC PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**  
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**Case #:** ZBA 2014-06  
**Date:** October 9, 2014  
**Recommendation:** Conditional Approval

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**PLANNING STAFF REPORT**

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**Site:** 240 Elm Street

**Applicant Name:** Fitness Holdings Somerville, LLC, d/b/a Crunch Fitness  
**Applicant Address:** 1465 Post Road East, Suite 103, Westport, CT 06880  
**Property Owner Name:** Davis Square Realty Ventures Nominee Trust,  
Michael Argiros, Trustee  
**Property Owner Address:** C/o Charles River Realty,  
1461 VFW Parkway, West Roxbury, MA 02132  
**Agent Name:** Richard G. Di Girolamo  
**Agent Address:** 424 Broadway, Somerville, MA 02145  
**Alderman:** Rebekah Gewirtz

Legal Notice: Applicant, Fitness Holdings Somerville, LLC, d/b/a Crunch Fitness, seek a Special Permit with Site Plan Review under SZO §7.11.6.3.b to establish an exercise facility over 10,000 sf and a Special Permit or Variance under SZO §9.5 or 9.13.a to modify parking space requirements. The proposal also includes the alteration to a nonconforming structure under §4.4.1 to alter the façade and floor area ratio. Zone CBD. Ward 6.

Dates of Public Hearing: Oct 1 & 15, 2014

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**I. PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

1. Subject Property: The subject property is a three-story mixed-use building on an approximately 15,900 square foot lot. The property was previously the social security administration building. The mixed use building houses offices and a fast-food coffee shop. The footprint of the third floor is only half that of the first and second floors. There is a 12-foot passageway in the rear of the property for the abutters on Elm Street to have access to their rear yards.



2. Proposal: The proposal is to convert the second floor from office space to a health club, Crunch Fitness. Also, the third floor will be expanded to accommodate the existing office space and additional health club space. The total square footage of the health club/gym is 16,767 square feet.

As part of the project the façade of the building is being restored. The parapet started to deteriorate and is being rebuilt as part of the tenants' fit-out inside of the building. There will be new storefronts along Elm Street. The entrance to the gym will be on Elm Street on the left side of the building. The second floor windows will be enlarged and the copper bay will be restored. On the Chester Street side, façade improvements will continue on the two-story portion of the building. The three-story portion will have new windows, an improved entrance and a new exit door.



3. Green Building Practices: The Applicant will seek to use green building practices to increase efficiency for all aspects of the build out and operations, including thermal, lighting, and refrigeration.

4. Comments:

*Fire Prevention:* There is adequate access to this site. The proposal will require an upgrade to fire alarm and sprinkler system because of life safety issues.

*Traffic & Parking:* The applicant is proposing a change of use for the property located at 240 Elm Street. The applicant is proposing to alter the existing 40,405 sf of existing office space and 2,941 sf of existing office space as follows:

- 11,169 sf of office space
- 20,108 sf of retail space
- 17,037 sf of health club space

Per the Somerville Zoning Ordinance (SZO) based on these alterations three off street parking spaces are required.\* The applicant is not providing any off street parking spaces.

The applicant has hired a professional Transportation Consultant, Design Consultants Inc. to prepare a Parking Study. This Consulting Firm has submitted a well prepared and professional Parking Study. Based on empirical data of available and occupied parking spaces during three distinct time periods on two days within 500 linear feet of 240 Elm St, the Parking Study states that there is available on-street permit parking and metered parking spaces in the vicinity of 240 Elm St. The Parking Study was conducted within a reasonable walking distance of the proposed project. The area which was surveyed for the availability of the on street parking spaces was a reasonable area to conduct a survey.

This Parking Study concludes that there is available on street parking spaces in the vicinity of 240 Elm St for the three parking spaces\* not being provided. Based on the submitted Parking Memorandum, Traffic and Parking does not disagree with this assessment. However and notwithstanding the above, it should be noted that vehicles will be circulating through the Davis Sq. area to locate these available parking spaces. The lack of providing the three required off-street parking spaces will result in an increase of vehicle queues and delays and a minor decrease in pedestrian safety in this area. Traffic mitigation to offset this lack of required parking spaces and decrease in pedestrian safety and increase in vehicle congestion and queues via increased parking space turnover at parking meter locations in the Davis Square area can be provided by the applicant purchasing and delivering to Traffic and Parking three single spaced parking meters\* with the capacity to accept both coins and credit cards and are consistent with the current parking meter fleet in Somerville.

It should also be noted the owner of the building at 240 Elm St due to ongoing façade repairs to the structure is in arrears to the Traffic and Parking Department for the “bagging” of parking meters on both Elm St and Chester St. Provided that the monies for the parking meters are remitted to Traffic and Parking and that the above traffic mitigation is incorporated, Traffic and Parking has no objection to the application.

\*The parking study was completed combining case numbers ZBA 2014-06 and 2014-88. When parking requirements are calculated separately the requirement for ZBA 2014-06 is 6 spaces and for ZBA 2014-88 is no additional parking spaces.

*Electrical Inspection:* The Electrical Inspector has concerns about the size of service and access to the room. The utility plans shall be submitted for review and approval.

*Lights and Lines:* Lights and Lines has reviewed the application and does not have any comments at this time.

*Engineering:* The Applicant shall supply to Engineering the following: a site/civil plan set that is in conformance with the site plan review checklist and a stormwater management report in conformance with the City's stormwater management policy. New sanitary connection flows over 2,000 GPD require a 4:1 removal of infiltration and/or inflow by the Applicant.

*Ward Alderman:* Alderman Gewirtz has held two neighborhood meetings regarding the proposal.

## **II. FINDINGS FOR SPECIAL PERMIT (SZO §5.1, §4.4.1 & §9.13.a) TO ALTER THE NONCONFORMING STRUCTURE AND PARKING REQUIREMENTS:**

In order to grant a special permit, the SPGA must make certain findings and determinations as outlined in §5.1.4 of the SZO. This section of the report goes through §5.1.4 in detail.

### 1. Information Supplied:

The Staff finds that the information provided by the Applicant conforms to the requirements of §5.1.2 of the SZO and allows for a comprehensive analysis of the project with respect to the required Special Permits.

### 2. Compliance with Standards: *The Applicant must comply "with such criteria or standards as may be set forth in this Ordinance which refer to the granting of the requested special permit."*

The proposal includes the alteration to a nonconforming structure under §4.4.1 to alter the façade and floor area ratio, and a Special Permit under SZO § 9.13.a to modify the number of parking spaces. In considering a special permit under §4.4 of the SZO, Staff find that the alterations proposed would not be substantially more detrimental to the neighborhood than the existing structure.

### *Dimensions / Use*

The dimensions of the building are in the table below. A Special Permit is being applied for to alter the nonconforming dimensions.

<b>Requirements</b>	<b>CBD</b>	<b>Existing</b>	<b>Proposed</b>	<b>Permit Required</b>
<b>Min Lot Size</b>	NA	15,860 sf	15,860 sf	-
<b>Use of whole building</b>		40,405 sf of office 1,444 sf of restaurant	11,169 sf of office 1,063 sf of restaurant 12,218 sf of grocery store 16,767 sf of health club	SPSR – see findings in section III and separate application for grocery store (ZBA 2014-88).
<b>Min Lot Area/Dwelling Unit</b>	875 sf for <10 units / 1000 sf for 10 or more units	-	-	-
<b>Max Ground Coverage</b>	80%	100%	No change	-
<b>Min Landscaped Area % of lot</b>	10%	0%	No change	-
<b>Floor Area Ratio (based on nsf)</b>	2.0	2.6	2.75	SP –§4.4.1

<b>Max Height</b>	4 stories / 50 ft –	3 stories and 27' 11" at Elm St 29'6" at Chester near Elm 36'11" at Chester (including new construction) 40'3" Elevator PH along Chester	No change – addition is at 3 stories / 36'11"	-
<b>Max Height within 30 feet of abutting residential district</b>	3 stories / 40 ft	50' 5" at stair/freight elevator PH along rear alleyway 36'9" at rear alley 35'6" at rear parking lot	No change – addition is at 3 stories / 36'11"	SP –§4.4.1
<b>Min Front Yard</b>	NA	0	No change	-
<b>Min Side Yard</b>	NA	0	No change	-
<b>Min Rear Yard</b>	1/3 height but not less than 15 feet = 15 feet	12'	No change	-
<b>Min Frontage</b>	NA	93.27' along Elm 207' along Chester	No change	-
<b>Pervious Area</b>	NA	0	No change	-

*Parking - Vehicular*

The parking requirements for the second and third floor uses are in the table below. The change in use of the basement and first floors are part of a separate application.

<b>Parking Requirements for 2<sup>nd</sup> &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup> floors</b>				
	<b>SF</b>	<b>Requirement</b>	<b># spaces required</b>	<b>20% reduction based on proximity to transit</b>
<b>Existing uses on 2<sup>nd</sup> &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup> floor</b>				
Office	19,917 sf	1/575 sf	34.6	27.7
<b>Requirement for existing Uses</b>				27.7
<b>Proposed uses on 2<sup>nd</sup> floor</b>				
Health club	13,697 gsf	1/500 sf*	27.4	21.9
<b>Proposed uses on existing 3<sup>rd</sup> floor</b>				
Office	6,399 sf	1/575 sf	11.1	8.9

<b>Requirement for Proposed Uses on Existing Floor Area</b>	30.8
<b>Proposed uses on new 3<sup>rd</sup> floor</b>	
Health Club                      3,016 gsf                      1/500 sf*                      6	4.8
<b>Requirement for Proposed Uses on New Floor Area</b>	4.8
<b>Total parking requirement</b>	(30.8-27.7) = 3.1 3.1 / 2 = 1.6 1.6 + 4.8 = 6

\* The parking requirement for health clubs is either 1 per 4 occupants in the largest assembly area or 1 per 500 square feet, whichever is larger. The parking requirement would be 31 based on occupant load because the largest assembly area is 6,268 sf and the floor area per occupant of this use is 50sf. The parking requirement is greater using the floor area calculation – 35.6 total.

The parking requirements for nonconforming lots in terms of parking with changes in use and no change in floor area is half of the difference in the old and new requirement, SZO §9.4.1. The property does not have any on-site parking spaces and is therefore nonconforming. The new square footage of the health club does not apply to this section. Excluding the requirement for the new space, the parking requirement for the uses in the existing square footage is 1.6. The parking requirement for the new square footage is 4.8. Therefore the total parking requirement is for 6 spaces.

*Parking – Bicycle*

The requirement is one bicycle space for every ten vehicular spaces required; therefore, the requirement is for 4 spaces. A condition of approval will be for the applicant to purchase racks for the City to install on the street to satisfy the requirement. The Applicant should make best efforts to provide bicycle parking in the basement for employees.

*Loading*

The loading requirement for the health club is “as needed”. The loading needs will be minimal for this use and therefore none are required onsite. There is on-street loading next to the property on Chester Street that can be used for the proposed use.

3. Consistency with Purposes: *The Applicant has to ensure that the project "is consistent with (1) the general purposes of this Ordinance as set forth in Article 1, and (2) the purposes, provisions, and specific objectives applicable to the requested special permit which may be set forth elsewhere in this Ordinance, such as, but not limited to, those purposes at the beginning of the various Articles."*

The proposal is consistent with the general purposes of the Ordinance as set forth under §1.2, which includes, but is not limited to providing for and maintaining the uniquely integrated structure of uses in the City and conserving the value of land and buildings.

The proposal is also consistent with the purpose of the Central Business District (CBD) in preserving and enhancing the central business areas for retail, business services, and office uses and to promote a strong pedestrian character and scale in those areas. A primary goal for the districts is to provide environments that are safe for and conducive to a high volume of pedestrian traffic, with a strong connection to retail and pedestrian accessible street level uses. The design of the building will improve the pedestrian experience. There will be entrances to the different uses in the building directly off of the main street, Elm Street, and the new storefront systems and the increase in the number of windows will make the building more transparent for pedestrians to look through and observe.

In considering a special permit under §9.13 of the SZO “the SPGA may grant such a special permit only when consistent with the purposes set forth in Section 9.1, and upon reaching the findings and determinations set forth in Section 5.1.4”. The Applicant must be able to demonstrate that granting the requested special permit would not cause detriment to the surrounding neighborhood through any of the criteria as set forth under SZO §9.13, which are as follows:

- 1) increase in traffic volumes;
- 2) increased traffic congestion or queuing of vehicles;
- 3) change in the type(s) of traffic;
- 4) change in traffic patterns and access to the site;
- 5) reduction in on-street parking;
- 6) unsafe conflict of motor vehicle and pedestrian traffic.

The parking study submitted demonstrates how this proposal which is not able to provide the six required parking spaces will not be a detriment to the items listed in §9.13. Particularly for a gym use, patrons are likely to walk, bike or take public transit to the site. Also, there are on-street spaces available if people choose to drive.

4. Site and Area Compatibility: *The Applicant has to ensure that the project "(i)s designed in a manner that is compatible with the characteristics of the built and unbuilt surrounding area, including land uses."*

The proposed storefront system, awnings and signage on Elm Street will update the appearance of the building, while retaining and restoring the historic details of the building. The Chester Street side of the building will be greatly improved with the addition of windows, a redesigned side entrance and manufactured stone cladding along this façade. The additional floor area in the building will not make the building taller than that allowed in the district and will add to the vibrancy of uses in the Square.

5. Vehicular and pedestrian circulation: *The circulation patterns for motor vehicles and pedestrians which would result from the use or structure will not result in conditions that create traffic congestion or the potential for traffic accidents on the site or in the surrounding area.*

Pedestrian patterns will not change greatly as they will still be utilizing the sidewalks on Elm Street and Chester Street. Traffic mitigation is proposed as a condition to minimize any increase of vehicle queues and delays and a minor decrease in pedestrian safety in this area as a result of not providing on-site parking. Adding a large amount of on-site parking for this use would be detrimental as it would encourage people to drive to the site and increase congestion.

6. Housing Impact: *Will not create adverse impacts on the stock of existing affordable housing.*

The proposal will not adversely impact the stock of affordable housing. No housing units will be removed or added as a result of the application. The renovated space is below the 30,000 square foot threshold of when project mitigation payments to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund are applicable.

7. SomerVision Plan: *Complies with the applicable goals, policies and actions of the SomerVision plan, including the following, as appropriate: Preserve and enhance the character of Somerville’s neighborhoods, transform key opportunity areas, preserve and expand an integrated, balanced mix of safe, affordable and environmentally sound rental and homeownership units for households of all sizes and types from diverse social and economic groups; and, make Somerville a regional employment center with a mix of diverse and high-quality jobs. The areas in the SomerVision map that are designated as enhance and transform should most significantly contribute towards the SomerVision goals that are outlined in the table below. The areas marked as conserve are not expected to greatly increase the figures in the table since these areas are not intended for large scale change.*

Davis Square is marked as a Urban Mixed Use area on the Future Land Context Map and as an area to Enhance in the SomerVision Map. The proposal will improve the appearance of the building and add to the range of services provided in the Square.

<i><u>SomerVision Summary</u></i>	<i>Existing</i>	<i>Proposed</i>
<i>Commercial Sq. Ft.:</i>	41,849	41,217

**III. FINDINGS FOR SPECIAL PERMIT with SITE PLAN REVIEW (SZO §5.2.5 & 7.11.6.3.b) FOR THE USE:**

In order to grant a special permit with site plan review, the SPGA must make certain findings and determinations as outlined in §5.2.5 of the SZO. This section of the report goes through §5.2.5 in detail.

1. Information Supplied:

The Staff finds that the information provided by the Applicant conforms to the requirements of §5.2.3 of the SZO and allows for a comprehensive analysis of the project.

2. Compliance with Standards: *The Applicant must comply “with such criteria or standards as may be set forth in this Ordinance which refer to the granting of the requested special permit with site plan review.”*

The Somerville Zoning Ordinance requires a Special Permit with Site Plan Review to establish a commercial health, exercise, racquet, weight reduction, bowling or similar facility under SZO §7.11.6.3.b, that is greater than 10,000 square feet.

All developments within the CBD district that require a special permit with site plan review should comply with the following guidelines to the highest degree practicable, §6.1.5.

The proposal meets the specific district standards and guidelines for the CBD district.

1. The building is along the primary street edge and completes the streetwall.
2. At the street level, there are continuous storefronts which shall house either retail occupancies, or service occupancies suitably designed for present or future retail use.
3. Massing of the building includes articulation which will blend the building in with the surrounding district. The historic façade of the being is being restored.
4. There is no parking onsite and loading will be on the street and therefore no parking abuts the street edge.
5. The alley access is in the rear and is off of the side street.

3. Purpose of District: *The Applicant has to ensure that the project “is consistent with the intent of the specific zoning district as specified in Article 6”.*

The proposal is consistent with the purpose of the CBD district, which is, “[t]o preserve and enhance central business areas for retail, business services, housing, and office uses and to promote a strong pedestrian character and scale in those areas. A primary goal for the districts is to provide environments that are safe for and conducive to a high volume of pedestrian traffic, with a strong connection to retail and pedestrian accessible street level uses.”

The 16,700 square foot gym is a use that contributes to the services available in a central business district. The large size of the gym is mitigated because of its location on the second and third floors. This location leaves the first floor available for a retail use that is a more interesting use for pedestrians to pass by.

4. Site and Area Compatibility: *The Applicant has to ensure that the project “(i)s designed in a manner that is compatible with the existing natural features of the site and is compatible with the characteristics of the surrounding area, and that the scale, massing and detailing of the buildings are compatible with those prevalent in the surrounding area”.*

See Section II, item 4.

5. Functional Design: *The project must meet “accepted standards and criteria for the functional design of facilities, structures, and site construction.”*

The proposal has a functional design and must undergo construction in a way that meets the City’s requirements on occupancy of the road and sidewalk.

6. Impact on Public Systems: *The project will “not create adverse impacts on the public services and facilities serving the development, such as the sanitary sewer system, the storm drainage system, the public water supply, the recreational system, the street system for vehicular traffic, and the sidewalks and footpaths for pedestrian traffic.”*

The project will not have adverse impacts on the public services and facilities serving the development. The civil plans for the proposal will be conditioned to be submitted to the Engineering Department and must comply with City standards. Pedestrian traffic to the site will be on the existing sidewalks and the front entrance to the gym will be on Elm Street, the major street.

7. Environmental Impacts: *“The proposed use, structure or activity will not constitute an adverse impact on the surrounding area resulting from: 1) excessive noise, level of illumination, glare, dust, smoke, or vibration which are higher than levels now experienced from uses permitted in the surrounding area; 2) emission of noxious or hazardous materials or substances; 3) pollution of water ways or ground water; or 4) transmission of signals that interfere with radio or television reception.”*

The proposed gym will not have adverse impacts beyond a typical commercial use. All activities will occur in the building and the loading will be on the street within close proximity to the loading door.

8. Consistency with Purposes: *“Is consistent with: 1) the purposes of this Ordinance, particularly those set forth in Article 1 and Article 5; and 2) the purposes, provisions, and specific objectives applicable to the requested special permit with site plan review which may be set forth elsewhere in this Ordinance, such as, but not limited to, those at the beginning of the various sections.”*

See Section II, item 3.

9. Preservation of Landform and Open Space: *The Applicant has to ensure that “the existing land form is preserved in its natural state, insofar as practicable, by minimizing grading and the erosion or stripping of steep slopes, and by maintaining man-made features that enhance the land form, such as stone walls, with minimal alteration or disruption. In addition, all open spaces should be designed and planted to enhance the attractiveness of the neighborhood. Whenever possible, the development parcel should be laid out so that some of the landscaped areas are visible to the neighborhood.”*

The site has been built out as an urban block and therefore no landscaping is onsite. This condition is not changing as a result of this application.

10. Relation of Buildings to Environment: *The Applicant must ensure that “buildings are: 1) located harmoniously with the land form, vegetation and other natural features of the site; 2) compatible in scale, design and use with those buildings and designs which are visually related to the development site; 3) effectively located for solar and wind orientation for energy conservation; and 4) advantageously located for views from the building while minimizing the intrusion on views from other buildings.”*

The building is harmonious in scale and design to the other buildings in the Square. The increase in floor space on the third floor will be internal to the building and will improve the appearance of the structure without negatively impacting views or intrusion from other buildings.

11. Stormwater Drainage: *The Applicant must demonstrate that “special attention has been given to proper site surface drainage so that removal of surface waters will not adversely affect neighboring properties or the public storm drainage system. Storm water shall be removed from all roofs, canopies, and powered area, and routed through a well-engineered system designed with appropriate storm water management techniques. Skimming devices, oil, and grease traps, and similar facilities at the collection or discharge points for paved surface runoff should be used, to retain oils, greases, and particles. Surface water on all paved areas shall be collected and/or routed so that it will not obstruct the flow of vehicular or pedestrian traffic and will not create puddles in the paved area. In larger developments, where practical, the routing of runoff through sheet flow, swales or other means increasing filtration and percolation is strongly encouraged, as is use of retention or detention ponds. In instances of below grade parking (such as garages) or low lying areas prone to flooding, installation of pumps or other devices to prevent backflow through drains or catch basins may be required.”*

A condition of approval is that the civil plans for the proposal are submitted to the Engineering Department and the plans must comply with City’s stormwater management and removal of infiltration and/or inflow policies.

12. Historic or Architectural Significance: *The project must be designed “with respect to Somerville’s heritage, any action detrimental to historic structures and their architectural elements shall be discouraged insofar as is practicable, whether those structures exist on the development parcel or on adjacent properties. If there is any removal, substantial alteration or other action detrimental to buildings of historic or architectural significance, these should be minimized and new uses or the erection of new buildings should be compatible with the buildings or places of historic or architectural significance on the development parcel or on adjacent properties.”*

The historic design of the structure will be retained and restored as a result of this proposal.

13. Enhancement of Appearance: *The Applicant must demonstrate that “the natural character and appearance of the City is enhanced. Awareness of the existence of a development, particularly a nonresidential development or a higher density residential development, should be minimized by screening views of the development from nearby streets, residential neighborhoods of City property by the effective use of existing land forms, or alteration thereto, such as berms, and by existing vegetation or supplemental planting.”*

The site has been built out as an urban block and therefore no landscaping is onsite. This condition is not changing as a result of this application.

14. Lighting: *With respect to lighting, the Applicant must ensure that “all exterior spaces and interior public and semi-public spaces shall be adequately lit and designed as much as possible to allow for surveillance by neighbors and passersby.”*

The lighting of the site is by the City’s streetlights and indirectly from the internal lights of the first floor uses.

15. Emergency Access: *The Applicant must ensure that “there is easy access to buildings, and the grounds adjoining them, for operations by fire, police, medical and other emergency personnel and equipment.”*

There is access to the site from Elm Street, Chester Street and the back 12 foot wide alley.

16. Location of Access: *The Applicant must ensure that “the location of intersections of access drives with the City arterial or collector streets minimizes traffic congestion.”*

The alley access is off of the minor street and does not create traffic congestion.

17. Utility Service: *The Applicant must ensure that “electric, telephone, cable TV and other such lines and equipment are placed underground from the source or connection, or are effectively screened from public view.”*

A condition of approval is that the utility plan is submitted to DPW for review and approval.

18. Prevention of Adverse Impacts: *The Applicant must demonstrate that “provisions have been made to prevent or minimize any detrimental effect on adjoining premises, and the general neighborhood, including, (1) minimizing any adverse impact from new hard surface ground cover, or machinery which emits heat, vapor, light or fumes; and (2) preventing adverse impacts to light, air and noise, wind and temperature levels in the immediate vicinity of the proposed development.”*

The proposed activity will occur inside of the building.

19. Signage: *The Applicant must ensure that “the size, location, design, color, texture, lighting and materials of all permanent signs and outdoor advertising structures or features shall reflect the scale and character of the proposed buildings.”*

The signage design and location have not yet been determined. A proposed condition is that the signs must meet the SZO standards and will require Planning Staff review and approval.

20. Screening of Service Facilities: *The Applicant must ensure that “exposed transformers and other machinery, storage, service and truck loading areas, dumpsters, utility buildings, and similar structures shall be effectively screened by plantings or other screening methods so that they are not directly visible from either the proposed development or the surrounding properties.”*

Trash will be retained internally and put out for pickup from the existing entrance lobby on Chester Street.

21. Screening of Parking:

There is no parking onsite.

21. Housing Impact: *Will not create adverse impacts on the stock of existing affordable housing.*

See Section II, item 6.

22. SomerVision Plan: *Complies with the applicable goals, policies and actions of the SomerVision plan, including the following, as appropriate: Preserve and enhance the character of Somerville’s*

*neighborhoods, transform key opportunity areas, preserve and expand an integrated, balanced mix of safe, affordable and environmentally sound rental and homeownership units for households of all sizes and types from diverse social and economic groups; and, make Somerville a regional employment center with a mix of diverse and high-quality jobs. The areas in the SomerVision map that are designated as enhance and transform should most significantly contribute towards the SomerVision goals that are outlined in the table below. The areas marked as conserve are not expected to greatly increase the figures in the table since these areas are not intended for large scale change.*

See Section II, item 6.

**III. RECOMMENDATION**

**Special Permit and Special Permit with Site Plan Review under §7.11.9, §4.4.1, §9.13**

Based on the materials submitted by the Applicant, the above findings and subject to the following conditions, the Planning Staff recommends **CONDITIONAL APPROVAL** of the requested **SPECIAL PERMIT AND SPECIAL PERMIT with SITE PLAN REVIEW**.

The recommendation is based upon a technical analysis by Planning Staff of the application material based upon the required findings of the Somerville Zoning Ordinance, and is based only upon information submitted prior to the public hearing. This report may be revised or updated with new recommendations, findings and/or conditions based upon additional information provided to the Planning Staff during the public hearing process.

#	Condition	Timeframe for Compliance	Verified (initial)	Notes										
1	<p>Approval is for the establishment of commercial health, exercise, racquet, weight reduction, bowling or similar facility under SZO §7.11.6.3.b that is greater than 10,000 sf, alteration to a nonconforming structure under §4.4.1 to alter the façade and floor area ratio, and to not provide six parking. This approval is based upon the following application materials and the plans submitted by the Applicant:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="248 1073 886 1680"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="248 1073 566 1104">Date (Stamp Date)</th> <th data-bbox="566 1073 886 1104">Submission</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="248 1104 566 1207">August 21, 2014</td> <td data-bbox="566 1104 886 1207">Initial application submitted to the City Clerk’s Office</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="248 1207 566 1310">6/4/10</td> <td data-bbox="566 1207 886 1310">Modified plans submitted to OSPCD (plot plan)</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="248 1310 566 1524">7/21/14</td> <td data-bbox="566 1310 886 1524">Modified plans submitted to OSPCD (Existing Floor Plans X100-X103, Building Area Diagram A001, Proposed Floor Plan A102-A103, Existing Elevations X200-X201)</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="248 1524 566 1680">10/15/14</td> <td data-bbox="566 1524 886 1680">Modified plans submitted to OSPCD (Proposed Elevations A200, Rendering A201-202, Zoning Data A300)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Any changes to the approved (site plan or elevations/use) that are not <i>de minimis</i> must receive SPGA approval.</p>	Date (Stamp Date)	Submission	August 21, 2014	Initial application submitted to the City Clerk’s Office	6/4/10	Modified plans submitted to OSPCD (plot plan)	7/21/14	Modified plans submitted to OSPCD (Existing Floor Plans X100-X103, Building Area Diagram A001, Proposed Floor Plan A102-A103, Existing Elevations X200-X201)	10/15/14	Modified plans submitted to OSPCD (Proposed Elevations A200, Rendering A201-202, Zoning Data A300)	CO / BP	ISD/PIng.	
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<b>Pre-Construction</b>														

2	The Applicant will be required to demonstrate that the updated project plans meet the current City of Somerville stormwater policy. Civil plans must be submitted to the Engineering Department for review and approval that meet the site plan review checklist.	BP	Eng.	
3	New sanitary connection flows over 2,000 GPD require a 4:1 removal of infiltration and/or inflow by the Applicant. This will be achieved by submitting a mitigation payment to the City based on the cost per gallon of I/I to be removed from the sewer system. The Applicant shall work with Engineering to meet this condition before a certificate of occupancy is issued.	CO	Eng.	
4	The Applicant must contact the Engineering Department to coordinate the timeline for cutting or opening the street and/or sidewalk for utility connections or other construction. There is a moratorium on opening streets from November 1st to April 1st and there is a list of streets that have additional opening restrictions.	BP	Eng	
5	The Applicant shall submit Utility plans to the Electrical Inspector for review and approval.	BP	Electrical Inspector	
<b>Construction Impacts</b>				
6	The Applicant shall at his expense replace any existing equipment (including, but not limited to street sign poles, signs, traffic signal poles, traffic signal equipment, wheel chair ramps, granite curbing, etc) and the entire sidewalk immediately abutting the subject property if damaged as a result of construction activity. All new sidewalks and driveways must be constructed to DPW standard.	CO	DPW	
7	All construction materials and equipment must be stored onsite. If occupancy of the street layout is required, such occupancy must be in conformance with the requirements of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices and the prior approval of the Traffic and Parking Department must be obtained.	During Construction	T&P	
<b>Traffic &amp; Parking</b>				
8	Applicant will supply 4 bicycle parking spaces, which can be satisfied by purchasing 2 bicycle racks to City Standards to be delivered to DPW for the City to install in the vicinity of the property.	CO	Plng.	
9	The Applicant shall make best efforts to locate bike parking inside of the building for employees.	CO	Plng.	
10	The Applicant shall purchase and deliver to the City 6 single spaced parking meters with the capacity to accept both coins and credit cards and are consistent with the current parking meter fleet in Somerville	CO	T&P	
<b>Miscellaneous</b>				

11	The Applicant, its successors and/or assigns, shall be responsible for maintenance of both the building and all on-site amenities, including landscaping, fencing, lighting, parking areas and storm water systems, ensuring they are clean, well kept and in good and safe working order.	Cont.	ISD	
12	The Owner/Applicant is required to hire a private company to remove trash and recycling on a regular basis.	Cont.	ISD	
<b>Public Safety</b>				
13	The Applicant or Owner shall update and fire alarm and sprinkler system.	CO	FP	
14	To the extent possible, all exterior lighting must be confined to the subject property, cast light downward and must not intrude, interfere or spill onto neighboring properties.	CO	Plng.	
15	The Applicant shall provide notice of intent to strictly comply with applicable State and Federal regulations regarding air quality including without limitation continuous dust control during demolition and construction.	CO	Plng/OSE	
<b>Signage</b>				
16	Signage shall comply with SZO standards and be submitted to Planning Staff for review and approval.	CO/Cont.	Plng.	
<b>Final Sign-Off</b>				
17	The Applicant shall contact Planning Staff at least five working days in advance of a request for a final inspection by Inspectional Services to ensure the proposal was constructed in accordance with the plans and information submitted and the conditions attached to this approval.	Final sign off	Plng.	

