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14 Goodnow Rd.
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Honorable Members
Planning Board
Camden, Maine

Re: Proposed McLean Hospital facility at Fox Hill, Camden, Maine

Dear Members:

In support of McLean Hospital's proposed treatment facility at Fox Hill, Camden, Maine, Philip Levendusky PhD, Sr. VP, Business Development, McLean Hospital has asked me to comment on the experience of Princeton, Massachusetts which hosts a similar facility. I am happy to be able to report that Princeton's experience with McLean Hospital has been entirely positive.


As a member of the Princeton Planning Board I met Dr. Levendusky in late 2005 when McLean applied for site plan review for their rehabilitation facility in Princeton. They were proposing to purchase Fernside, an historic mansion then used as an elegant bed and breakfast inn located on the eastern slope of Mt Wachusett, to use it as an exclusive retreat for clients undergoing substance abuse rehabilitation.

Princeton is a quiet, safe, affluent, well-educated community and Fernside is located in close proximity to many beautiful homes. At public meetings considerable concern was expressed by local residents regarding issues such as traffic, security, lighting, exterior maintenance and other matters at the proposed facility. Dr. Levendusky and McLean were reassuring, accommodating and most anxious to address and resolve any neighborhood concerns.

Site Plan approval was granted with conditions in early 2006. Fernside has been in operation since then and has been a fine and valuable addition to our community. I personally pass Fernside by car or bicycle almost every day and can confirm that McLean has maintained the facility and grounds impeccably. As I recall, the only complaint the Planning Board received after Fernside opened related to exterior lighting, and this was resolved immediately upon request. The nature of the medical work being done at the facility is absolutely imperceptible from outside. They have also hired local workers, supported local businesses and generally proven themselves to be good and desirable neighbors.

After almost seven years in operation here in Princeton, Fernside generates no controversy. In my opinion you may rely confidently on the fine reputation of McLean Hospital and the personal integrity of Dr. Levendusky and their spokespeople. They will do what they promise. If I can be of any further assistance, please feel free to contact me directly.

Yours truly,


James M. LaChance, Esq.

Member (2004-2011)

Princeton Planning Board