

To: Holliston Zoning Board of Appeals

Re: Permit Application to reopen the Gulf Station

Date: April 13, 2020

I want to keep my comments short. I write as a concerned resident and someone who has advocated for a vibrant downtown for 45 years.

Town Bylaws say that if a business has not been in operation during the past three years, it shall be considered abandoned. I believe that applies to the Gulf Station.

If yes, then this is a new business, and the Bylaws clearly state that downtown is to be pedestrian-friendly. Gas stations, by design, are not for pedestrians. I believe that the ZBA should uphold the Bylaws, period, and deny the Permit.

If the business is not deemed abandoned, then the owners should be expected to address vehicular issues. When it was in operation as a full gas station, there were no traffic lights. Clearly people cannot exit the driveway into the intersection.

I imagine the canopy will be visually too big for the small space, and therefore aesthetically inconsistent with the character of downtown. I hope the ZBA will require any and all adjustments that can be made...if they must approve the Permit.

If there is any legal way to deny this Permit, I hope you will. I do not believe this activity is consistent with a 2020 downtown, and we already have one gas station, which predates the pedestrian-friendly Bylaws. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mary Greendale
198 Highland St.
Holliston, MA