



Needham Board of Health

1471 Highland Avenue, Needham, MA 02492
www.needhamma.gov/health

781-455-7500 ext. 511
781-455-0892 (fax)



To: Zoning Board of Appeals

From: Needham Board of Health

Date: November 14, 2013

Subject: Recommendations from the Needham Board of Health on Proposed Greendale Mews Project

The Needham Board of Health has carefully considered a large body of recent health related research including that conducted by Dr. Douglas Brugge of Tufts University and that based upon that data and the potential for future work supporting the data already collected we (the BOH) make the following recommendations:

New residential construction should be greater than 100 meters (328 feet) from major highways, ideally > 150 meters (about 500 feet).

Mitigating risk closer to highways

- Windows directly facing highways should be fixed/sealed. Other windows should be designed so as not to direct particulate matter into living spaces.
- Forced central air filtration systems to meet or exceed filtration standards, with properly maintained MERV-16 electrostatic filters.
- Recreational facilities (bike paths, pools, etc.) should be >100 meters from the highway and shielded from highway.
- Leave as many trees as possible and submit a landscape design, particularly including evergreens which will not shed leaves in the winter.

Consider particulate particle study of site

- Testing performed by company that can test to the micro particulate level.
- Perform testing to assess the risk involved with building design and allow for modification of design, if needed.
- Aim to have testing samples performed over 4 seasons, to detect seasonal variations.

As the evidence of health risks becomes stronger, the Board may consider requiring a written disclosure to residents (similar to current lead paint disclosures for residential home sales).