

Milton Commission on Disability
Town of Milton
525 Canton Avenue
Milton, MA 02186

Massachusetts Architectural Access Board
C/o Executive Director William Joyce
1000 Washington Street, Suite 710
Boston, MA 02118

July 10, 2020

Re: Milton Academy Faulkner House, 348 Centre Street, Milton, MA Application

Dear Access Board Members:

We write to neither support nor oppose Milton Academy's application for a variance exempting them from the otherwise applicable Massachusetts Code requirement that they install an elevator at its 348 Centre Street, Milton, MA property.

Instead, we write to share the concerns that our Commission members expressed in our July 8, 2020 meeting discussing the application with Milton Academy representatives Nick Parnell, Robert Carasitti, Lyle Bradley in attendance.

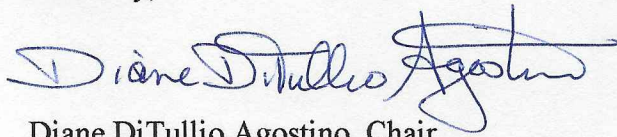
In this meeting, our Commission members discussed the following concerns:

- An elevator may be beneficial to the second and third floor residents in the short term.
The Commission noted that the use of the building will be for isolation of students, in addition to quarantine, for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic. This building will be the only Health Center on campus, and it will contain one fully ADA compliant bedroom on the first floor. Because one or more students may be required to be isolated on the second and third floors, there is the possibility that an individual who becomes ill may require medical transport from the second or third floor. Such transport would be challenging and may present a safety risk in the absence of an elevator.
- An elevator would increase accessibility to the second and third floors in the long term.
The Commission noted that, if granted, the variance would establish a three story building without an elevator for the foreseeable future, although the use of the space may change. The triggering renovation event that at this time invokes the requirement of an elevator installation is a significant event and a second similarly large renovation event is unlikely to occur in that building after these proposed renovations. However, the use of the entire building as a medical health center may not extend beyond the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic. We therefore understand that it is likely that the second and third

floor of this building may become residential dorm spaces. We also note that students with other health conditions and their families and friends who visit may benefit from the increased access provided to the second and third floors with the availability of an elevator.

We appreciate and respect the expertise of MAAB as it considers this variance request by Milton Academy. We share our concerns in the hope that MAAB will use their expertise in considering which, if any, of the multiple alternative proposals would provide safe access during both the short and long term use of this building.

Sincerely,



Diane DiTullio Agostino, Chair
Milton Commission on Disability