



Town of Ashland

MASSACHUSETTS

Town of Ashland
Department of Public Works
20 Ponderosa Road
Ashland, MA 01721

03/05/2026

Re: DPW Comments – 55 W. Union Steet 40B

To the Ashland Zoning Board of Appeals:

The Department of Public Works has reviewed the proposed utility connections and relocation of the existing sewer easement associated with the proposed development and provides the following comments.

The Department strongly prefers that the proposed utilities connect to the infrastructure located within Memorial Drive rather than West Union Street. The water and sewer infrastructure along West Union Street is older and has historically presented operational challenges, including recurring water main breaks. From an operations and long-term maintenance standpoint, connection to Memorial Drive is the preferred alternative.

Regardless of the connection location, the applicant must evaluate the receiving sewer main to confirm that sufficient capacity exists to accommodate the additional flows generated by the proposed development.

The Department also has concerns regarding the proposed relocation of the existing sewer easement. The current alignment routes the sewer through a parking area, includes inverts exceeding 28 feet in depth, is located in close proximity to the proposed building, and incorporates sharp deflection angles at manholes. This configuration may create long-term maintenance and access constraints, including limited access for vacuum truck operations, restricted manhole access due to parked vehicles, and significant excavation challenges for future repairs.

Because the existing sewer currently runs beneath the proposed building footprint, relocation is necessary to accommodate construction. The Department recommends evaluating relocation of the sewer main within Memorial Drive, which would provide improved access for routine maintenance and future repairs.

The Department recommends that subsurface test borings be conducted within Memorial Drive to confirm soil conditions and to verify that an appropriate sewer alignment and depth can be achieved.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

Sincerely,

Ashland Department of Public Works