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Biotech Projects Pass Muster in Lexington Zoning changes win TM approval

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Lexington Town Meeting members Monday approved plans that would allow two large biotechnology development proposals to move forward.

In separate votes, Town Meeting approved zoning changes to allow Patriot Partners to build 380,000 square feet of research or office space in Lexington Technology Park, and Cubists Pharmaceuticals Inc. to expand its company headquarters with 110,000 square feet of research space at 65 Hayden Ave.

Combined, the two projects could also create parking structures for more than 1,000 vehicles.

A number of Town Meeting members voiced concerns about noise from a building Patriots Partners renovated in the technology park, and asked that the proposal be denied until the problems are remedied.

“For now I can’t do it,” said Town Meeting member Thomas Fenn.

But Patriot Partners principal Stephen Rice said the noise problem will be fixed. He also said the new development is expected to generate \$2.2 million in net tax revenue for Lexington.

The proposal passed by more than a two-thirds majority.

Cubists Pharmaceuticals’ expansion is expected to generate about \$500,000 in net tax revenue for the town.