

# South Lexington developments approved at Town Meeting

By Emily Costello  
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Lexington - Town Meeting began Monday with votes on two articles that will dramatically increase development in South Lexington.

A zoning by-law that will allow Patriot Partners to expand their life science technology park on Spring Street passed by the required two-thirds votes.

Debate on the article focused on a noise problem that's developed at Building 300 within the existing Patriots Partners development.

Robert Buckley, a member of the development team, began his presentation by outlining a noise remediation plan that would include a \$60,000 investment in silencers and a \$206,000 noise screen. The noise screen would require a zoning variance because of its height.

In response to questions from Town Meeting members, Stephen Rice, Partner of Mohawk Partners, promised to fix the noise problem. Patriot Partners is a real estate partnership that includes Atlantic Management and Mohawk Partners.

"We don't want to end up in lawsuits with neighbors," Rice said. "We are committed to fixing it."

In the end, the yeas easily carried the article.

"Mr. Stephen Rice stated on several occasions on Town Meeting floor that he would fix the noise problem to the satisfaction of the neighbors," said Tom Fenn, a Shade Street neighbor. "To me, his words and promise mean more than any covenant, contract or written agreement."

## **Cubist to expand**

A zoning by-law amendment was authorized that will allow Cubist Pharmaceuticals to expand its facility on Hayden Road.

A non-binding resolution to the article, proposed by Dawn McKenna of Precinct 6, was narrowly defeated. The resolution would have earmarked 20 percent of the funds received from Cubist under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the town to fund Lexpress, the town bus service.

Under the MOU, the \$140,000 due from Cubist will be paid into two funds, according to Town Manager Carl Valente. The first, the Transportation Demand Management/Public Transportation Stabilization Fund, underwrites Lexpress. The other, the Traffic Mitigation Stabilization Fund, pays for measures like roadwork and traffic signals. Withdrawing money from either fund will require a two-thirds majority vote from Town Meeting.

Cubist officials seemed unaware of the controversy. One of their slides stated that the entire \$140,000 was going to fund Lexpress.

“It was our intention to help pay for public transportation,” said Francis McLoughlin, senior manager of corporate communications at Cubist.

Town Meeting will resume Monday, Nov. 16.