

## Malcolm Ragan

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**From:** Meg Costello <megcostow@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 17, 2021 5:39 PM  
**To:** Jesse Steadman  
**Cc:** Malcolm Ragan  
**Subject:** Re: costello schedule

I just went by Nan's to get a side of kohlrabi slaw. I walked all around the back of the property and through the gardens around the parking lot.

What my reaction was:: I don't get why they don't use the west side/back yard of the back of the building---there is so much room there, a lovely view of minister's pond, long distance from any residence and plenty of vegetation for a perfect buffer. That space is even larger than the parking lot area. I don't get why they haven't/don't rethink the use of the building and grounds. They could avoid all the resistance from neighbors if they just rethought the land use. And the neighbors that are resisting are very close to the back fence. However, the neighbor who is unbothered by the market is well away, with plenty of tree/brush buffer---so of course, he is okay with the restaurant and the noise. Just doesn't make sense to me---they could use the patio, install safety railing and just let people go out into the yard through the patio.

Two other things:: 1. the dumpster does really smell. I would not want that smell wafting over my fence either. I could smell it 20 feet away from the dumpster. In my opinion, this dumpster should be well away from the property line of the houses on crescent street.

2. I am also really fed up with Nan's bad mouthing the planning board/town of stow on social media. This isn't about picnic tables. This matter is Nan's impact upon a neighborhood in a residentially zoned area. I didn't say this out loud the other night, but a Stow resident called my house and berated me for my "anti-business" position. They did not know all the facts and were just incited by Nan's posting of how badly they are being treated by the planning board.

another thing: I am nervous about being absent when Nan's comes back with a plan. I am really not happy with the failure of the owners to make this work. They keep acting like bratty kids who don't get the answer they want, so they keep coming back with basically the same demands, still insisting that we are being unreasonable when we have clearly outlined what we expect: keep the tables back 30 feet from any property line, install privacy fencing, manage the crowds and traffic.

meg.

On Fri, Sep 17, 2021 at 3:37 PM Jesse Steadman <[planning@stow-ma.gov](mailto:planning@stow-ma.gov)> wrote:

It's already been approved so that is the important part. The plan mods are just an agreement.

Thanks

Jesse Steadman  
Town Planner | Town of Stow

*380 Great Road*  
*Stow, MA 01775*  
[www.stow-ma.gov](http://www.stow-ma.gov)

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**From:** Meg Costello <[megcstow@gmail.com](mailto:megcstow@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 17, 2021 11:42 AM  
**To:** Jesse Steadman <[planning@stow-ma.gov](mailto:planning@stow-ma.gov)>  
**Cc:** Malcolm Ragan <[planning2@stow-ma.gov](mailto:planning2@stow-ma.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: costello schedule  
but don't I have to be there each time for any future voting?

On Fri, Sep 17, 2021 at 7:44 AM Jesse Steadman <[planning@stow-ma.gov](mailto:planning@stow-ma.gov)> wrote:

Hi Meg,

I don't think absence on the 28<sup>th</sup> will negatively impact any regulatory matters before the Board. We likely will see a resubmission of Plan modifications from Nan's on that date, but the expectations of what can be accepted haven't really changed. I will share the other thoughts below with the Board.

Best,

Jesse Steadman

Town Planner | Town of Stow

*Stow Planning Department*

*380 Great Road*

*Stow, MA 01775*

*P: 978-897-5098*

[www.stow-ma.gov](http://www.stow-ma.gov)

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**From:** Meg Costello <[megcstow@gmail.com](mailto:megcstow@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 16, 2021 8:26 PM  
**To:** Jesse Steadman <[planning@stow-ma.gov](mailto:planning@stow-ma.gov)>; Malcolm Ragan <[planning2@stow-ma.gov](mailto:planning2@stow-ma.gov)>  
**Subject:** costello schedule

hello jesse and malcolm,

I am going out of town on wednesday 9/22. I will miss the PB meeting on 9/28. I know the internet is very iffy where I am staying in the mountains. I am not even sure if I can find a pub or something for the connx. So, probably will definitely miss 9/28. does this mess things up?

About Nan's and business in Stow:

I will never be okay about letting a business change the character of a neighborhood. I felt that way about Collings and I feel that way about Nan's. And I resent the fact that when we do not allow a business to do whatever they want in a neighborhood, then we are called "anti business." I will never agree that just because a business is a business and they want to do something, that we feel pressured to make a concession which affects the abutters. I really resented the NIMBY references. I do not see the Nan's abutters' push back as an example of this.

I feel very strongly about a uniform rule for everyone---all business activities must be at least 30 feet back from abutter's property lines.(upcoming Stow HofP issue). And just because one abutter is okay with Nan's, that does not ensure the future, in case of a transfer of title for abutting properties. I would like to ensure that the 30 foot boundary is established in perpetuity.

I really don't want enforcement of business operational rules left up to the abutter complaints. I want abutters to be spared from yearly pushing of the rules by business owners. I want some established rules that will not need to be renegotiated whenever a business owner thinks the planning board might have changed or abutter's complaints can be sloughed off.

Just my thoughts here. Can I safely be gone on 9/28? meg.

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