#### BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP PLANNING BOARD

Special Meeting Wednesday, January 29, 2014 —MINUTES—

## 1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

Vice Chairwoman Kane called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. in the Bridgewater Raritan High School Auditorium, 600 Garretson Road, Bridgewater, New Jersey.

#### 2. OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT ANNOUNCEMENT:

Adequate notice of this special meeting has been given in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act N.J.S.A. 10:4-6. On January 16, 2014 proper notice was sent to the Courier News and the Star-Ledger and filed with the Clerk at the Township of Bridgewater and posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building. Please be aware of the Planning Board policy for public hearings: no new applications will be heard after 10:00 pm and no new testimony will be taken after 10:15 pm. Hearing Assistance is available upon request.

#### 3. SALUTE TO FLAG:

There was salute to colors

# 4. ROLL CALL:

Stephen Rodzinak – present

James Franco – present

Walter Rusak – absent

Councilman Matthew Moench – present

Ron Charles – present

Barbara Kane – present

Mayor Dan Hayes – present

Tricia Casamento, Alt. #1 – present

Others present: Board Attorney Thomas Collins, Board Engineer Robert C. Bogart, Board

Planner Scarlett Doyle, Recording Secretary Marianna Voorhees

#### 5. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES:

January 7, 2014 Reorganization and Regular Meeting – Motion by Councilman Moench, second by Mr. Franco, the foregoing minutes were adopted on the following roll call vote:

AFFIRMATIVE:

Mr. Rodzinak, Mr. Charles, Mr. Franco, Councilman Moench,

Mayor Hayes, Mrs. Casamento

ABSENT:

Chairman Rusak

NOT ELIGIBLE:

Mrs. Kane

January 28, 2014 Special Meeting

Minutes pending

#### 6. MEMORIALIZATION OF RESOLUTIONS:

None pending

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## 7. LAND DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS

AlFalah Center – 1475 Mountain Top Road Block 653 Lots 36 & 37 #01-11-PB, PRELIMINARY Major Site Plan and Conditional Use Time: 2/28/14 per extension

See attached Transcription dates January 29, 2014. Prepared by: Diane M. Holmes, C.C.R. of Rizman Rappaport Dillon & Rose, 66 W. Mt. Pleasant Ave., Livingston, NJ 07039

#### 8. MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

There were no members of the public wishing to address the Board on any matter not listed on the agenda.

#### 9. ADJOURNMENT:

It was the consensus of the Board to adjourn the meeting at approximately 10:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Marianna Voorhees, Secretary to Engineering/ Planning Division

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# In The Matter Of:

In Re: Al Falah Center

Transcript of Proceedings January 29, 2014

Rizman Rappaport Dillon & Rose 66 W. Mt. Pleasant Ave. Livingston, N.J. 07039 (973) 992-7650

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BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP PLANNING DIVISION

Min-U-Script® with Word Index

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			Tago o
1	BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP PLANNING BOARD		quickly. If during the questions you decide that
2			you do have a question, please feel free to come up
.3	IN THE MATTER OF: TRANSCRIPT OF	3	to the front.
4	ALFALAH CENTER PROCEEDINGS	4	Just as a reminder, please ask
5	Applicant.		questions that are relevant to the professional's
6		6	presentation or his area of expertise. General
7	Bridgewater Raritan High School 600 Garretson Road	7	comments should be held toward for the end of the
8	Bridgewater, New Jersey Wednesday, January 29, 2014	8	applicant's complete presentation and then we'll
9	Commencing at 7 p.m.	9	take general comments from the public.
10	BEFORE:	10	We'll ask that if you do have
11	BOARD MEMBERS		questions or comments, we ask that the audience
12	PATRICIA CASAMENTO RON CHARLES	12	would please refrain from any applause or comments,
13	JAMES V. FRANCO	13	et cetera. Anyone wishing to ask questions, we do
14	DANIEL J HAYES, JR., Mayor BARBARA KANE, Chairperson	14	need you to please give your full name clearly,
15	MATTHEW MOENCH, Councilman STEPHEN RODZINAK	15	spell your last name and then give your address.
16	ROBERT BOGART, PE, Township Engineer	16	MR. EISDORFER: My name is Stephen
17	ROBERT BOGART, PE, Township Engineer THOMAS COLLINS, ESQ., Board Attorney SCARLETT DOYLE, Planner	17	Eisdorfer of the firm Hill Wallack here on behalf of
18	MARIANNA VORHEES, Asst. Board Secretary	18	the Running Brook Homeowners Association and the
19	APPEARANCES:	19	Manor at Running Brook Property Owners Association.
20	ARCHER & GREINER, P.C.	20	I think it would be helpful if, first
21	Attorneys for the Plaintiffs 1 State Route 12	21	of all, you would help us get the geography of this
22	Flemington, New Jersey 08822 BY: LLOYD H. TUBMAN, ESQ.	22	building. I see you have the first page of the
23		23	architectural layout.
24	Reported by: Diane M. Holmes, CCR	24	Can you tell us where Mountaintop Road
25		25	is in connection with this drawing?
	Page 2		Page 4
1	CHAIRPERSON KANE: Tonight we are going	1	MR. FINELLI: Sure. Greg, could we
2	to continue with the land application from last	2	
3	night. When we ended, the architect was giving	3	MR. EISDORFER: Show me on this drawing
4	testimony. So we will continue with his testimony.	4	·
5	Once he has completed his piece, the	5	MR. FINELLI: When I began the
	board members will have an opportunity to ask their	6	testimony, I think I explained that the drawing was
7	questions, and when they are finished, then we will		oriented a little differently than the site plans.
8	open the meeting up for public questions for the	8	are the part of the committee of
9	architect presentation about his testimony and about	9	
10	architectural issues.	10	MR. EISDORFER: Okay. So north is to
11	As a reminder, questions are to be for	11	the left of the drawing?
l	the questions that are for the witness should be	12	3 CD TOTAL T T T C 1 1 1 1 1
1.3	relevant to the architecture and his testimony.	13	drawing in the title block, there is a north arrow.
14	Okay. Thank you.	14	So, yes, north is to the left.
15	MR, FINELLI: I think last night we did	15	TO THE OFFICE OF A 1 1 1
1	finish the testimony. We had a few questions back	16	this drawing is the minaret?
17	and forth. I don't think there's any other direct	17	
18	testimony on my part.	18	is above the electric closet, the utility room.
19	CHAIRPERSON KANE: Okay. Thank you.	19	a margin or many of the state o
20	Do we have anyone from the public who	20	
1	would like to ask any other questions other than	21	
	this gentleman?	22	a management at the different
22			

23 aligned roughly north and south parallel to

MR. FINELLI: More or less, yes.

24 Mountaintop Road?

Okay. Anyone who has questions, I would ask if you would come up front to the seats

25 that are up here so that we can move a little more

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- MR. EISDORFER: Now, the site as a
- 2 whole runs downward as you go north and as you go
- 3 east. Isn't that right?
- 4 MR. FINELLI: Are you talking about the
- 5 topography?
- 6 MR. EISDORFER: The topography.
- 7 MR. FINELLI: The topography runs
- 8 generally down toward the west -- excuse me, toward
- 9 the east. I don't think it really crosses much in
- 10 the north/south direction.
- 11 MR. EISDORFER: Well, if it goes --
- 12 well, why don't we get -- you know, why don't we get
- 13 sheet -- sheet three of the site plan application?
- 14 The one I want is titled horizontal
- 15 control plan. No. That's not true. The one I want
- 16 is sheet four, the one with the topo.
- 17 MR. FINELLI: Well, there is topography
- 18 on all the plans.
- MR. EISDORFER: This one has -- the
- 20 topo actually has pre-markings. So we can actually
- 21 see what the elevations are.
- MR. FINELLI: Okay. Greg, maybe the
- 23 next one. There we go. Is that helpful?
- 24 MR. EISDORFER: Okay. So it appears to
- 25 me that we've got -- at the top of the site we've

- 1 understand how that elevation fits into the
- 2 topography. It seems to me that -- let me -- this
- з is on a hill. Yes?
- 4 MR. FINELLI: It slopes. It does have
- 5 a very consistent slope. Without even seeing the
- 6 numbers, you can see that the topographic intervals
- 7 are very regular. So it's a very uniform slope,
- 8 yes.
- 9 MR. EISDORFER: The name of the road is
- 10 Mountaintop Road. So that's probably at the top of
- 11 the hill.
- MR. FINELLI: I think if you expand out
- 13 farther, you probably can see the actual knoll.
- 14 Yes.
- MR. EISDORFER: And do you know if the
- 16 topography continues farther down after you leave
- 17 the site?
- 18 MR. FINELLI: Again, I really
- 19 apologize. My field of expertise is architecture.
- 20 I really want to stay in the building.
- 21 MR. EISDORFER: Right, but you've
- 22 designed the building in the context of the
- 23 topography. No?
- MR. FINELLI: Well, the building was
- 25 there. In the context of the topography, we are

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- 1 got a benchmark that says 423. Is that right?
- 2 MR. FINELLI: I apologize. I'm the
- 3 architect, and the engineer was here last night. So
- 4 I'm going to help you as much as I can, look at the
- 5 drawing, but all I can say is, if I use this to
- 6 illustrate, these are the topographic lines, and you
- 7 can see that they are relatively parallel to the
- 8 building front.
- 9 So I would think, to answer your
- 10 original question, it seems to me that this is
- 11 sloping to the east pretty uniformly. There's not
- 12 much cross-slope at all.
- 13 MR. EISDORFER: Okay. Well, I'll just
- 14 point out to you that at the bottom left-hand corner
- 15 there's a topo that says 440. So you've got a
- 16 17-foot drop as you go north there, and we go from
- 17 440 and you've got a topo -- I'm sorry. These are
- 18 all 540s, 540 and 523. No, 440, 423, and you've got
- 19 a 416 at the end of your building. So --
- 20 MR. FINELLI: Can I ask a favor? You
- 21 show me, because I'm just not that familiar with
- 22 what you're talking about.
- 23 MR. EISDORFER: Well, I'm sort of
- 24 concerned because you've shown -- I'm sorry. Your
- 25 elevation shows it floating in space, and I want to

- 1 regrading almost none of the property around the
- 2 building.
- 3 The only regrading that's occurring --
- 4 as the testimony was given yesterday evening, the
- 5 only regrading that's occurring is where we are
- 6 turning paving back into landscaping. That's the
- 7 only regrading.
- 8 MR. EISDORFER: So what is the grade --
- 9 let me -- let's go to the --
- 10 MR. FINELLI: I think --
- 11 MR. EISDORFER: Let's go to the second
- 12 page of your elevation.
- 13 MR. FINELLI: Okay. Can we go back to
- 14 the architectural plans please? And it would be
- 15 either the second or third sheet. They're both
- 16 elevations.
- MR. EISDORFER: That's the one I want.
- 18 MR. FINELLI: Okay. So the elevation
- 19 at the top is the rear of the building which would
- 20 be the eastern facing elevation and the drawing at
- 21 the bottom is the front elevation. That would be
- 22 the elevation facing -- facing Mountaintop.
- 23 MR. EISDORFER: So, once again, looking 24 at the bottom, the bottom elevation, we're looking
- 25 at it from the direction of Mountaintop Road.

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- MR. FINELLI: Correct. 1
- MR. EISDORFER: And the left-hand side 2
- 3 is north. The right-hand side is south.
- MR. FINELLI: Correct.
- MR. EISDORFER: Now, you've shown the
- 6 minaret here, and it appears to me that you've shown
- the minaret as 47.5 feet above grade.
- MR. FINELLI: I believe it's 47.5 feet
- above -- I think our datum elevation is the main
- 10 floor level.
- MR. EISDORFER: What grade is that? 11
- MR. FINELLI: The main floor level? 12
- MR. EISDORFER: Uh-hmm. 13
- MR. FINELLI: I'd have to look on the 14
- 15 engineer's plan, but the main floor level -- the
- 16 main floor level at entry -- the main entrance is at
- grade. The building, as you go to the north, the
- part that we are showing as the daycare areas and
- some of the multi-purpose rooms in that secondary
- entrance, the interior of the building is up a
- couple feet. That was the old wood framed building
- that has a basement underneath it which is probably
- why the building is elevated, but the grade across
- the front of the building is relatively constant. 24
- MR. EISDORFER: Well, the grade of the 25

- MR. FINELLI: Well, the grade level,
- you know, the grade level is -- let's see. The
- grade level at the north side of the building, there
- are spot elevations around -- around the building as
- an example just below where there is a note that
- says install FDC, fire department connection. There
- is a grade elevation of there of 418.70.
- MR, EISDORFER: Okay.
- MR. FINELLI: And the closest door
- elevation to this is the existing is 420. So that's
- about 24 inches higher. The floor elevation inside
- the building is 24 inches higher than the grade
- elevation outside the building.
- MR. EISDORFER: How about the south 14
- edge of the building? 15
- MR. FINELLI: The south edge of the 16
- building, the same spot we're looking at before, the 17
- floor elevation is 417.4, and let's say spot
- elevation -- well, let's just use the name dorsal
- because we could identify that on the west
- elevation. The main dorsal elevation is 418.81, and
- the grade outside is -- at the curb is 417.8. So
- that's about an eight-inch difference.
- MR, EISDORFER: Okay. So -- so the --
- what's the level that you're actually calculating

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- the height of the minaret from -- at?
- MR. FINELLI: The minaret is -- the
- 47.5 is based on the main floor elevation. So the
- elevation, the dorsal elevation is 418.81. So let's
- use that as our datum. Let's use that as our zero.
- MR. EISDORFER: Is that, in fact, zero?
- MR. FINELLI: That's our datum. 7
- MR. EISDORFER: So the total height --
- total elevation is going to be 468, 475.
- MR. FINELLI: Relative to? 10
- MR. EISDORFER: Relative to --11
- MR. FINELLI: Relative to sea level. 12
- MR. EISDORFER: Relative to base point. 13
- MR. FINELLI: Relative to the base 14
- point is 47 and a half feet. 15
- MR. EISDORFER: All the topos are to 16
- the base point. 17
- MR. FINELLI: Come on. The base point 18
- is sea level. 19
- MR. EISDORFER: Sea level. I want to 20
- compare things on this site. 21
- MR. FINELLI: Compare things on the 22
- site. It's 47 and a half feet. 23
- MR. EISDORFER: And the height of the 24
- road, what is the level of Mountaintop Road?

- 1 south end of the building is 416, and the grade at
- 2 the north end of the building is 423. Which of
- those figures is the grade?
- MR. FINELLI: You have to help me out
- and tell me where you're reading that from.
- MR. EISDORFER: I am reading it from
- the same plan, the topo that we just looked at. Why
- don't you look at the topo and you tell me?
- MR. FINELLI: I'd be happy to help you,
- but again okay. You're looking at sheet --10
- MR. EISDORFER: I'm sorry. I'm looking 11
- at sheet four, and I see -- I see control points --
- I see control points at the north end of the building at 420 and 419. 14
- MR. FINELLI: Okay. Dorsal elevation 15
- 16 42171?

13

- MR. EISDORFER: Uh-hmm. Now, the south 17
- end of the building I see 416. 18
- MR. FINELLI: Correct. 19
- MR. EISDORFER: Okay. So which of 20
- those grades is the grade of the building? 21
- MR. FINELLI: Well, neither of those 22
- are grades. Those are floor elevations. 23
- MR. EISDORFER: So is that above the
- 25 grade level?

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- 1 MR. FINELLI: Okay. Let's see.
- 2 Mountaintop Road at the entry point. Okay.
- 3 Directly -- directly east of the main door there is
- 4 a topo line there of 430, and at the -- at the
- 5 actual driveway access point, about, excuse me, 433.
- 6 So let's say 433.
- 7 MR. EISDORFER: So the minaret is going
- 8 to extend approximately 42 feet above the height of
- 9 the road?
- 10 MR. FINELLI: Well, let's see. We just
- 11 said 433, correct? And the floor elevation is 417.
- 12 That's a 16-foot difference. So that's
- 13 approximately 30 feet above the crown of the road.
- 14 MR. EISDORFER: Okay. And do you have
- 15 a topo for the -- so for the -- for the property
- 16 line at the farthest -- at the eastern most end of
- 17 the property, can you give me an elevation there?
- 18 MR. FINELLI: It looks like about 416.
- 19 So at the eastern most -- eastern most end of the
- 20 property, the topo is 416. So approximately a foot
- 21 and a half below the datum, the building zero that
- 22 we're referring to originally.
- 23 MR. EISDORFER: So --
- MR. FINELLI: About 49.
- MR. EISDORFER: The minaret would be

- 1 MR. EISDORFER: So I've got prayer
- 2 space.
- 3 MR. FINELLI: So you're referring to
- 4 the dotted lines around the main prayer space?
- 5 MR. EISDORFER: Yes.
- 6 MR. FINELLI: So what we've done is
- 7 very similar to the Redwood Inn. Now, the main
- 8 ballroom space is able to be partitioned off with
- 9 movable partitions.
- 10 So what we're trying to show is we've
- 11 got the primary worship space. The dimensions that
- 12 were given are defined by that principal space, and
- 13 then the dashed lines that you see, for example,
- 14 here and here and even here and here in spaces that
- 15 are not even part of the prayer space are intended
- 16 to explain that there are movable partitions, that
- 17 those spaces may be opened up depending on how many
- 18 people in the same age or group are involved and how
- 19 many we'd like to separate.
- 20 MR. EISDORFER: Okay. So those two
- 21 rooms on the right labelled multi-purpose space,
- 22 they are separated from the main prayer space and
- 23 from each other only by removable accordion walls?
- MR. FINELLI: Not necessarily accordion
- 25 walls, but movable partitions.

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- 1 about 49 feet above that point?
- 2 MR. FINELLI: Correct.
- 3 MR. EISDORFER: Now, the minaret is --
- 4 is that a solid structure?
- 5 MR. FINELLI: There's no interior
- 6 space.
- 7 MR. EISDORFER: Well, is it possible to
- 8 climb up to the top of it?
- 9 MR. FINELLI: It's not intended to be.
- 10 There is no stairs, no ladder, no conveyance.
- 11 MR. EISDORFER: Is there any electrical
- 12 power?
- MR. FINELLI: There would be no reason
- 14 to have electrical power there. No.
- 15 MR. EISDORFER: So you haven't designed
- 16 it for electrical power?
- 17 MR. FINELLI: We have not designed it
- 18 for electrical power. Yes.
- MR. EISDORFER: Now, I want to -- if we
- 20 could pull up the interior layout, now I need your
- 21 help with some of the lines here, and we got solid
- 22 lines and dotted lines. Can you tell me what the
- 23 dotted lines represent?
- 24 MR. FINELLI: Okay. If you give me a
- 25 room name, I can.

- 1 MR. EISDORFER: Movable partitions.
- 2 Fair enough.
- Now, looking to the other side of the
- 4 main prayer space, is -- between the main prayer
- 5 space and the daycare multi-purpose space, is that a
- 6 solid wall or a movable partition?
- 7 MR. FINELLI: It's a movable partition.
- 8 The reason why you're seeing a dashed line and a
- 9 solid line is that -- I think we went through this a
- 10 little bit the first time.
- 11 This portion of the building is at a
- 12 higher elevation. The interior floor is at a higher
- 13 elevation. So what you're seeing there, it's almost
- 14 as if I was drawing this stage. There's a solid
- 15 line and then the movable partition line.
- MR. EISDORFER: So the three rooms
- 17 labeled daycare/multi-purpose space, they're all
- 18 just separated from each other and from the main
- 19 worship space by a movable wall?
- 20 MR. FINELLI: Correct.
- MR. EISDORFER: How about the area
- 22 called women's prayer space?
- MR. FINELLI: The women's prayer space
- 24 is open to the main prayer space. It is separated
- 25 from the space immediately to the north by a movable

1 is 14 spaces.

So without redrawing it right now, the

3 most it would be is, you know, 14 times two is 28,

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4 28 and 28 is 56. So I would have an aisle in the

5 center, an aisle on both sides, an aisle in the

back.

MR. EISDORFER: Is the room designed to

be constructed so that -- so that aisle is

physically enforced?

MR. FINELLI: No. The -- the size --

11 the module that we worked with is based on a very

standard prayer rug, prayer mat dimension. We had

to treat that space and treat the aisles the same

way we'd treat it were it has tables and chairs free

floating within the space.

MR. EISDORFER: But if you have pews, 16

you can't move the pews. The rugs can be put down

any place. People have their own rugs. So does the

19 room physically -- physically enforce the location

of the aisles that you have imagined?

MR. FINELLI: We will. Sure. There

could be marks on the floors the same way there

would be -- as I said, we've done perhaps a dozen

24 houses of worship, and every space that is designed

25 as a multi-purpose space, very typically, that

MR. FINELLI: Yes, we did.

1 partition. So it too can be expanded.

MR. EISDORFER: Now, is it your

7 understanding that the norm of the practice is that

MR. EISDORFER: Now, in calculating the

3 capacity, the prayer space capacity, did you include

the wall be closed during the prayer services

between the women's prayer space and the men's prayer space? 10

MR. FINELLI: No. 11

all of those rooms?

12 MR. EISDORFER: It would be open?

13 MR. FINELLI: Correct.

MR. EISDORFER: Now, I assume that --14

well, now, can you describe in a little more detail 15

how you -- you indicate you laid this out with nine square foot rectangles. Do I have that right?

17 MR. FINELLI: Yes. Correct. 18

MR. EISDORFER: And you laid it out 19

20 with rectangles side-by-side and leaving aisles and

21 fire exits?

22 MR. FINELLI: Correct.

MR. EISDORFER: Do you have a picture 23

that shows how you did that?

MR. FINELLI: I don't have it here now. 25

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1 multi-purpose space would hold a fellowship meal,

2 hold a basketball game or hold a meeting. In those

3 cases, we'll have, as you know, marks on the floor

4 that would show, for example, where the free throw

5 line is.

At the same time, it would show where

7 the fire access line is, and depending on the extent

of clarity that we are either demanded by fire

official or requested by our user, you know, we have

gone as far as having the aisles crosshatched so

that they physically cannot be furnished, you know,

without it really being very, very obvious.

MR. EISDORFER: Obvious, but not 13

14 impossible?

MR. FINELLI: Excuse me? 15

MR. EISDORFER: Obvious, but not 16

17 impossible.

MR. FINELLI: We all presume people are 18

going to follow the rules. That's the basic in

every use of every building. We presume people are 20

going to follow the rules. 21

MR. EISDORFER: I will let you make 22

23 that presumption.

Now, you chose nine feet. Is there a 24

25 national standard that fixes it at nine feet?

MR. EISDORFER: Did you actually make a 1

2 picture?

MR. FINELLI: Oh, yes. 3

MR. EISDORFER: And how many rows of prayer space did you have?

MR. FINELLI: I forget.

MR. EISDORFER: Let me just understand

8 how you did it. So your rectangle was two and a 9 half by four?

MR. FINELLI: Two by four and a half. 10

MR. EISDORFER: Two by four and a half. 11

12 So you essentially created --

MR. FINELLI: Essentially created a 13

grid, divided the space up into a two foot by four

and a half grid, and I can fill that whole space.

Once I fill that space, I have to allow minimum

corridor width aisles that get me from any space in that room to at least two means of egress. 18

MR. EISDORFER: And how many aisles did 19 you have? 20

MR. FINELLI: Well, let's see. We have 21

22 a means of egress here and we have a means of egress

23 here. The space is 50 feet and a half inches wide. The most that I can -- the most that I can create in 25 a single space before I have to introduce an aisle

(5) Pages 17 - 20

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- MR. FINELLI: Did you say a national 2 standard?
- MR. EISDORFER: A national standard. 3
- MR. FINELLI: A national standard. 4
- 5 MR. EISDORFER: Yeah.
- 6 MR. FINELLI: Not that I'm aware of,
- 7 no.
- MR. EISDORFER: Is there some religious 8
- standard that prescribes it at nine feet? 9
- MR. FINELLI: Anybody could open up 10
- 11 their smart phone and Google prayer matt and you
- will see a preponderance of two by four and a half
- feet to two foot three inches by four feet. That is
- 14 by default the standard dimension.
- MR. EISDORFER: And how did you 15
- determine that? Did you look it up on your iPhone? 16
- MR. FINELLI: No, I didn't look it up 17
- 18 on my iPhone.
- 19 MR. EISDORFER: How did you determine
- 20
- MR. FINELLI: I looked up in various 21
- publications that show furniture and furnishings for 22
- 23 houses of worship, furniture and furnishings for
- houses of worship, for Islamic houses of worship,
- 25 and then I followed it up with research with vendors

- MR, EISDORFER: Okay. I will -- if
- your architectural expertise prevails over his
- religious expertise, we have to honor that.
- MR, FINELLI: Let me explain. The
- other thing that you count when you're looking at
- gross square footage, gross square footage, it can
- be a red herring in these discussions, because in a
- 8 room of this size, you know, we're not taking into
- account the aisle widths.
- So I'm not sure if his testimony -- and 10
- 11 I heard you, but I don't know if either he was
- 12 specific or the question given to him was specific,
- whether he was talking about net square footage or
- gross square footage. So it's very difficult to
- qualify that answer. 15
- I'm qualifying my answer by explaining 16
- 17 that, in addition to the actual prayer mat, we have
- to account for means of egress.
- MR. EISDORFER: Now, let's suppose --19
- let's suppose that the standard was eight. How
- would that change your calculations?
- MR. FINELLI: I'm not supposing 22
- 23 anything.
- MR. EISDORFER: I'm asking you to 24
- 25 suppose.

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- MR. FINELLI: Well, I think it's a
- 2 misleading question.
- MR. EISDORFER: Well, answer it anyway.
- Your attorney can explain how it's a misleading
- question, but let's suppose the standard was eight,
- not nine.
- MR, FINELLI: Why don't we suppose the 7
- standard is four?
- MR. EISDORFER: Because your client 9
- 10 testified to eight. So don't change -- don't make
- 11 me chase you around.
- You can treat it as a hypothetical 12
- 13 question, but let's suppose the standard was eight,
- 14 not nine. How would that change your calculations?
- MR. FINELLI: Well, I still have a 15
- 16 maximum of 14 spaces before I have to create an
- aisle. So let's take the same 14 times two is still
- 28. Twenty-eight and 28 is still 56. I'm still
- going to be required to have three aisles, an aisle
- at either end and an aisle down the center. 20
- Now, in the front to back direction I 21
- 22 believe we have 50 feet. I have an aisle across the
- 23 back of four feet. So I've got 56 feet. Fifty-six
- 24 divided by four is 13. So I would have 13 -- 13 by
- 25 14 times two. So I don't know if that's more or

1 that sell specifically the prayer mats.

- MR. EISDORFER: Did your client give
- 3 you instructions on this?
- MR. FINELLI: No.
- MR. EISDORFER: Are you aware your
- 6 client presented testimony on this subject two years
- 7 ago?
- MR. FINELLI: Well, I believe we're 8
- starting from scratch. 9
- MR. EISDORFER: That's right, but it 10
- 11 was sworn testimony that was given before this
- 12 board. So let me read you the testimony of Imam
- 13 Tayeb who said, as rule of thumb for any mosque ---
- 14 I'm reading from page 138 of the transcript.
- It says, as a rule of thumb for any 15
- 16 mosque, eight square feet per person. So if it's
- 17 8,000 square feet divided by eight, then you get a
- 18 thousand. Now, did -- did you -- is that the
- 19 information your client gave you?
- MR. FINELLI: No. I would disagree 20
- with him. Okay. 21
- 22 MR. EISDORFER: Okay. So you think
- 23 that you're right and he is wrong?
- MR. FINELLI: In all honesty, I know 24
- 25 that I'm right.

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- 1 less of what we had there in the first place.
- 2 MR. EISDORFER: And you'd do the same
- 3 calculation if we opened up all the curtain rooms as
- 4 well?
- 5 MR. FINELLI: We would, but, again, you
- 6 know, if we take -- if we simply take square
- 7 footage -- I'm not trying to be glib. If we simply
- 8 take square footage, we're just going to do the math
- 9 and say, you know, X divided by eight equals Y, but
- 10 the orientation of the room -- what do I do if I
- 11 have a 13-foot room?.
- 12 I've got -- I have a foot left over or
- 13 I've got to take a corridor out, and I can only fit
- 14 three of these mats in. So it's not an exercise in
- 15 simple math. It really has to be laid out.
- 16 MR. EISDORFER: Okay. So now let me
- 17 understand the way this building is going to be
- 18 used. So you have -- we have a prayer area and then
- 19 we have other rooms. Can activities go on in those
- 20 other rooms simultaneously with the prayers?
- 21 MR. FINELLI: What type of activities?
- 22 MR. EISDORFER: What other type of
- 23 activities are envisioned in the buildings? You've
- 24 got all these other rooms.
- MR. FINELLI: Well, we talked yesterday

- 1 Can these rooms be used simultaneously 2 with the prayer space?
- 3 MR. FINELLI: They can be physically
- 4 occupied at the same time.
- 5 MR. EISDORFER: And if the daycare
- 6 center is in operation in business hours, it
- 7 certainly will be occupied at the same time as the
- 8 Jumu'ah, the Friday afternoon sermon?
- 9 MR, FINELLI: I don't think we said
- 10 anything other than that, yes.
- 11 MR, EISDORFER: And the other rooms
- 12 could also be occupied simultaneously?
- 13 MR. FINELLI: Correct.
- MR. EISDORFER: For whatever use they
- 15 might be put to?
- MR. FINELLI: Yes, but as we mentioned
- 17 yesterday, the most intense use of any of those
- 18 spaces matches our occupancy at the numbers given
- 19 yesterday.
- MR. EISDORFER: Now, I'm not sure --
- 21 now, I'm not sure I understand what you're saying.
- 22 Did you assume that those rooms would be occupied at
- 23 the same time as --
- MR. FINELLI: What I'm saying is a
- 25 multi-purpose room of the uses that we have used in

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- 1 about the daycare. The daycare spaces would not be
- 2 used -- they would not be open to the prayer space
- 3 during prayer space times. So the daycare is
- 4 clearly a business hour operation.
- 5 Other functions that would occur within
- 6 the space that are open to the public, whether it
- 7 happens to be a social meeting, a health screening,
- 8 a business meeting that the congregation itself is
- 9 having, would occur in -- it could certainly occur
- 10 in one of these -- one of these other rooms that is
- 11 not adjacent to the prayer space.
- MR. EISDORFER: So some or all of them
- 13 could be in use simultaneously?
- MS. TUBMAN: I have another witness
- 15 that will testify to use of the building. It's not
- 16 architecture. It's function of the building.
- 17 MR. EISDORFER: Well, he designed --
- 18 I'm trying to understand what the capacity of the
- 19 building is. You can tell me they're not going to
- 20 use all the capacity, and that's fine.
- MS. TUBMAN: I have a witness who will
- 22 testify the rest of the building is not in use
- 23 during prayer services.
- MR. EISDORFER: He'll testify to that,
- 25 but I'm interested in the architect.

- 1 our program for this building is either a daycare
- 2 space, it is a general meeting space or it is prayer
- 3 space.
- The square foot per person occupancy is
- 5 never more intense than as a prayer space. It is
- 6 less intense as a daycare space, therefore, less
- 7 occupants, and it is less intense as an office or a
- 8 meeting room. So if we're looking at the most
- 9 intense use of the bidding in any fashion, it is
- 10 when those spaces are used for prayer space.
- MR. EISDORFER: But the room is
- 12 contiguous to the main prayer space, but I'm
- 13 interested in the rooms on the other side of the
- 14 hall. You have a whole array of rooms, one, two,
- 15 three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, 10, 11,
- 16 on the other side of the hall which are not
- 17 contiguous of the prayer space, and could that be
- 18 occupied at the same time of the prayer space?
- MR. FINELLI: No. I think you were
- 20 talking about the prayer spaces. Multi-purpose
- 21 spaces, no, they will not be used simultaneously.
- MR. EISDORFER: Is there anything in
- 23 the architecture that prohibits that?
- 24 MR. FINELLI: Nothing in the
- 25 architecture that prohibits it. No.

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- MR. EISDORFER: But you're saying the
- 2 intent may not be to use that space, but it's
- 3 available for use?
- 4 MR. FINELLI: It's architecturally
- 5 available just means I can get into the space, but
- 6 by program, by management, the answer is no.
- MR. EISDORFER: That's just intent, but
- 8 I want to know what, you know, if they decided that
- 9 they wanted to use that space? They could.
- Have you done a calculation what the
- 11 occupancy would be if all those spaces were being
- 12 used simultaneously?
- 13 MR. FINELLI: I'm repeating myself. I
- 14 apologize to everybody else for this. The single --
- 15 the most intense use of the facility is where we're
- 16 using all the multi-purpose space and prayer space
- 17 as worship space.
- 18 MR. EISDORFER: And none of the other
- 19 rooms?
- 20 MR. FINELLI: And the other rooms are
- 21 not used at the same time, correct.
- 22 MR. EISDORFER: So you haven't
- 23 calculated what the capacity would be if all those
- 24 rooms were in use at the same time? This is just a
- 25 yes or no question.

- 1 rooms, couldn't you?
- 2 MR. FINELLI: I don't see why not.
- MR. EISDORFER: Okay. And, in fact, in
- 4 our country, the audio, sometimes the video is
- 5 actually streamed to the outer doors and people do
- 6 so out of doors while in response to the Imaman
- 7 mosque. Isn't that true?
  - MR. FINELLI: I imagine in non-Arab
- 9 countries the same thing happens. Yes.
- 10 MR. EISDORFER: Does this building have
- 11 a basement?
- MR. FINELLI: There's a partial
- 13 basement under this portion of the building. You
- 14 see the staircase descends in that direction. There
- 15 is a partial basement under here that we would
- 16 anticipate filling as part of the construction.
- MR. EISDORFER: Would you fill in that
- 18 basement?
- 19 MR. FINELLI: Yes.
- 20 MR. EISDORFER: And where would your
- 21 heating system go?
- MR. FINELLI: Rooftop units. Rooftop
- 23 units.
- 24 MR. EISDORFER: Okay. I have no
- 25 further questions.

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- 1 MR. FINELLI: We have not because they
- 2 will not be in use at the same time.
- 3 MR. EISDORFER: I understand that
- 4 explanation. But the answer is, no, you haven't
- 5 done that calculation?
- 6 MR. FINELLI: Again, we haven't done
- 7 the calculation because they will not be used
- 8 simultaneously.
- 9 MR. EISDORFER: I understand the
- 10 reason. I'm trying to understand what you've done,
- 11 not the rationale for it.
- Now, those rooms all have -- all have
- 13 electricity. Yes? I'm talking about the rooms on
- 14 the other side of the hall, to the left of the hall.
- MR. FINELLI: Yes, they will have.
- 16 MR. EISDORFER: They all have
- 17 electricity, and one could stream sound and video
- 18 into those rooms, couldn't one?
- 19 MR. FINELLI: I imagine they could.
- 20 Sure.
- MR. EISDORFER: Sure. I'll bet in this
- 22 high school there are a thousand students who would
- 23 know how to set that up.
- So, potentially, you could stream audio
- 25 and video from the main prayer space into those

- 1 MR. FRANCO: May I ask a question?
- 2 Quick question. Mr. Finelli, the occupancy load you
- 3 gave yesterday of 437, that will be a posted
- 4 occupancy, correct?
- 5 MR. FINELLI: Correct.
- 6 MR. FRANCO: If you exceed that, you're
- 7 in violation. Is that correct?
- 8 MR. FINELLI: That's correct.
- 9 MR. FRANCO: For the building, for the
- 10 entire building?
- 11 MR. FINELLI: That is correct.
- MR. MC NAMARA: Good evening. Pat Mc
- 13 Namara from the law firm of Scarinci Hollenbeck.
- 14 I'm here on behalf of Mr. and Mrs. Rinaldi. I
- 15 promise I won't ask you any questions about
- 16 topography.
- MR. FINELLI: Mr. Bogart's going to
- 18 have issue with me pretty soon I'm afraid.
- 19 MR. MC NAMARA: I'll leave that to
- 20 everybody else. A couple questions.
- The corner of the building where the
- 22 minaret is located, is that pre-existing because
- 23 some of that is in the transition area that's been
- 24 delineated with the wetlands letter of
- 25 interpretation?

- 1 space should be a hard wall that's fire rated,
- MR. FINELLI: We are not expanding the building footprint at all. The only addition to the
- 3 build -- the canopy is new, but the building
- 4 footprint is the exact building footprint that's
- there prior.
- MR, MC NAMARA: The testimony
- yesterday, there's some discussion about some
- security lighting from your prior witness. If you
- could just go back, if you know where it is, where
- 10 it's located -- where it's located, and how it would
- 11 be shielded in a manner so it would not be bothering
- the neighboring residents?
- MR. FINELLI: Sure. The canopy 1.3
- encircles the entire building, and that canopy is
- about 16 feet -- I'll check with you eventually, but
- that canopy is 16 feet. I believe -- under the
- ceiling underside is 12 feet.
- So the lights that you're talking about 18
- are high hats, very similar to the high hats here,
- recessed ceiling light fixture. So there is no
- exposed lamp that would go other than straight down.
- We have -- we have the same standard, the same one
- 23 half foot candle standard to conform with safety
- lighting for all the pedestrian surfaces.
- Those fixtures that will remain on as

- because they're different use categories under the
- International Building Code?
- MR. FINELLI: Right. We have options
- when it comes to classifying the use group of the
- building. We have an option to separate the uses or
- to look at the -- not the most stringent
- requirement, and treat the whole building as such.
- So, in this case, we would look at the
- entire building as an A4 use which is religious
- worship and treat the whole building in that manner.
- MR, MC NAMARA: So you don't have to
- subclassify out as an I4 all daycare rooms that are
- labeled on both sides of that corridor?
- MR. FINELLI: Correct. So then what
- we're charged with doing is saying the entire
- building is now -- take the strictest of those
- various use groups. So that we have -- we have
- really religious worship, and we have -- and we have
- the institutional use, the I4. So we look at those
- 21 two.
- MR. MC NAMARA: Is that exception only 22
- limited to when an actual worship service is being
- conducted as opposed to the other six days and
- however many hours of the week?

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- 1 part of the security will be the ones adjacent to
- 2 our points of entry. So they would be here, here,
- 3 here, back door, these. So every place you see a
- 4 door to the outside.
- MR. MC NAMARA: So that's about eleven
- locations? 6
- MR. FINELLI: I think there's 10, but 7
- 8
- MR. MC NAMARA: Is that lighting going 9
- to be recessed underneath the portico or overhang
- around the perimeter of the building?
- MR. FINELLI: Correct. It is ceiling 12
- 13 light only under the canopy. Nothing mounted on the
- 14 facade of the building.
- MR. MC NAMARA: Okay. A couple 15
- 16 questions regarding the area to the left of the
- worship space where it's labeled daycare
- 18 multi-purpose. That wall that runs I guess north to
- 19 south, that separates the three of them. That's a
- 20 movable partition, correct?
- MR. FINELLI: Correct. 21
- MR. MC NAMARA: Is there a requirement 22
- under either International Building Code or fire
- code that because those rooms are being used for
- 25 daycare that the wall separated from the prayer

- MR. FINELLI: It's not an exemption.
- It's required by the design professional to state
- the use group of the building and then to run that
- through the whole permit protocol.
- So we'll look at the total square
- footage of the building, what's allowed for A4 use,
- what the fire grading has to be, what the fire
- protection has to be and the various structural
- elements, and we'll compare that to the option of
- separating the uses, and if we separated the uses,
- then you would have a rated partition between the
- 12
- MR. MC NAMARA: You'd have to have a 13
- 14 movable partition?
- MR, FINELLI: I think it was rated for 15
- one hour. I don't know if it's one or two. It
- would have to match the rating that the building
- code requires.
- MR. MC NAMARA: Okay. Would the same 19
- be true for the access points into those rooms?
- Some of them only have one door, and I think for
- daycare you may be required to have two access
- points. 23 MR. FINELLI: Based on the occupancy 24
- 25 letter, none of those rooms are that big, but when

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- 1 we're looking at a space, you know, where we have
- 2 movable partition, we have two points, two points.
- 3 This one has access -- it's two points here. So
- 4 where we have a space that's large enough to exceed
- 5 that threshold occupancy, we have two means of
- 6 egress.
- 7 MR. MC NAMARA: And the entire building
- 8 will be sprinklered and have carbon monox alarms in
- 9 it as well?
- MR. FINELLI: We haven't determined yet
- 11 how we're going to really classify the use. If
- 12 it's -- if we separate the uses, the worship space
- 13 is not large enough for it to be required to be
- 14 suppressed. So we'll cross that bridge when we get
- 15 there.
- MR. MC NAMARA: What would be the
- 17 minimum square footage threshold to require
- 18 suppression?
- MR. FINELLI: Ten thousand square feet
- 20 or -- 10,000 square feet.
- 21 MR. MC NAMARA: Is that the
- 22 International Fire Code or New Jersey standard?
- MR. FINELLI: Yes, that's the
- 24 International Building Code.
- MR. MC NAMARA: The math you computed

- 1 occupancy is and post it, as the question was a few
- 2 moments ago, that becomes the maximum occupancy
- 3 regardless whether it's religious worship or
- 4 nonreligious worship.
- MR. MC NAMARA: Because to follow-up on
- 6 a concern that Steve expressed earlier, if you have
- 7 other events during the week where daycare rooms are
- 8 being used, the other rooms, whether it's the
- 9 library, the senior services are being used, and you
- 10 had several hundred people attend a nonreligious
- 11 event or other event, seminar, whatever you want to
- 12 call it, and you made use of the worship space,
- 13 would you then have an issue about having adequate
- 14 parking because you've got a different mix of people
- 15 and a different time of day than what you've
- 16 programmed for religious service during holy worship
- 17 on Friday?
- 18 MR. FINELLI: Again, we'll go back to
- 19 the posted occupancy limit. So I would say,
- 20 regardless of what the function is, the maximum
- 21 occupancy is posted in that building.
- MR. MC NAMARA: Well, maybe let me
- 23 rephrase the question. You said a maximum
- 24 occupancy. Is that for just the worship space or
- 25 you're saying for everything within the entire

1 footprint of the building?

- 2 MR. FINELLI: That is the maximum
- 3 occupancy in the building.
- 4 MR. MC NAMARA: Okay. I have no
- 5 further questions at this time, Madam Chair.
- 6 CHAIRPERSON KANE: Thank you.
- 7 MR. SCHWARTZ: Milton Schwartz,
- 8 S-C-H-W-A-R-T-Z.
- 9 MR. COLLINS: Sir, please raise your
- 10 right hand. Do you swear or affirm to tell the
- 11 truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth so
- 12 help you God?
- MR. SCHWARTZ: So help me God.
- MR. COLLINS: What is your address?
- 15 MR. SCHWARTZ: 1521 Mountaintop Road.
- 16 Yesterday when you described your
- 17 designing of the architectural elements, you said
- 18 that those elements were designed by your sense of
- 19 the use of the space. Am I correct in that.
- 20 MR. FINELLI: Yes.
- 21 MR. SCHWARTZ: My question comes to the
- 22 heighth of the dome, the heighth of the minaret. So
- 23 they are not fixed by any religious precept. They
- 24 were determined by you in your artistic capacity as
- 25 an architect. Is that correct?

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1 yesterday, I think you had it at 437 total

- 2 occupants, am I correct, or was it 457 for all of
- 3 the worship spaces assuming you used the -- you
- 4 removed the partitions?
- 5 MR. FINELLI: I think it's 437.
- 6 MR. MC NAMARA: Four thirty-seven. All
- 7 right. And under IBC, if you had a vacant assembly
- 8 space, would the number that could be computed be
- 9 based on one person for five square feet as opposed
- 10 to nine?
- 11 MR. FINELLI: Based on how we're going
- 12 to furnish that space. If it's essentially standing
- 13 alone, no fixed furniture, one per three square feet
- 14 standing.
- MR. MC NAMARA: If you were to hold a
- 16 nonworship service in that area, what would be the
- 17 potential capacity in terms of this being occupied
- 18 by people to come to any other type of nonreligious,
- 19 nondenominational kind of function?
- 20 MR. FINELLI: It's the same as if it's
- 21 a worship space. If you're saying we're going to
- 22 have an open space with no furniture, it's the
- 23 same -- it's the same limitation as the prayer mat
- 24 that would be used, and once we post -- once we post
- 25 the occupancy, once we establish what the maximum

- MR. FINELLI: That's correct. 1
- 2 MR. SCHWARTZ: So they're not fixed in
- any religious aspect? 3
- MR. FINELLI: Correct. 4
- MR. SCHWARTZ: The interior of the 5
- minaret will have no utilities?
- MR. FINELLI: Will have? 7
- MR. SCHWARTZ: No electricity. 8
- MR. FINELLI: No occupancy. 9
- MR. SCHWARTZ: Is there provision to 10
- light the minaret? 11
- MR. FINELLI: No. 1.2
- MR. SCHWARTZ: From the exterior? 13
- MR. FINELLI: No. 14
- MR. SCHWARTZ: There is none? 15
- MR. FINELLI: Correct. 1.6
- MR. SCHWARTZ: Is there provision to 17
- light the dome from the exterior? 18
- MR. FINELLI: No. 19
- MR. SCHWARTZ: Thanks. 20
- MR. FINELLI: You're welcome. 21
- MR. MOENCH: May I ask a quick 22
- question? 23
- CHAIRPERSON KANE: Sure. 24
- MR. MOENCH: Sir, you're going to have 25

- 1 the truth so help you God?
- MR. MOSTAFA: Yes, I do.
- MR. COLLINS: Please state your name.
- MR. MOSTAFA: Hany Mostafa. The last
- name spelled M-O-S-T-A-F-A. I have one quick
- question, and I'll --
- AUDIENCE MEMBER: Address.
- MR. MOSTAFA: Address. I'm sorry. 8
- It's 3605 Riddle Court in Bridgewater.
- You have mentioned yesterday that you
- have designed approximate like a dozen of other
- worship places, and what was the tallest point of
- the ones that you designed? Like does it go beyond
- the 47.5 or --14
- MR. FINELLI: You know, 35 to 40, in 15
- the 40-foot range. 16
- MR. MOSTAFA: In the 40 foot? 17
- MR. FINELLI: Yeah. 18
- MR. MOSTAFA: Is there a specific rule 19
- or regulation that prevents going above specific 20
- 21 height?
- MR. FINELLI: You're talking about this 22
- particular case? 23
- MR. MOSTAFA: In this particular case 24
- 25 or maybe in the township. I'm not aware. That's

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- 1 to forgive me because I'm going to ask a question
- 2 that you've been asked several times before, and I
- 3 don't mean to sound dense, but I'm going to ask it
- 4 anyway.
- Last night I asked you -- you gave me
- 6 three numbers which totaled the 437 number that
- 7 we've been talking about. The first number you gave
- 8 me was 250 as the occupancy.
- Can you identify for me what part or
- 10 what room or rooms you were talking about when you
- 11 said the 250 number?
- MR. FINELLI: Sure. The main worship 12
- 13 space was 220 persons.
- MR, MOENCH: And then --14
- MR. FINELLI: Then the 30 was the main 15
- 16 worship space at the women's area. So that was the
- 17 250 total, and then if I opened up the multi-purpose
- 18 spaces here, I could add 97, and if I opened up the
- 19 multi-purposes spaces here, I could add 90.
- MR. MOENCH: Okay. Thank you. I 20
- 21 apologize for that question again.
- MR. FINELLI: No problem. 22
- MR. MOSTAFA: Ready. 23
- MR. COLLINS: Sir, do you swear/affirm 24
- 25 to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but

- 1 why I'm just ---
- MR. FINELLI: The ordinance is 35 and a
- 3 half feet, two stories, but there is an exception
- 4 for these very elements we're talking about.
- MR. MOSTAFA: So there is an exception?
- MR. FINELLI: There is virtually no
- 7 restriction.
- MR. MOSTAFA: There is virtually --8
- okay. 9
- And the other question that I have is
- 11 you mentioned that you did not change the design of
- 12 the facility.
- MR. FINELLI: The footprint. 13
- MR. MOSTAFA: The footprint of the 14
- 15 facility. What was the maximum capacity for the
- 16 facility when it was designed to be a hotel?
- MR. FINELLI: I'm not aware of that. 17
- MR. MOSTAFA: So it doesn't show
- 19 anywhere -- I'm trying to figure are we changing the
- 20 number or that was the number that was the facility
- built for based on the application that was
- 22 submitted to the board for the hotel or that's not
- information that's available?
- MR. FINELLI: The building -- at the
- 25 time that we started, a portion of the building was

- 2 building couldn't be used for anything. You know,
- 3 there were -- it was cut up in a different way. I'm
- 4 really not sure what the seating capacity was.

1 really unoccupiable. This whole portion of the

- 5 There's huge, huge preparation kitchen. So it
- 6 doesn't really relate to our use.
- MR. MOSTAFA: But I'm true, when they
- 8 designed it, they had in mind maximum capacity that
- was designed for it?
- MR. FINELLI: I'm sure.
- MR. MOSTAFA: My last question is 11
- 12 regarding the 437 numbers that you quoted. Is that
- 13 437 number -- and I apologize for the ignorance,
- 14 because I don't know. Is that at any specific point
- or is it during the day or is it during the week?
- MR. FINELLI: It's just a calculation 16
- establishing what is the greatest number of people
- that can occupy the building.
- MR. MOSTAFA: So I can, essentially, 19
- 20 have like a thousand people during the day, 400 at a
- 21 time?

1 rules.

- MR. FINELLI: Yes. At any one given 22
- time, the building can only house 437 people. 23
- MR. MOSTAFA: I just want to know. My 24
- 25 understanding. I apologize. I don't know the

- 1 oath, and please state your name again.
- MR. LU: William Lu in Bridgewater, New
- 3 Jersey. And I'm not architect. So if I don't ask

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- 4 right question, please --
- MR. FINELLI: That's okay.
- MR. LU: First of all, I didn't catch
- your name. So what's your name?
- MR. FINELLI: Ralph. 8
- MR. LU: Last name? 9
- MR. FINELLI: Finelli. 10
- MR. LU: How do you spell that? 11
- MR. FINELLI: F-I-N-E-L-L-I. 1.2
- MR. LU: Last night you mentioned 13
- something about your background. 14
- MR. FINELLI: My? 15
- MR. LU: Your background. 16
- MR. FINELLI: My background, yes. 17
- MR. LU: I don't believe you say you 18
- have designed any mosque before. 19
- MR. FINELLI: I have not. This is the 20
- first mosque I have designed, yes, but I've designed 21
- about a dozen houses of worship. Yes.
- MR. LU: What kind of house of worship 23
- 24 have you done?
- MR. FINELLI: As I said last night, 25

1 about half of those were Roman Catholic churches.

- 2 The other half were Christian churches.
- MR. LU: Do you do any type of other
- commercial, residential?
- MR. FINELLI: I do both. I'll give you 5
- a card before you leave.
- MR. LU: Perfect. Now, if I were the
- person purchasing this property, I want to build
- 4,000 square foot house one acre each. How many
- 10 houses can I build on this particular parcel?
- MR. FINELLI: Well, it's sort of a --
- 12 I'm sure you know this, but the property already
- 13 went through a subdivision process years before my
- client purchased this. So I believe, and probably
- 15 somebody on the board could answer it more
- 16 correctly, it's either five lots -- five lots -- was
- 17 a five lot subdivision.
- MR. LU: Okay. Since you never built a
- 19 mosque before, how did your client select you rather
- 20 than other firms?
- MR. FINELLI: It is my charming
- 22 personality. I have worked for -- I had worked for
- 23 one of the principals on a commercial office
- 24 expansion. So I had a nice relationship with him.
- 25 We had a very successful project. We talked about

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- The 437 means at any specific point I
- cannot have 438 people occupying the building?
- MR. FINELLI: Correct.
- MR. MOSTAFA: Correct? 5
- 6 MR. FINELLI: Correct.
- MR. MOSTAFA: I have no further 7
- questions. Thank you.
- MR. FINELLI: If I can address one
- 10 number -- I forget Patrick's last name. So I
- 11 apologize.
- MR. MC NAMARA: Mc Namara. 12
- 13 MR. FINELLI: The assembly uses are 15
- 14 square feet net for tables and chairs, seven square
- 15 feet net for chairs and five square feet net for
- 16 standing room only. I believe I said three. I was
- 17 mistaken.
- CHAIRPERSON KANE: Is there anyone else
- 19 who wishes to address the board? If you would
- 20 please come and sit up front so we'll know. Thank
- MR. COLLINS: Sir, were you sworn last 22
- 23 night?

21 you.

- MR. LU: Yes, I did. 24
- MR. COLLINS: Sir, you're still under

began work.

architect. Am I correct?

guess I'm missing the question.

7 me.

12

13

14

22

15 like this one.

1 designing this. We visited about a half a dozen

MR. LU: Okay. So he did not look for

other architecture firms. He just trusted you?

MR. LU: And for architecture design,

MR. FINELLI: He may have, but he hired

it's kind of hard like, as far as I understand, and

MR. FINELLI: You're talking about -- I

MR. LU: Designing any kind of building

MR. FINELLI: You know, I'm not sure

what you do, but it's easy for me. So, you know, I

18 think we all do what seems to come naturally to us,

19 but, you know, the design process is one where I

20 listen. I do a lot of listening. I do a lot of

21 looking. We visited quite a few facilities. The use group itself, the use, the

23 worship, I mean, quite frankly, the Catholic

25 program is nearly identical. The core of the

also expression of the homeowner and perhaps the

2 mosques throughout northern New Jersey and then we

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- 1 standards. The 3D modeling is more of a design
- tool. I use it as more of a design tool. When it
- comes to a presentation, we can incorporate the
- surroundings.
- In times past, we've taken these models
- that we draw, we can insert them into a photograph
- so you can see the background.
- MR. LU: This picture I don't see any
- background. It kind of confused me. Now, there's
- no -- it looks like it's up in the air in heaven.
- 11 There's no actual -- it's not realistic. Where the
- houses, the neighboring houses?
- MR. FINELLI: Well, from that 13
- perspective, you wouldn't see any houses.
- MR. LU: Really. 15
- MR. FINELLI: Can we go back to the 16
- site plan a second? That perspective is -- that 17
- 18 perspective is taken pretty much from the driveway
- apron looking down at the building, and so it's
- taken from this vantage point looking in this
- direction and looking in that direction.
- The background of that building is --
- are all the woods that we discussed last night. So
- there's -- there's very little visible behind the
- 25 building from that perspective.

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- 1 building, the core of the use, the core of the
- 2 congregation is worship. That's it. It's a
- 3 relationship between God and man. That is the core

24 churches, the Christian churches and the mosque, the

- use. The rest of it is service.
- So it's very easy to understand the
- 6 program, and now we have to wrap that program in
- something. In this case, we have a building that
- was pre-existing. We had a footprint, and I
- described briefly yesterday what parts of that
- existing building were important, what I felt was
- valuable to the program, and those we -- you know,
- we used those as highlights. We built upon those.
- We didn't knock it down and start from scratch. 13
- In any renovation, myself, personally, 14
- I feel that I'll work with the language that the
- building gives me. So in this case, I worked with
- the language the building gave me, and I 17
- supplemented that with the language that the 18
- building ought to have as a house of worship. 19
- MR. LU: Is it intended to have the 20
- drawing, the diagram, picture, whatever you call 21
- that -- I'm sorry. I don't see any background
- materials, like residential houses behind it. Is
- that standard? You just hide whatever --24
- MR. FINELLI: There's really no

- MR. LU: Okay. Now, when was the first
  - time your client discussed about building this
  - mosque with you?
  - MR. FINELLI: Oh, let's see. We were
  - here in January of 2011. So the previous summer.
  - MR. LU: Okay. And at that time, he
  - has not purchased the property, right?
  - MR. FINELLI: I'm not sure when the
  - actual closing occurring.
  - MR. LU: And the meeting -- we had a
  - planning board meeting in 2011, and there's
  - opposition. This property -- but the house -- the
  - property was closed on February -- April --13
  - MS. TUBMAN: I'm sorry. 14
  - MR. LU: -- 2012. 15
  - MS. TUBMAN: The questions really, 16
  - 17 Madam Chair, should be addressed to the architecture
  - 18
  - MR. LU: Yes, I'm leading to that.
  - Okay. Now, in your communication with your client,
  - when you start the planning brainstorms, whatever
  - it's called, what did he tell you? What's his idea

  - of this building? What he want it look like and 23
  - what's the --
  - MR. FINELLI: Well, that's why somebody

- MR. LU: Uh-hmm. 1
- 2 MR, FINELLI: Build the building.
- MR. LU: Build the building? 3
- MR. FINELLI: Yeah. 4
- MR. LU: Okay. So, now, yesterday you
- mentioned you visit several mosques?
- 7 MR. FINELLI: Yes.
- MR. LU: How many? 8
- MR. FINELLI: Let's see. Teaneck,
- 10 South Brunswick, Boonton, Montclair, Verona and one

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- 11 in Pennsylvania. I forget the town. At least those
- 12 six, perhaps a seventh.
- MR. LU: Six. Okay. Are they the same 13
- 14 size, bigger, smaller, compared to this one?
- MR. FINELLI: All different sizes.
- 16 Boonton is a four-, maybe five-story building.
- 17 Verona was a renovated Catholic church. Actually,
- 18 that was Montclair. Verona was a renovated temple
- probably about the same size. Teaneck was the only
- building -- of the ones that I visited, Teaneck and
- 21 South Brunswick, Teaneck was probably a little bit
- 22 smaller. The South Brunswick facility is many times
- 23 larger.
- MR. LU: Are any of those situated in 24
- 25 residential, in the middle of residential?

6 perspective, from an esthetic perspective?

2 to look like, then you'd design it.

MR. LU: No. From his philosophy, his

MR. FINELLI: From a design

4 of input?

- MR. FINELLI: Philosophy, we know what
- 10 the program is. That's what the -- you know, what

1 hires an architect. If you knew what you wanted it

MR. LU: He doesn't give you any kind

- 11 the owner, what the client, what the user is
- 12 responsible for.
- What I always ask my clients is to tell 13
- 14 me what you want, bigger, smaller. Tell me what you
- want. Tell me how you want it to feel. Tell me
- what you want to get out of this space we're
- creating. I'll tell you how to get there. That's
- my job. You will tell me what you want.
- MR. LU: On that min -- called minaret 19
- 20 or something?
- MR. FINELLI: Yes. 21
- MR. LU: Is there anything in there? 22
- MR. FINELLI: No. 23
- MR. LU: Is it hollow or solid? 24
- MR. FINELLI: Well, we have to design 25

- MR. FINELLI: Let's see. Teaneck is.
- The South Brunswick one is along Route 1. Boonton
- 3 is right in town surrounded by residences.
- MR. LU: In town?
- MR. FINELLI: Well, I don't know if
- 6 you're familiar with Boonton, but it's not very
- cosmopolitan. Let's just put it that way. The
- Verona is in a residential area. Montclair is in a
- 9 residential area. The Pennsylvania is in a
- 10 residential area, and Teaneck is in a residential
- 11 area.
- MR. LU: In a residential area. How 12
- 13 big are they in the residential area? What's the
- occupancy?
- MR. FINELLI: What size is what? I'm 15
- 16 sorry.
- 17 MR. LU: What size is the building?
- MR. FINELLI: Buildings. They sort of 18
- 19 run the gamut. Perhaps the smallest one was
- probably six or 7,000 square feet, and the
- 21 largest -- we'll forget about South Brunswick
- 22 because it is along Route 1. The largest was
- probably -- the Boonton one is larger than this
- 24 facility. MR. LU: Okay. How wide are the

- 1 how we're going to build it, but it's probably going 2 to be hollow.
- MR. LU: Okay. Is there a bell or
- 4 speaker?
- MR. FINELLI: The minaret is a
- 6 sculptural part of the building. There is no
- 7 function. There's no electronic. There's now sound
- coming from there. There is none of that proposed.
- MR. LU: Did you discuss with your
- 10 client the height of the minaret?
- MR. FINELLI: Certainly. 11
- MR. LU: And what -- how tall does he 12
- want you to build it? 13
- MR. FINELLI: He never told me how tall 14
- to build it. 15
- MR. LU: Okay. So you had initial 16
- contact with him before 2011. And when did you
- actually sign a contract to do the study and were
- you involved in the 2011? 19
- MR. FINELLI: Yes, I've been on the 20
- 21 board since it started.
- MR, LU: And since there were 22
- 23 oppositions, what advice did you give to your
- client?
- MR. FINELLI: Architecturally?

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10 of them.

12 prayer?

1 streets next to the building?

MR. FINELLI: Yes.

MR. FINELLI: They're regular streets.

MR. LU: Same kind as the one here?

MR. LU: I'm just trying to get some

you attend any kind of the prayer or --

6 pictures of different type of mosque on the site.

MR. FINELLI: Yeah, I was at a number

MR. FINELLI: Yeah. They let me stay.

MR. LU: So you understand the process?

MR. LU: Any kind of special design for

MR. LU: Will not disturb the neighbor.

MR. LU: You stayed in there for the

MR. LU: When you designed the

special design for the sound barriers?

MR. FINELLI: Special?

the sound barriers.

18 building, right, did you exercise any kind of

MR. FINELLI: For sound barriers?

MR. FINELLI: There is -- to my

7 You're not Muslim, right? I never been to -- have

MR. FINELLI: I don't know.

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1 I live at 1111 Crim Road, and I guess I have

Page 59

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2 attended the events there.

3 MR. COLLINS: Please raise your right

4 hand. Do you swear or affirm to tell the truth, the

5 whole truth and nothing but the truth so help you

6 God?

7 MS. AVENOSO: Yes. I have attended

8 events there, and the implication that you could

9 have a thousand people in that building is nowhere

10 near it. In fact, we had probably under 300 and it

11 was tight, but in any event, I appreciate your

12 comment that, basically, any religious facility has

13 generally similar trends, if you will, regarding use

14 of space and people and so on.

Since that was a catering facility as

16 opposed to a religious facility, which of those uses

17 is it more likely that you can control the number of

18 people coming into and out of the lot, a catering

19 facility or a religious facility?

MR. FINELLI: Usually, you have far

21 greater control when you have repeat customers, when

22 you have repeat users.

In the case of a banquet facility

24 when -- I think there was a question yesterday

25 evening about parties, wedding parties, bachelor

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1 knowledge, there is no music in a traditional

2 worship service. It's audible prayer and some

3 singing. We did not -- you know, we did not -- we

4 will not consider -- we haven't done construction5 drawings yet. So we haven't gotten to that point of

6 really investigating it, but I would not anticipate

7 any special sound attenuation for this use.

8 MR. LU: Yesterday I hear there was 9 some basketball or something inside the building?

MR. FINELLI: That's outside.

MR. LU: That's outside building?

12 MR. FINELLI: Yes.

MR. LU: So that's not in your

14 jurisdiction?

15 MR. FINELLI: Correct.

MR. LU: Okay. And I think I got some

17 pretty good idea. And how much have they spent on

18 architectural?

19 MS. TUBMAN: That's not relevant.

20 MR. FINELLI: I don't know.

MR. COLLINS: Sir, there's an objection

22 about the relevancy, and, generally speaking, that

is not relevant in this proceeding.MR. LU: Okay. Thank you.

MS. AVENOSO: My name is Kelly Avenoso.

1 parties, things like that. You can't control

2 numbers or traffic or where the people come from, 3 you know. If you rented a catering hall and wanted

4 to host a function, you know, you rent -- you ask

5 whomever you want to ask.

6 MS. AVENOSO: That's true. However,

7 when you rent a catering hall and you're booking it 8 for 300 people, you're expecting somewhere between

9 290 and 310 people. When you're building a

10 religious facility to hold 487 or whatever the

11 number is --

12 MR. FINELLI: Thirty-seven.

MS. AVENOSO: If 510 show up, do you

14 send them home?

15 MR. FINELLI: Yes, you do. You have

16 posted -- listen, you have posted occupants. You

17 have posted occupancy limits. It's very clear.

18 There is an occupancy limit, I imagine, in the back 19 of those doors, and just like the very first meeting

20 that we had at the municipal hall, there's more

21 people trying to get in the doors, and the fire

22 marshal has, not the right, the obligation to say

23 it's unsafe.

MS. AVENOSO: Sure. And if 510 show up frequently, will you be applying for an addition?

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- MR. FINELLI: No, and, again, we
- answered that really a number of ways yesterday.
- MS. AVENOSO: I'm sorry. I couldn't be 3
- 4 here.
- MR. FINELLI: That's okay. There 5
- 6 really is no room practically for expansion on this
- 7 property without a variance.
- MS. AVENOSO: So you could apply for a
- variance and then apply for it. Got ya. Thank you.
- MR. FINELLI: If you wanted to apply 10
- 11 for a variance, you could apply for a variance.
- MS. AVENOSO: So it's in the realm of 12
- possibility? 13
- MR. FINELLI: If you're going to ask a
- question, I would appreciate you give me the ability
- MS. AVENOSO: Absolutely. 17
- MR. FINELLI: If you want to apply for 1.8
- a variance, you can, and a variance is very hard to
- get because you have to prove hardship, not to this
- board, to the other board. It's hardship.
- It's not I'd like to have more people. 22
- 23 You have to prove hardship. That's a very hard
- thing to do in the State of New Jersey.
- 25 What happens, every religious

- 1 lighting or audio equipment designed up to the
- 2 minaret.
- Are there any architectural -- are
- 4 there any chases or architectural features which
- 5 could be converted to a utility chase if in the
- 6 future they wanted to apply for getting utilities up
- to that area to include sound and lighting that you
- could as an architect accommodate that?
- MR. FINELLI: Can you pair that down to
- 10 about five words?
- MS. AVENOSO: Sure. In your plan of 11
- 12 the facility, is there a corner of a room that you
- could -- that you could sacrifice its current use to
- essentially build a closet and run utility up to the
- minaret? 15 MR. FINELLI: Well, the minaret is on 16
- 17 top of the electric closet now. That's the physical
- location. It is on top of the roof.
- MS. AVENOSO: Can we go back to the 19
- plans so you could point out to me where? 20
- MR. FINELLI: Floor plan please, Greg. 21
- 22 So this -- this building right here is where all the
- electric service comes into the structure. It's a
- concrete block building. The minaret is built on
- 25 top of that.

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MS. AVENOSO: Okay. So what is the

- space immediately to the left of that?
  - MR. FINELLI: Immediately to the left 3
  - 4 of this, this is multi-purpose space. This is the
  - main worship space, and this is the warming kitchen.
  - MS. AVENOSO: As your client described
  - 7 the multi-space immediately to the left of the
  - electric closet, if your client did want to apply
  - for whatever would be needed to use the minaret in
  - 10 that regard, is there space sacrificeable in that
  - 11 multi-space where you could run the -- you could

  - build a chase? 12
  - MR. FINELLI: You know, a part of the 13
  - questions that are -- the reason why it's upsetting,
  - it's the same as the attorney asked. You're
  - 16 presuming that somebody wants to do something that
  - 17 they've testified that they're not going to do. So,
  - 18 physically, I'll tell you the same thing I tell
  - 19 everybody I work for. You can build absolutely
  - 20 anything.
  - 21 MS. AVENOSO: Thank you.
  - 22 MR. FINELLI: So, physically, yes, but
  - 23 we've given testimony here and I think I've answered
  - 24 that question maybe a dozen times that there's not
  - going to be anything there. So if a year from now

- 1 institution I worked for, whether it's Roman
- 2 Catholic, a nondenominational church or a main line
- 3 denominational church, their best hope is that we
- 4 have too many people on a repeat basis for six
- 5 months, for a year, for two years, but guess what
- 6 happens. Then we look elsewhere. We put up another
- 7 facility and we grow the faith.
- That really is every person of faith's
- primary interest is to grow the faith. It's not to
- 10 try to pack as many people in one building as we
- 11 can. It's to plan other churches, plan other
- 12 facilities, plan other houses of worship. It's very
- simple. There's nothing new about that.
- MS. AVENOSO: Okay. In light of -- in
- 15 light of a previous person's comments about you
- 16 could do 487 once and then 487 again, when we get to
- the traffic study portion, will that potential
- 18 scenario be addressed that we're really not looking
- 19 at 487? We could be looking at multi-shifts of 487
- within a given 24-hour period?
- MR. FINELLI: Well, those have to come
- 22 back and hear that testimony because that's out of
- MS. AVENOSO: Okay. I am an engineer,
- 25 and I do understand that, to date, you don't have

4 No.

5

12

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23

24

That's fine.

question.

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MR. FINELLI: The street is getting

2 wider.

MS. AVENOSO: Oh, it is. Okay. That's the kind of increased paying I'm worried about.

5 MR. FINELLI: That becomes part of the

6 township's dedication. It's not runoff that we are

7 accommodating and are planning.

8 MS. AVENOSO: Are they doing the paving

9 in response to this or are they planning on doing

10 that increased paving regardless?

MS. TUBMAN: I'm sorry you weren't here

12 last evening, but the testimony is that the township

13 has the right to require frontage improvements.

14 That has been requested, and we will accommodate it.

MS. AVENOSO: I understand that. My

16 question is, if this project was not to move

17 forward, did the town say they would be increasing

18 the paving regardless?

19 MR. FINELLI: No.

20 MS. AVENOSO: Thank you.

MR. MOENCH: I was going to ask a quick

22 question. I have a chart that was presented to me.

23 It's in my packet of the materials which has a list

24 that says activity, and it goes through possible

25 activities, the frequency, and then it has estimated

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1 I'll repeat what the engineer said yesterday. We

2 are reducing the amount of blacktop on the property.

1 my client comes to me and says, hey, can we put, you 2 know, a speaker up there, what am I going to tell

3 him, I'm going to tell him no. End of discussion.

MS. AVENOSO: Okay. You're unusual for

6 an architect I have to admit, because in my 20 years

changed their desire to use a space, and we've found

of engineering, I've had lots of clients who have

9 a closet. The architect might not be happy about 10 it, but we found a place to run the chase to get the

So it was just based on my professional

MS. TUBMAN: In this instance, it will

16 be a condition of approval that we not have audio to

the minaret and that we not have utilities in the

minaret. We have offered that and that will be

MS. AVENOSO: Was there any discussion

21 yesterday regarding an increase in paving in the

MR. FINELLI: Well, there was, and,

25 again, with Mr. Bogart's deference, I will respond.

22 area? I don't want to be out of line with the

13 experience, and it's obviously in conflict of yours.

utility to where the client wanted it.

reflected in the approval.

3 MS. AVENOSO: Okay. Perhaps this

4 question is best to him. There are people in the

5 neighborhood lower elevation who have wells and that

6 is their water source for their home. So as you

7 increase paving, you're changing the volume of water

8 that feeds into our well as well as potentially the

9 quality of the water that goes into the well as well

10 additional chemicals are used and so on.

11 So I will be looking forward to having

12 a -- seeing some kind of environmental study that's

13 going to guaranty for us that I'm not going to have

14 to dig up your well basically.

MR. FINELLI: Well, I'll just repeat

16 one thing that we said. We were reducing, not

17 increasing, and to repeat one note from yesterday, I

18 believe that is in the EIS that was submitted, and

19 so it's probably available to review.

MS. AVENOSO: There's going to be less

21 paving up there than there is now including the

22 street?

23 MR. FINELLI: Right.

MS. AVENOSO: The street is not getting

25 wider?

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1 attendants and estimated parking. Is that a chart

2 that you prepared?

3 MR. FINELLI: No./

4 MR. MOENCH: It doesn't tell me who

5 prepared it.

6 MR. FINELLI: No. The use chart, I

7 believe the next witness will testify to that and

8 explain it.

9 MR. MOENCH: When -- with the 437

10 number, my understanding is that you said yesterday

11 that's what was used to calculate parking because

12 you looked at the most intense use which would be

13 the 437 and calculate parking based on that. Is

14 that correct?

15 MR. FINELLI: Yes.

16 MR. MOENCH: Did you calculate the

17 parking requirement or did traffic?

18 MR. FINELLI: I calculated the

19 building, the maximum building occupancy, and then

20 referred those numbers to Mr. Stires, Mr. Folk, who

21 testified yesterday, and then we discussed how to

22 best reconcile the ordinance that referred to seats

23 or pew spaces with the occupancy that we came up

24 with.

25 MR. MOENCH: Was your analysis with

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- 1 regard to the number of parking spaces that was
- 2 ultimately needed -- is that based simply on
- 3 calculating -- doing the division based on the
- 4 ordinance or was that based on any other sources,
- 5 information?
- MR. FINELLI: I think I'll leave it to
- 7 the traffic expert because that's really his
- 8 expertise, and he'll be able to explain, you know,
- 9 all of those nuances to you.
- 10 MR. MOENCH: The only reason I ask, I
- 11 assume on your architectural drawing that has
- 12 parking spaces on it that we saw before, and what I
- 13 want to make sure I'm clear on, I assume, when the
- 14 traffic engineer testifies, he is going to talk
- 15 about how he got the occupancy number from you that
- 16 he then based whatever he's done on it.
- 17 I just want to make sure I'm really
- 18 clear about what role, if any, you had in
- 19 calculating the number of parking spaces so that we
- 20 don't have a back and forth where --
- MR. FINELLI: The numbers start with
- 22 me. It starts with the occupancy of the building.
- MR. MOENCH: So when you calculated the
- 24 occupancy, you give the numbers to the traffic
- 25 engineer who then comes back to you and says draw X

- 1 MR. FINELLI: I read his report, and it
- 2 speaks to that. So I think those detailed questions
  - 3 are really for him.
  - 4 MR. MOENCH: So you haven't --
- 5 MR. FINELLI: I read his report. His
- 6 report supports the testimony so far. So I would
- 7 expect him to go into more detail.
- 8 MR. MOENCH: Okay. So you have not
- 9 done any of your own analysis?
- 10 MR. FINELLI: No.
- 11 MR. MOENCH: Okay. Thank you.
- MS. HOZENY: My name is Fran Hozeny,
- 13 and I was --
- 14 MR. COLLINS: Were you sworn last
- 15 night?
- 16 MS. HOZENY: Yes.
- 17 MR. COLLINS: Then you're still under
- 18 oath.
- MS. HOZENY: My name is Fran Hozeny. I
- 20 live on Top Place in Bridgewater. Last night there
- 21 were several noise issues that came up, and tonight
- 22 I heard about the rooftop AC and heating.
- 23 Would you show us where that's located?
- 24 Are those those little square things on the top of
- 25 the building to the left of the dome?

- 1 number of spaces on the architectural renderings?
- 2 MR. FINELLI: The traffic engineer then
- 3 talks to the civil engineer and says draw this
- 4 many -- how many spaces can you fit on the property?
- 5 Do we have a problem or do we not have a problem?
- 6 The pre-existing structure had a couple of hundred
- 7 parking spaces.
- 8 So just in terms of surface area, it
- 9 didn't appear that we had a problem, and then when
- 10 the parking lot was redesigned to today's current
- 11 standards for aisle width, two-way aisle width and
- 12 safety and turning rates, those kind of things, we
- 13 had to make sure we had enough parking spaces to
- 14 accommodate the building.
- MR. MOENCH: And the number -- the one
- 16 space for three seat equivalent, that's what was
- 17 used in calculating that, correct?
- 18 MR. FINELLI: Correct.
- 19 MR. MOENCH: Have you done any
- 20 analysis -- I'm going to ask the traffic engineer
- 21 the same question, but have you done any analysis to
- 22 see whether in practice that analysis works, in
- 23 other words, the folks who are using this facility
- 24 actually arriving on a three to one ratio or is it
- 25 something different?

- 1 MR. FINELLI: We haven't designed
- 2 actually where they'll go yet. It's part of the
- 3 construction drawings. We are required to shield
- 4 any and all rooftop equipment. So if you go by that
- 5 building today where the rooftop equipment is
- 6 clearly visible, it predates most of those ordinance
- 7 requirements.
- 8 MS. HOZENY: Then there would be no
- 9 noise volume?
- 10 MR. FINELLI: There would be none, yes.
- 11 MS. HOZENY: Okay. Thank you.
- MR. COLLINS: Sir, do you swear or
- 13 affirm to tell the truth, the whole truth and
- 14 nothing but the truth so help you God?
- 15 MR. SCHWED: Yes.
- 16 MR. COLLINS: Please state your name
- 17 and spell your last name and your address.
- 18 MR. SCHWED: Steve Schwed, S-C-H-W-E-D,
- 19 Carolkim Drive in Bridgewater.
- 20 You had made a comment that an
- 21 expansion would require a variance. Why would that 22 be?
- MR. FINELLI: For this use in this
- 24 zone, there is a floor area to the lot size ratio,
- 25 and the numbers were given yesterday, but,

1 hadn't done the math, and I understand that,

- 2 apparently, there is some substantial size of
  - 3 additional structure that could be built without a

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- variance is 1100 square feet, give or take, if the
  - 5 math is right?
  - MR. FINELLI: You know, there are a
  - number of criteria that go into the bulk
- qualifications. So on the one to 20, it appears
- that there's about a thousand square feet to play
- with. That thousand square -- that's a thousand
- square feet there.
- We haven't figured out if that triggers 12
- parking, if it triggers impervious, if it triggers
- anything else. So, again, you know, we can't just
- look at what we know.
- MR, SCHWED: I understand that. As far 16
- as the impervious having been removed --
- MR. FINELLI: It's not impervious. 1,8
- That's just a ratio. You know what I mean? So the
- building has a maximum floor area ratio of one
- square foot of building to 20 square feet of lot
- area. That's one criteria. There is also
- impervious coverage. There are a number of other
- items. I'm just not sure what the potential
- expansion might be.

MR. FINELLI: Correct.

MR. SCHWED: And that came to about

MR. FINELLI: More or less, yeah. MR. SCHWED: And then the ratio is one

11 291,000 and change?

5 14,500 square feet?

foot per 20?

12 MS. TUBMAN: I don't have the number in

13 front of me.

MR. SCHWED: And then the total 14

15 property I think you said yesterday was 314,000 and

1 essentially, there is very little room for expansion

MR. SCHWED: If I remember correctly

4 from yesterday, the building accounts for roughly

2 of the building area on the property.

16 change. That would leave a difference of some

17 23,000 square feet which is a ratio of 20 to one

will allow you to build an additional 1,150 square

feet of structure.

MR. FINELLI: I don't think it was that

21 much

MR. SCHWED: That's what was reported 22

yesterday.

MR. FINELLI: We can go back over those 24

25 numbers. I don't think it was that much, but that

MR. SCHWED: I'm only asking from the

2 architect's standpoint that, if these other

conditions were met and, for instance, you've

4 reduced the impervious coverage that's reported

yesterday by Mr. Folk by a significant amount, so

you could ostensibly add a structure and not exceed

the impervious coverage for a prior use. So that

might not be a problem.

So from an architect's standpoint, you

10 could add 1100 square feet if these other conditions

11

MR. FINELLI: It appears we might be. 12

MR. SCHWED: And one could use that for 13

worship space. If you were challenged to do so, you

could design it to be somewhat contiguous and make

it additional worship space with either direct view

to the main worship area or with a sound system and audio system or video system, whatever. 18

MS. TUBMAN: It would require, though, 19

another application to this board.

MR. SCHWED: Understood, but without 21

variance potentially. 22

MR. FINELLI: Again, we haven't 23

24 addressed it. So let's play it out. There's a

25 thousand square feet. Let's say it creates 30 more

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1 is the ratio, one to 20, and I know we were talking

2 about a couple of different numbers, and it was a

3 number that was after the road dedication to lot

4 area is reduced. I'm not sure which ones --

MR. SCHWED: I'm going by the numbers

that you -- not you individually.

MS. TUBMAN: I can't do the math in my

8 head.

MR. FINELLI: Let's see. I'll read

10 this section. Okay. The proposed mosque will total

14,567 requiring 291,340 square feet of land area.

The lots total 314,273 square feet after right of

way dedication. 1.3

MR. SCHWED: Right, which leaves just

shy of 23,000 feet which at a 20 to one ratio would

allow you over 1,100 square feet for the structure.

Are we doing the same calculation? 17

MR. FINELLI: Without going through it, 18

19 that appears to be.

20 MR. SCHWED: Okay. So would you need a

variance to build 1100 square feet of new structure? 21

MS. TUBMAN: If the math works out, no. 22

MR. SCHWED: Okay. So then the 23

24 comments that were made both earlier and yesterday

25 saying that it's virtually nothing, because you

1 prayer mats.

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- 3 been using in there, the 1100 square feet would
- vield about a hundred more spaces.
- MR. FINELLI: We haven't taken into
- 6 account aisle ways. Whatever the number is, whether

MR. SCHWED: Based on the ratio you've

- it's a hundred or 30 ---
- MR. SCHWED: Your main prayer space is 8
- 9
- MR. FINELLI: Let's use your number. 10
- 11 There's a hundred and that translates into how many
- parking spaces. At one per three, that's 33 parking
- 13 spaces. So we have the discussion between myself,
- 14 my client, the engineer, the attorney and find out I
- 15 can't add a thousand square feet because I don't
- 16 have room for 30 parking spaces.
- MR. SCHWED: I'm not going into the 17
- parking. That's out of your purview. 18
- MR. FINELLI: I understand that, but 19
- I'm not going to answer a question --
- 21 MR. SCHWED: I'm asking from an
- architectural standpoint. 22
- MR. FINELLI: I understand that. I'm 23
- 24 not going to answer a question in a vacuum that's
- going to mislead the entire conversation. Okay. So

- 1 any problem. The only answer I can give you is,
- 2 based on floor area ratio, there is about a thousand
- 3 square feet.
- MR. SCHWED: About 1100 square feet,
- maybe a hundred more people.
- MR. FINELLI: Again, it's an 6
- unqualified maybe.
- MR. SCHWED: The two multi-purpose
- spaces at the south end of the building, what's
- 10 their size?
- MR. FINELLI: Each of these spaces are 11
- 17 feet wide by 24 feet deep. 12
- MR. SCHWED: Seventeen by 24? 13
- MR. FINELLI: Yes. 14
- MR. SCHWED: What does that work out 15
- 16 to, about 425 square feet each, something like that?
- MR. FINELLI: I'm at a loss. 17
- MR. SCHWED: About 850 square feet for 18
- 90 people you reported. So I don't think 1100
- 20 square feet for a hundred people is an unreasonable
- 21 assumption.
- MR. FINELLI: Again, it's an 22
- 23 unqualified maybe. If I don't have the parking, I
- don't have the support services.
- MR. SCHWED: I understand. Thank you. 25

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- MR. FINELLI: You're welcome. 1
- MR. COLLINS: Raise your right hand.
- 3 Do you swear or affirm to tell the truth, the whole
- 4 truth and nothing but the truth so help you God?
- MR, RACK: I do. 5
- MR. COLLINS: Please state your name,
- address and spell your last name.
- MR. RACK: My name is Susan Joseph
- Rack. Last name R-A-C-K. I live at 1381 Mallard
- 10 Drive in Martinsville.
- As an architect and the artist that you
- 12 must be in order to be one, would you characterize
- 13 the current building and the state of the building
- 14 as an eye sore in the neighborhood?
- MR. FINELLI: It's not complimentary. 15
- MS. RACK: Thank you. And as an 16
- architect with an eye for beauty, could you describe
- some of the features of this particular project that
- you are particularly proud of in beautifying that
- 20 space and making it compatible with its residential
- 21 context?
- 22 MR. FINELLI: I appreciate the
- 23 question. I would say that the -- to me, the most
- 24 important aspect of the proposed design really is
- the colonnade that circuits the building. It does a

1 I understand you are going to ask it in a vacuum, 2 but the answer has to be comprehensive or the answer

- 3 is useless.
- I might have a thousand square feet in
- 5 the bank of usable building area, but if I can't
- 6 support that building area, whether it's gallons per
- 7 day of sewage, whether it's a parking space, whether
- 8 it's electric service, whether it's a sprinkler
- head, if I can't support it, then I can't build it.
- So in a vacuum, yeah, I have a thousand 10
- 11 square feet to play with, but as a function of being
- 12 able to build something, you know, to be able to get a building permit to build it, I may not be able to
- 14 based on what that building requires me to do with
- 15 it.
- MR. SCHWED; Based on your 437 and 16
- 17 ratio of three to one, that would require 137
- parking spaces, and I believe the report yesterday was 157 because you made a comment of 500 spaces in
- 20 the building. So it seems like you have the space
- 21 then.
- MR. FINELLI: You know --22
- MR. SCHWED: So we resolved that 23
- 24 problem too.
- MR. FINELLI: I don't think we resolved

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- 1 lot of things. It brings -- even though it's only a
- 2 one-story building, the scale of the building is
- 3 pedestrian. It's friendly. It's not a building
- 4 that you're really going to appreciate driving by
- 5 even at 35 miles an hour. It's a building that you
- 6 walk to. So the colonnade is an invitation.
- There are a lot of doors around the
- perimeter of the building. It is an invitation.
- The building is intended to invite, intended to ask
- 10 people in, to embrace people coming in. So that,
- 11 clearly, in my mind is the single most important
- aspect of the proposed design.
- There are -- you know, there are things 13
  - where the details will develop, you know, the actual
- column, capital and bases that we will articulate as
- we further design development. The actual color or
- pattern -- well, the color is in that aqua range I
- talked about with the ceramic tiles, but the actual
- pattern, whether that is -- whether that is more
- geometric which is clearly a feature of a lot of
- 21 Islam architecture, whether there's more floral or
- 22 serpentine, but, certainly, repetitive to some
- degree. So it's really intended that the building
- is understood at a pedestrian scale.
- Secondarily, the more public part of 25

- 1 for that beautiful design.
- MR. FINELLI: Thank you very much.
- MR. COLLINS: Do you swear or affirm to
- 4 tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the
- 5 truth so help you God?
- MR, WALKER: I do.
- MR. COLLINS: Please state your name
- and address and spell your last name.
- MR. WALKER: Barry Walker, W-A-L-K-E-R,
- 1699 Mountaintop Road. I'm going to ask questions
- I've asked before for some reason. What was the
- matching occupancy in Redwood Inn previously?
- MR. FINELLI: I don't recall. 13
- MR. WALKER: I'm going to ask for a 14
- point of clarification. There seems to be a lot of
- questions being asked by the planning board and the
- audience which is in reference to the presentation
- of the expert witness or it seems to be referred to
- another expert witness. In this case last night,
- Mr. Folk said please ask the architect.
- Can you verify in the transcript that 21
- 22 he said that?
- 23 MS. TUBMAN: I don't have a transcript
- 24 yet.
- MR. WALKER: Okay. But he said please 25

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1 the building are the two elements we've been talking

- 2 about, the dome and the minaret. As I said at the
- 3 very beginning yesterday, when I personally drive by
- 4 a building, I like to know what it's intended to be 5 used for. So in this case, I think it's clear that
- 6 the building is being intended -- it is a mosque, a
- 7 worship space. So, you know, those are sort of the big picture things.
- If you go back to your first question
- 10 about the condition of the building that's there, we
- talked about this a little bit yesterday. It was
- added on to a number of times. There are a number
- of different roof heights and plate heights and
- angles. There are a number of those things that
- 15 are -- they just confuse you when you look at it.
- 16 Part of the -- part of that canopy, you know, really
- 17 in the conceptual part is what I just said, but part
- of it in the practical sense is it hides all that
- stuff. So we'll -- the lowest point of the canopy
- will be lower than the lowest mess that's out there,
- and the highest part of the canopy will be higher
- 22 than all of those messes. So it will disguise all
- 23 of that stuff. So it's really doing a couple of
- things for us.
- 25 MS. RACK: Thank you, and I commend you

- 1 refer to the architect. Well, I'm referring to the
- 2 architect and he doesn't know. So our expert
- 3 witnesses are kind of stepping on themselves.
- Is it possible that the expert
  - witnesses will be available when the other expert
- witnesses are here? I know it's cumbersome in the
- process, more expensive potentially, but it would
- help speed the process along. That's to the board I
- MR. COLLINS: Generally, sir, it's one 10
- witness at a time. If a witness comes back that you
- would like to ask that witness a question, then it
- may be possible that that will happen, but, no, you
- do not go out of order in general, but your
- questions are your questions of this witness, and
- whatever his answers are his answers.
- MR. WALKER: So you gave the planning 17
- engineer, Mr. Folk, a number of 437, and he used it
- under 500, correct? You read the report for
- parking, correct? Your occupancy rate is 437
- 21 maximum.
- MR. FINELLI: That is the maximum. 22
- MR. WALKER: And Mr. Folk used the 23
- reference under 500 last night if I'm correct. 24
- MR. FINELLI: Correct.

Page 87 Page 85 1 for prayer space. MR. WALKER: So where is the 1 MR. WALKER: Maybe I'm not asking the 2 miscommunication there? 3 question. MR. FINELLI: There's no miscommunication. MR. FINELLI: The maximum occupancy of 4 5 the facility would be 500. MR. WALKER: You stated the occupancy MR. WALKER: You mentioned prayer of 437. He said 500. 6 space. The dome, what's the proposed diameter of 7 MR. FINELLI: That is correct. MR. WALKER: Where's the the dome per chance? MR. FINELLI: Approximately 20 feet. miscommunication? MR. WALKER: The color that you used in MR. FINELLI: There is no 10 10 11 miscommunication. The maximum use of occupancy is 11 the drawing, did you pick the color by chance? MR. FINELLI: Yes, I did. 12 437. 12 MR. WALKER: Do you have a sample of MR. WALKER: The maximum occupancy of 13 13 that? Is that the only sample of the color? the building, right? 14 14 MR. FINELLI: Correct. MR. FINELLI: The posted occupancy of 15 15 MR. WALKER: Is that a reflective those spaces would be 437. 16 MR. WALKER: Of the whole building or 17 color? 17 MR. FINELLI: For example, shell 18 all the spaces? 18 MR. FINELLI: We have spaces that are 19 finish. 19 MR. WALKER: Have you thought about any not going to be used for prayer space. So although 20 21 other colors, because it is an R50 zoned area? they will not be used simultaneously, we have to MR. FINELLI: It's what? accommodate that square footage in the parking 22 MR. WALKER: R50 zoned residential. count. 23 23 24 Have you seen that many gold roofs around the area? MR. WALKER: Okay. My question is the 24 MR. FINELLI: Not yet. 25 maximum occupancy of the whole structure being built 25 Page 88 Page 86 MR. WALKER: Would there potentially be 1 is 437? a different change of color? MR. FINELLI: The maximum occupancy of MR. FINELLI: Everything is an option, 3 the most intense use of all the prayer spaces is 437 3 4 but, again, we're -- you have a color to suggest? at any one time. Four thirty-seven at any one time. MR. WALKER: I'm just asking. There's MR. WALKER: So that whole footprint of other colors. I'm just saying a white, beige or 14,000 square feet is 437? 6 gray or black. MR. FINELLI: At one time. MR. WALKER: So why did you use 500? I MR. FINELLI: The dome is there to be 8 seen. So we're not going to put it there and hide don't know. It's not your problem. 9 MR. FINELLI: What I'm trying to 10 10 it. 11 explain, maximum occupancy is 437. That's your 11 MR. WALKER: It's not going to be 12 missed. At 35 feet, it's not going to be missed. prayer space. MR. FINELLI: It's a dome. It's not a MR. WALKER: That is the posted maximum 13 gable. It's not a spire. It's not a steeple. Yes, occupancy of the building and what the fire marshal 14 15 it will be seen. That is the color we selected. will certify, right? MR. FINELLI: On all of the prayer 16 MR. WALKER: Question about the current 16 Redwood Inn. You've seen it. Does the current 17 spaces, everything that is contained there. 17 18 Redwood Inn have any overhangs of eight feet like 18 Everything that is contained there, the maximum 19 occupancy will not exceed 437. We have spaces that your colonnade going on? 20 will not be used simultaneously, but will not be MR. FINELLI: There were awnings in 20 21 part of the building, fabric awnings. Nothing that 21 used for prayer space.

23

22 was eight feet.

25 around?

MR. WALKER: If I'm correct, is that

24 eight foot around the whole structure all the way

23 addition?

22

24

MR. WALKER: Those can be occupied in

25 not be used simultaneously and they cannot be used

MR. FINELLI: Like I said, they will

MR. FINELLI: No, it varies.

MR. WALKER: What's the square footage 2

3 of coverage of the colonnade?

MR. FINELLI: I'd have to -- I don't

5 have that in my head.

MR. WALKER: Can you do that?

MR. FINELLI: I can get the answer for

8 you. I can get the answer. Previous occupancy, I

can't do it now.

MR. WALKER: That would be great. The

11 coverage there, I'm looking at the overhang area, we

12 don't know the size. What's the space being

proposed? Are those even? Are those 16, 18, 20

feet? Are those structural?

MR. FINELLI: I'm not hearing. I'm 15

16

MR. WALKER: The post --17

18 MR. FINELLI: The columns.

MR. WALKER: What's the space between 19

20 the posts? I think it varies, but approximately.

MR, FINELLI: I'd say somewhere between

22 16 and 20 feet.

23 MR. WALKER: An eight foot around

24 approximately. So what's -- do you know the linear

25 footage around the building by chance?

1 the roof structure?

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MR. FINELLI: The colonnade is the

3 roof, yes.

MR. WALKER: Is the roof. Is it 4

connected at intervals of the structure of the

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building?

MR. FINELLI: Of course. 7

MR. WALKER: So the posts are required

to support it?

MR. FINELLI: Yes. 10

MR. WALKER: So, in your opinion, 11

seeing the footprint is an additional eight feet

around the perimeter, is it outside the perimeter of

the building? The colonnade you love, the one

architectural detail that you love and that's part

16 of the building, is that outside the footprint of

the building?

MR. FINELLI: There's more than one 18

19 feature that I love.

MR. WALKER: Okay. You discussed it a 20

moment ago. I'm going with the recent events. 21

MR. FINELLI: Of course, it's outside. 22

It extends around the perimeter of the building. 23

MR. WALKER: It extends the building? 24

25 MR. FINELLI: Yeah.

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MR. FINELLI: I don't. You want an

2 approximation?

MR. WALKER: Yeah. 3

MR. FINELLI: I was going to ask for

5 the other gentleman who seemed to being the walking

6 calculator there, but the footprint of the building

7 is approximately 170 by 140. So at 310 twice, about

8 620 linear feet as a circumference.

MR. WALKER: And eight feet, that's

10 going to add what, 4800 square feet approximately?

MR. FINELLI: It's not eight feet. 11

MR. WALKER: Well, give or take. You 12

13 got longer areas on one side. It's going to even

out pretty much, isn't it? Rough numbers, 4800

square feet?

MR. FINELLI: We'll use your number for 16

17 the basis of the question you're coming to I

18 suppose.

MR. WALKER: So you've got a third of 1.9

20 the additional space outside the building under your

21 colonnade, and it's been stated by the engineer, Mr.

22 Folk, yesterday that you're not exceeding the

23 footprint of the existing building.

MR. FINELLI: Correct. 24

MR. WALKER: Is the colonnade part of

MR. WALKER: So you exceeded the

footprint of the building in your structure?

MR. FINELLI: We're working with the

definitions that this ordinance gives us. That does

not expand the footprint.

6 MR. WALKER: It is impervious space,

7 correct?

MR. FINELLI: That's calculated as part 8

9 of it. Yes.

MR. WALKER: I feel it falls outside of 10

11 that.

MR. FINELLI: It's not enclosed. It's 12

13 a roof. It protects us from the rain, but it's not

an enclosure.

MR. WALKER: Is the overhang needed? 15

MR. FINELLI: Well, is anything needed? 16

Of course, parts of it are going to be very much

18 appreciated. I mean it's purely a practical

19 perspective.

MR. WALKER: If the colonnade were 20

21 taken off, the building would still function and

22 still serve the purpose of your use that you're

23 asking for?

MR. FINELLI: Where's the engineer who 24

25 left? If you want to talk about purely function,

- 1 then talk about purely function.
- MR. WALKER: Can you put the same
- 3 structure on the building and put the tiles and have
- 4 the same look without the colonnade?
- MR. FINELLI: Yes.
- MR. WALKER: Why?
- MR. FINELLI: You asked just asked me 7
- 8 can I put the function of the building with the same
- style without the colonnade. By definition, the
- 10 answer is no.
- MR. WALKER: For the colonnade to
- 12 function as a space for this use, but if you move
- 13 back the tiles flat against the wall, will it have a
- 14 similar setup?
- MR. FINELLI: No. 15
- 16 MR. WALKER: No.
- MR. FINELLI: Well, because part of it 17
- 18 is -- as I described this yesterday as well, part of
- 19 that is that it presents an inviting opportunity for
- 20 people to talk after a service, before a service, to
- 21 stand out of the rain.
- If the colonnade went from eight feet 22
- 23 to 16 inches, well, then everybody would be standing
- 24 against the side of the building. Of course, it
- 25 would in no way serve the same function, and,

- 1 since we build it. So it's a matter of looking at
- 2 it at the time of the various construction.
- MR. WALKER: So you can't tell me even
- 4 closely how much the footings are going to work,
- 5 foundations --
- MS. TUBMAN: Wait one second. The
- court reporter can't take two people at once.
- MR. FINELLI: He's talking too fast for 8
- 9 me.
- MS. TUBMAN: You're starting to talk 10
- 11 over each other.
- MR. FINELLI: If we're going to build 12
- this right now, the foundation of the building is in
- pretty good shape. So there's not really an issue
- of the foundation.
- MR. WALKER: Has that been tested? Has 16
- 17 that engineer survey been tested?
- MR. FINELLI: Based on inspection, 1.8
- based on my visual inspection. 19
- MR. WALKER: And you're a licensed 20
- 21 engineer?
- MS. TUBMAN: One at a time please. 22
- MR. WALKER: You're a licensed 23
- engineer? 24
- MR. FINELLI: I am an architect. 25

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- 1 visually, at some point, you know, at what point --
- 2 at what point do all of us, whether we're architects
- 3 or not, look at a porch or a roof overhang and
- 4 wonder what the heck is it doing there.
- MR. WALKER: I understand. Some
- 6 porches are there for -- I'm looking around, and
- 7 some of the sections don't have any doors to the
- 8 porches. That's hundred linear feet over here where
- 9 the colonnade is around, but there's no really
- 10 standing area purposes for it. So those could be
- 11 reduced impervious coverage and actually --
- MR. FINELLI: I wouldn't want that. 12 MR. WALKER: You wouldn't want that
- 14 because it's a design standpoint.
- MR. FINELLI: It's a design standpoint. 15
- MR. WALKER: But as a function 16
- 17 standpoint, the building could function without
- them. 18

13

- Okay. How much of the existing 19
- 20 structures are you planning to use in the
- 21 construction of this? Is that a construction
- 22 question or is that an architectural question?
- MR. FINELLI: It's going to be 23
- 24 ultimately up to me, but it has been a long time
- 25 since we designed it and it might be a longer time

- MR. WALKER: Are you licensed to 1
- certify that foundation?
- MR. FINELLI: If I look at it and 3
- 4 thought it was an issue, I'd hire an engineer to
- 5 test it.
- MR. WALKER: So you could not certify 6
- that foundation?
- MR. FINELLI: I could certify it, sure,
- 9 but the only part of that foundation that is suspect
- 10 is the basement. So the foundation is in fair
- 11 shape.
- MR. WALKER: In your design, did you 12
- 13 incorporate any energy saving for a building that's
- low impact in the environment, anything like that?
- MR. FINELLI: We haven't done the 15
- 16 construction drawings yet.
- MR. WALKER: In the design, I mean your
- 18 surface area, your roofing, your design, colors
- you've used for that, have you shown that in your 20 design at all?
- MR. FINELLI: Not in particular, no. 21
- MR. WALKER: Thank you. 22
- CHAIRPERSON KANE: We're going to take
- 24 a 10-minute break at this point and then come back
- 25 and continue. Thank you.

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- 1 (Recess taken.)
- 2 CHAIRPERSON KANE: I'd like to call the
- 3 meeting back to order please. May we have a roll
- 4 call please? Mr. Rodzinak.
- 5 MR. RODZINAK: Here.
- 6 MS. VORHEES: Mr. Charles.
- 7 MR. CHARLES: Here.
- 8 MS. VORHEES: Mr. Franco.
- 9 MR. FRANCO: Here.
- 10 MS. VORHEES: Mr. Moench.
- 11 MR, MOENCH: Here.
- MS. VORHEES: Mayor Hayes.
- 13 MAYOR HAYES: Here.
- 14 MS. VORHEES: Vice Chairwoman Kane.
- 15 CHAIRPERSON KANE: Here.
- 16 MS. VORHEES: Ms. Casamento.
- 17 MR. CASAMENTO: Here.
- 18 MR. COLLINS: Please raise your right
- 19 hand. Do you swear or affirm to tell the truth, the
- 20 whole truth and nothing but the truth so help you
- 21 God?
- 22 MS. REBER: I do.
- MR. COLLINS: Please state your name
- 24 and address and spell your last name.
- MS. REBER: My name is Jeanne Reber,

- 1 that the roof was not contiguous was not an issue
- 2 because it was just a simple structure with an
- awning in the front. I'm not quite sure there were
- 4 more than one awning, but there was one awning in
- 5 the front for people to come into the building.
- 6 Nonetheless, it was tucked into the woods and barely
- 7 visible.
- By contrast, you're proposing a seven
- 9 day a week 14 to 16 hour a day operation with
- 10 potentially several rush hours, especially if you're
- 11 talking about extending services to two on Fridays.
- 12 You're planning to light the entire parking lot from
- 13 one hour before the first service which could be as
- 14 early as 5:30 in the morning until one hour after
- 15 the last service which could mean that lights out at
- 16 11:30 or 12.
- 17 The center will have an outside space,
- 18 as you defined, along the whole perimeter under this
- 19 canopy which implies outside discussion could take
- 20 place between the first service and the first hour
- 21 after the last service. You also stated yesterday
- 22 that it's designed to be noticed and to be
- 23 identifiable, and I certainly understand that.
- 24 So my question is would you agree,
- 25 compared to what it used to be -- or perhaps you

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- 1 R-E-B-E-R. My address is 41 Fuller Court,
- 2 Bridgewater.
- 3 You know, it's funny to me. I'm a
- 4 20-year resident of my address, and it's funny to me
- 5 that we continue to describe this facility as an old
- 6 inn or a banquet facility which had tremendous
- 7 parties and lots of alcohol when, in fact, over the
- 8 20 years I've lived there, I can probably count the
- 9 number of activities that took place there on my
- 10 fingers and my toes.
- 11 So, obviously, you either don't care
- 12 about what it used to be or you just haven't taken
- 13 the time to determine that, but, nonetheless, the
- 14 facility was used mainly on the weekend, rarely
- 15 during the week. It was dimly lit in the parking
- 16 lot. No exterior gathered spaces.
- 17 The traffic was limited to the hours of
- 18 the events which were typically in the evening when
- 19 they occurred. Often times it was actually for
- 20 board of education functions. The Redwood Inn was
- 21 barely noticeable from the street. The landowners
- 22 take good care -- took good care of the property.
- 23 It does go downhill there.
- 24 So with the current structure, you
- 25 could hardly see anything but the roof, and the fact

- 1 never saw pictures of what it used to be. Would you
- 2 agree that this building and its intent with its
- 3 lighting plan and its canopy and its 47-foot minaret
- 4 and 35-foot dome -- would you agree that it's a more
- 5 intense and more obtrusive facility than the one
- 6 that was previously there?
- 7 MR. FINELLI: The project as proposed
- 8 is intended to be used.
- 9 MS, REBER: That's really not my
- 10 question.
- MR. FINELLI: Honestly, I listened to a
- 12 10-minute preamble. So I'd appreciate maybe a
- 13 minute to answer. That's all.
- MS. REBER: It's not a preamble. I was
- 15 setting my question up.
- 16 MR. FINELLI: It is proposed to be used
- 17 in accordance with the land use ordinance in effect
- 18 at the time of design which looks at the house of
- 19 worship as a permitted use in a residential zone.
- So is this going to be used more often
- 21 than the Redwood Inn? Perhaps it will be. More
- 22 intense? Perhaps it will be, but it is perfectly
- 23 appropriate, and it is certainly not obtrusive.
- MS. REBER: So if you were to place the
- 25 old building -- if you were to place a diagram on

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- 1 the old building, and perhaps that's what we need to
- 2 see, inside of that picture, are we looking at one
- 3 and a half times a visual or are we looking at two
- 4 times the visual from the road?
- What are we looking at in terms of its
- 6 impact on the neighbors that live across the street
- and the neighbors that live directly behind it?
- MR. FINELLI: This is the extreme north
- wall of the existing building.
- MS. REBER: I understand the perimeter,
- 11 but I'm also talking about the height. So when you
- 12 look at that from the road, historically, you didn't
- 13 really see much because the road sloped down and the
- building was there. 14
- And what I'm trying to get at is, from
- 16 the roadside and from the people that live behind
- 17 the facility, what is that going to look like to
- them? 18
- MR. FINELLI: Then the only appreciable 19
- difference will be the dome and the minaret. The
- existing building is 20 feet tall.
- MS. REBER: But you added eight feet 22
- around the perimeter. 23
- MR. FINELLI: Well, listen, I started 24
- out talking to you about horizontal dimensions, et

- 1 height of the apex of the current banquet hall.
- MS. REBER: So is it possible to get a
- 3 visual for people to see so we can see how the old
- 4 building fits into the scale of the new building
- 5 from the street level? No?
- MR. FINELLI: Are you talking in a flat
- two-dimensional building?
- MS. REBER: A picture just like this
- where you would just show from the street level what
- 10 the old building would have appeared like.
- To an earlier point this evening, we've 11
- got this picture here of a floating building. We'd
- 13 like to be able to see what it's actually going to
- 14 look like in the context of the property. I don't
- 15 see that anywhere, and I certainly don't see it
- 16 compared to what it used to be like.
- MR. FINELLI: Well, at least 17
- 18 dimensionally, I think it's fair to say that the
- only appreciable difference are those two elements.
- I think you would agree with that. 20
- MS. REBER: I see those two elements, 21
- 22 but I think that it's misleading to say that just
- because the roof line is the same that there's not
- going to be a visual impact of that -- whatever you
- call the fascia of that canopy, and that it's not
- Page 102
  - 1 going to feel like it's more in your face, and
    - 2 that's okay if that's what it is. We'd just like to
    - з know that.
    - So that's my request. I'd really like
    - 5 to know that, and if you can't tell us that tonight,
    - perhaps we can get to that.
    - MR. FINELLI: I didn't execute that
    - drawing. I don't have that drawing here. So beyond
    - 9 a dimensional description that I just gave you, it
    - 10 would be an additional drawing.
    - MS. REBER: Okay. 11
    - MR. COLLINS: Sorry. Do you swear or 12
    - 13 affirm to tell the truth, the whole truth and
    - nothing but the truth so help you God?
    - MS. JAKWAY: I do. 15
    - 16 MR. COLLINS: Please state your name
    - 17 and address and spell your last.
    - MS. JAKWAY: Brooke Jakway, 18
    - J-A-K-W-A-Y, 9580 Sunset Ridge, Bridgewater.
    - 20 My first question is you had spoke
    - 21 earlier about the minaret and that it was your
    - 22 design. It wasn't at the request of the owners,
    - 23 correct?
    - 24 MR, FINELLI: Correct.
    - 25 MS. JAKWAY: And the minaret, there's

1 cetera. Let's look at the horizontal dimensions. I 2 had four feet to the left, not eight, four, and

- 3 there's eight feet to the right.
- Now, the building left to right
- 5 dimension, left to right dimension is 171 feet two
- 6 inches. We're going to go from 171 feet two
- 7 inches -- we're going to add eight and four. We're
- going to add 12. We're going to go from 171 to 183.
- 9 That's 12 feet over 170. So 6 percent. Give or
- 10 take, 6 percent difference. The building currently
- 11 is about 22 feet tall to the apex of the gable roof
- 12 over the main banquet hall.
- The top of our canopy is 16 feet. It
- 14 is lower than the apex of the gable over the main
- 15 banquet hall. The 20-foot high roof is over the
- 16 worship space. So it's 25 feet compared to 22.
- 17 It's two feet lower. So the only appreciable
- 18 difference in the vertical dimension would be the
- 19 dome. I think I testified before it was 20-foot
- 20 diameter, and it sticks up above that roof another
- 21 17 feet and the minaret itself.
- MS. REBER: What about the heighth 22
- 23 underneath the dome?
- MR. FINELLI: Right there that we're 24
- 25 looking at, that horizontal line is about the same

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- 1 no restriction on the height, correct?
- 2 MR. FINELLI: Correct.
- 3 MS. JAKWAY: So it's my understanding
- 4 the purpose of a minaret is to be a focal point for
- 5 a call to prayer. If there is going to be no call
- 6 to prayer as it had previously, could the minaret be
- 7 eliminated altogether?
- 8 MR. FINELLI: As a practical -- from a
- 9 practical perspective, there's not a practical use
- 10 for the minaret. No.
- 11 MS. JAKWAY: So was that ever an option
- 12 or was that ever discussed with your clients not
- 13 having the minaret?
- 14 MR. FINELLI: No.
- MS. JAKWAY: Could that be a proposal?
- 16 MR. FINELLI: I would disagree with
- 17 that premise because it's an important design
- 18 element.
- 19 MS. JAKWAY: Okay. So it's an
- 20 important design element. You stated before that
- 21 you would like people to drive by and see the
- 22 building and understand what the purpose is,
- 23 correct?
- 24 MR. FINELLI: Yes.
- 25 MS. JAKWAY: I don't know how familiar

- 1 Is there any request or any thought
- 2 about the future of extending the building upward in
- 3 any areas, maybe not overall, but maybe on that left
- 4 side or anything like that? Is there any additions
- 5 planned?
- MR. FINELLI: There's nothing planned.
- 7 The height is 35 feet, two and a half stories. Just
- 8 being specific. That's all. And that's the
- 9 standard in the zone, but, no, there is no
- 10 discussion about raising the roof. No.
- 11 MS. JAKWAY: And that's not
- something -- I don't mean to state it before that no
- 13 one or it was sworn that they or the owners were not
- 14 going to place a microphone or any kind of speaker
- 15 system or electrical lights, anything like that in
- 16 the minaret. Has there been a promise not to
- 17 increase the building height-wise?
- 18 MR. FINELLI: It hasn't required any
- 19 discussion.
- 20 MS. JAKWAY: Okay. And just for sake
- 21 of argument, if the building could be raised upward
- 22 to a second story without affecting the footprint of
- 23 the building, you could then theoretically -- as
- 24 another gentleman was saying before, you know, you
- 25 were saying you can't really -- you would have a

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- 1 you are with our neighborhoods. The only people
- 2 driving by there are us, and we know what the
- 3 building is going to be for. So maybe out of
- 4 respect to the homeowners who have lived here for
- 5 20, 30, 40 years, you could go back and discuss
- 6 eliminating the minaret because there is no purpose,
- 7 functional purpose for it and maybe doing something
- 8 with the dome.
- 9 I understand it looks beautiful in the
- o picture, but as stated earlier by another resident
- 11 of the area, you know, the color is going to stand
- 12 out. It is going to be a visual landmark. Everyone
- 13 is going to see it from their backyards from their
- 14 drive home every single day.
- So is that something that can be
- 16 discussed with the client and be brought back to the
- 17 board at a later date?
- 18 MR. FINELLI: We can discuss it. If we
- 19 decide to change it, we would come back, but I can
- 20 tell you that I would not be in favor of changing
- 21 the design.
- MS. JAKWAY: Yesterday there was -- or
- 23 I think you had stated yesterday that in Bridgewater
- 24 the maximum heighth for this building can be two and
- 25 a half stories. So 35 and a half feet.

- 1 problem adding on another thousand square feet
- 2 without having to add additional parking, but
- 3 raising a second floor to the building would not
- 4 allow you to impact the footprint, and then you
- 5 could impact the footprint elsewhere by adding more
- 6 parking, correct?
- 7 MR. FINELLI: Again, it's a hard
- 8 question to answer in a vacuum. If I put a second
- 9 floor on an assembly building, I have to worry about
- 10 two means of egress from the second floor,
- 11 elevators, ADA compliance, repeating restroom
- 12 facilities on a second floor for a particular use.
- 12 Tacinities on a second froot for a particular use
- 3 So it still boils down to it's not just
- 14 a construction question. It's not just a floor area
- 15 ratio question, but any increase in square footage
- 16 will trigger an increase in occupancy which will
- 17 also trigger an increase in the parking lot.
- 18 MS. JAKWAY: Okay. You spoke about the
- other mosques you visited in the area, especially
- 20 onces in neighborhoods, Teaneck, Montclair, Boonton.
- 21 Do all of those mosques have minarets?
- MR. FINELLI: Teaneck does.
- MS. JAKWAY: How tall? Do you know by
- 24 any chance?
- MR. FINELLI: It's a while ago. I

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1 don't recall. Teaneck does. I believe New

- 2 Brunswick -- South Brunswick does. I don't recall
- 3 the other ones having them. So my recollection
- 4 would be no.
- MS. JAKWAY: Okay. And that didn't --
- 6 it didn't take away from the building's purpose or
- 7 anything like that in your opinion?
- MR. FINELLI: They were entirely
- different designs. The one was a renovated temple.
- 10 One was a renovated Catholic church. One was a
- 11 renovated storefront space. The ones that were
- 12 built new of the two, the Teaneck and the North
- Brunswick both did. 13
- MS. JAKWAY: Okay. The rooms on the 14
- far left, can you identify what those are going to
- 16 be used for?
- MR. FINELLI: This bank or this bank? 17
- MS. JAKWAY: The first one, the first 18
- 19 ones.
- MR. FINELLI: The two in the back are 20
- 21 listed as daycare spaces. The one that juts out a
- 22 little bit is library. These three are religious
- education, community services, and then a lot of
- 24 this way is religious education, community services,
- 25 seniors lounge, and then right here is a daycare

- 1 completely change tomorrow?
- MR. FINELLI: Well, you know, because
- 3 we have a program, we designed around a program. So
- daycare is one of the -- daycare is one of the core
- 5 purposes. Worship space, daycare and community
- outreach, those are the three main purposes of the
- building.
- So, you know, there's a lot of 8
- 9 flexibility and multi-purpose, but, you know, the
- 10 idea is that it's either going to serve daycare,
- 11 it's going to serve the community at large or the
- 12 congregation, whether it's after school programs or
- 13 social programs, but there's -- there is obvious
- 14 flexibility there.
- MS. JAKWAY: Okay. Thank you. 15
- MS. TUBMAN: Madam Chair, while the 16
- 17 next person is coming up, I had a question asked of
- 18 me for the architect during the break, and that
- question is will the basement -- the existing
- basement be filled in so it's no longer there? 20
- MR. FINELLI: Correct. Yes, the 21
- existing basement will be filled in. There will be 22
- 23 no basement in the building once it's improved.
- MR. LU: I'm back. 24
- MR. COLLINS: Yes, sir. You're back. 25

- 1 office mostly to monitor traffic in and out during 2 the day.
- MS. JAKWAY: And the three rooms to the
- 4 left of the main worship place are also proposed to
- 5 be potentially daycare?
- MR. FINELLI: Those are
- daycare/multi-purpose spaces, yes. 7
- MS. JAKWAY: As I was doing some
- 9 research, I believe -- correct me if I'm wrong, that
- 10 all daycare -- all daycare facilities must have two
- 11 exits, one leading directly outside.
- So all of the spaces to the left of the 12
- 13 main worship only have exits either to the main
- worship, all which can lead to another exit or a
- 15 hallway that leads to a direct exit. There's no
- 16 direct exit outside. Is that really to code?
- MR. FINELLI: Daycare does not require 17
- 18 direct exit to the outside. Education requires
- 19 direct exit outside to the one-story building.
- 20 Daycare does not require an immediate egress from a
- 21 space directly outside.
- MS. JAKWAY: Okay. And you also said
- 23 before, last question, that these might not be the
- 24 permanent functions of these rooms. This is just
- 25 the proposed functions of these rooms. They could

- 1 Please state your name, and you're still under oath.
- MR, LU: William Lu. Okay. I have to
- 3 ask you more questions for you. As architect, you
- 4 are here during the last planning board in 2011 and
- you stated that, after the planning board, you -- I
- 6 believe the township offered you to look into
- different site.
- MS. TUBMAN: That's not the subject of
- 9 this hearing, and this site is zoned for the use
- 10 that is proposed. That's not something this
- 11 architect ---
- MR. LU: I'll rephrase my question. 12
- 13 And I'm just using your word. I asked you and you
- 14 said you advised your client continue with the
- proposed mosque. Despite neighboring complaints,
- 16 disrespect to the neighbors, what was your purpose?
- Was that your ego or was that -- you want one way
- for you to make more money?
- MR. FINELLI: You know, my purpose as
- 20 an architect is to serve the people I work for.
- 21 Very simple. What is the best way to serve the
- 22 people I work for? We have a project that we spent
- 23 a lot of effort designing. We spent a lot of effort 24 trying to enhance the building. We spent a lot of
- 25 effort, not me, me and the client, all of the

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- 1 professionals, involved making a facility that was
- 2 functional and beautiful and within the context of
- 3 the land use ordinance of this very township
- 4 eminently approvable with no variances, with no
- 5 restrictions, working within the law.
- 6 So we had every bit of respect. There
- 7 was never a cross word from this side of the table,
- 8 never, not once, and anything that we've been
- 9 asked --
- MR. LU: Is your client a resident of
- 11 Bridgewater?
- MR. FINELLI: Everything we have been
- 13 asked, we've been more than willing to consider.
- MR. LU: The mailing address for this
- 15 property is in Pluckemin. Is your client a resident
- 16 of Pluckemin or Bridgewater?
- MR. FINELLI: The mailing address of
- 18 this property is in Bridgewater.
- MR. LU: That's incorrect. It's P.O.
- 20 Box 252, Pluckemin, New Jersey, 07978.
- 21 MS. TUBMAN: Post office box might
- 22 be ---
- MR. FINELLI: The mailing address of
- 24 what is now the Redwood Inn.
- 25 MR. LU: The mailing address of the

- 1 ultimately, it is the obligation of the fire marshal
- 2 and, occasionally, zoning officer to confirm or
- 3 respond to any complaint or misunderstanding.
- 4 MR. LU: So if I see this large crown,
- 5 am I allowed to go in and count number of occupancy?
- 6 MR. MOSTAFA: I will count it for you.
- 7 MR. FINELLI: If you see a large crowd
- 8 and you're interested in how many people are in
- 9 it --
- 10 MR. LU: I'm sorry.
- 11 MR. FINELLI: You asked, if you see a
- 12 large crowd, are you allowed to walk in and count
- 13 the people?
- 14 MR. LU: Right.
- MR. FINELLI: I think you were talking
- 16 about disrespect before. I think that would border
- 17 on disrespectful. So if I had a question, I would
- 18 either -- if I had a question personally and I had
- 19 no participation in the building, I would write a
- 20 letter and send it to the organization or I would
- 21 ask the zoning officer or the fire marshal are they
- 22 aware of what is happening at the building? Are
- 23 they aware if they have been exceeding the
- 24 occupancy? Are they aware -- call the police. Are
- 25 there any traffic complaints? That's what I would

- 1 owner of Alfalah Center, it's recorded in the public
- 2 record as P.O. Box 252, Pluckemin, New Jersey,
- з 07978.
- 4 MS. TUBMAN: It's very possible that
- 5 Alfalah has a post office box in Pluckemin, but this
- 6 is a group, a congregation. It is not the -- it is
- 7 not a resident owner.
- 8 MR. LU: But are your members a
- 9 Bridgewater resident?
- 10 MR. FINELLI: Again, I think that
- 11 question will be answered later.
- MR. LU: My next question is you keep
- 13 talking about the occupancy, right? Are you going
- 14 to be there to enforce the occupancy?
- MR. FINELLI: To enforce the --
- 16 MS. TUBMAN: Occupancy.
- 17 MR. FINELLI: -- occupancy? A building
- 18 for assembly has to have posted in a viewable,
- 19 logical and preeminent location the occupancy limit
- 20 for each space.
- MR. LU: Who will enforce the
- 22 occupancy? Anybody from your --
- 23 MR. FINELLI: It is enforceable by the
- 24 owner, by the operator or to the person responsible
- 25 for the maintenance of the building, and,

- 1 do.
  - MR. LU: Okay. So I call 911.
- 3 MR. FINELLI: No, no, no, no. No. No.
- 4 No. You call the zoning officer, call the township.
- 5 You call the police, but you do not call 911. No.
- 6 MR. LU: Are the police, fire marshal
- 7 can enforce that?
- 8 MR. FINELLI: Those would be the people
- 9 at the responsibility of the township level to make
- 10 sure that things are as they are supposed to be.
- 11 Yes.
- 12 MR. LU: Okay. And the parking lot,
- 13 the parking space, is that 500?
- 14 Parking spaces I believe.
- 15 MR. LU: One hundred sixty-eight.
- 16 Okay. Does it make any difference if there is valet
- 17 parking service? Would that increase the number of
- 18 cars?
- MR. FINELLI: There's 168 spaces. So
- 20 in any parking lot, the aisle ways are required to
- 21 remain clear for emergency vehicles, for general
- 22 flow of traffic. So there's 167, 168 parking spaces
- 23 on the property. There's no parking in the
- 24 driveways. There's parking in the parking lot.
  - 5 MR. LU: No parking on the street?

11 What do you do?

16 they have to go to?

21 nearest alternate location.

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1 So it's a -- obviously, it's a long process.

2 MR. MALLELA: Okay. But there are

3 no -- it's not like you need any variances. It's

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4 just you have to approve your plans. That's all.

5 MR. FINELLI: I said assuming there's

6 no variance, and I just want -- if I'm creating

7 floor space, I'm going to create a variance. We

8 have that thousand square feet or so to play with,

9 but if I'm going more than that, we're going to

10 create a variance.

11 MR. MALLELA: Well, what if you go

12 build a second story? Second story.

13 MR. FINELLI: Can I stand in that

14 second story?

15 MR. MALLELA: Yeah. Why not?

16 MR. FINELLI: Square foot --

MR. MALLELA: Residential areas, you

18 know, people add.

19 MR. FINELLI: Residences are different.

20 I have the right to expand a residence within and up

21 to the bulk limitations without coming to a public

22 meeting. I can go directly to code enforcement. I

23 check my zoning. I make sure I can build what I

24 want to build, and as long as it's within those

25 limitations, then you design it. You would go to

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MR. MALLELA: Shiv Mallela, 902 PapenRoad.

MR. FINELLI: No parking on the street.

MR. LU: If there are more cars coming

3 into parking lot, who will enforce they are not

MR. FINELLI: It's really the same --

10 go to the mall parking lot. There's no spaces.

would be likely happen to here.

MR. FINELLI: I'm not sure.

going to park in nondesignated parking space?

6 it's the same people that regulate who's inside the

7 building. If you want to use the building -- if you8 wanted to use a building for any purpose or you

You turn around and you go home and you

13 go shop someplace else. I believe the same thing

MR. LU: Where's the nearest mosque

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Piscataway.

MR. FINELLI: They would go to the

MR. COLLINS: Sir, you'll still under

MR. LU: We'll see. Thank you.

25 oath. Please state your name again.

MR, LU: So they will go to Piscataway.

MR. MALLELA: I was sworn in yesterday.

wanted to go shopping during the holiday season, you

3 Just the question I have, if you were

4 to let's say add a second level to the structure,

5 would you need to come back in front of this board

6 or can you go through like the code enforcement to 7 do that?

8 MR. FINELLI: Anything that would

9 increase square footage would have to come back

before this board. Any modification of the buildingI believe would have to come back to this board.

MR. MALLELA: Now, for something like

13 that, are there any grounds for not approving --

14 other than the parking spots -- let's say exclude

15 the parking spaces.

16 Is there any variance you need or it's

17 part of, you know, the current zoning laws?

18 MR, FINELLI: Let's assume that there

19 are no variances and I have to go through what we're

20 doing -- part of what we're doing tonight is called 21 site plan approval. Site plan approval requires a

22 depiction of all of the improvements to the site

23 itself and to the building and that those plans are

24 reviewed by all the township professionals and

25 available to be reviewed by the population at large.

1 the construction code enforcement department. You

2 get a permit, a series of permits, and you build it.

3 MR. MALLELA: Okay. You had also

4 indicated that you were working on this from the

5 inception on this project.6 MR. FINELLI: Yes.

7 MR. MALLELA: Now, if I'm not mistaken,

8 the proposal that was made in 2011 consisted of an

9 elementary school as part of the planning and you 10 had stated that it was moved because it caused

11 confusion.

Now, where would the elementary school

have gone in this site plan, because since you are talking with the same floor space, where would the

15 elementary school be in something like this based on

16 the original plan?

MR. FINELLI: I think we had envisioned

18 a different layout for mostly this portion of the

building and some of these spaces.

MR. MALLELA: So that means that would

21 have been part of this?

MR. FINELLI: It would have been at the

23 sacrificé of another use. Yes.

MR. MALLELA: Also, the other question

25 I have, do you know how many services are going to

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- 1 be held?
- MR. FINELLI: I think we'll have direct 2
- testimony to that.
- MR. MALLELA: Approximate, three, four,
- 5 two, one, approximately.
- MR. FINELLI: The general prayer times
- are five times a day.
- MR. MALLELA: Five times a day. So the
- question is you said, during the prayers, these
- other rooms will not be used. So there is no
- possibility that somebody could be using the room
- 12 and go to a prayer, come back and use the room
- 13 again, or just that they attend each prayer, so
- 14 that's why it won't be happening concurrently.
- MR. FINELLI: Well, you'll have more 15
- 16 informed testimony following me, but I will tell you
- what I saw when I visited other mosques. The normal
- weekday prayers, the five time a day prayers are at
- facilities much larger than this and smaller than
- 20 this. It might be five people maybe midafternoon,
- 21 lunchtime. It might be 12 or 15 people in very
- 22 large facilities. That was about the average.
- The weekend prayer, just as in a temple 23
- 24 or Christian church, Saturday prayers are the most
- 25 populated prayer times. So that would be the day

- 1 hand. Do you swear or affirm to tell the truth, the
- 2 whole truth and nothing but the truth so help you
- God?
- MS. OROZCO: I affirm.
- MR. COLLINS: Please state your name
- and address.
- MS. OROZCO: Kim Orozco, O-R-O-Z-C-O,
- 826 Mine Road in Bridgewater.
- So I'm right across the street from the
- 10 facility, and I'm concerned about a couple of
- 11 things, and you might not be able to give me an
- 12 answer.
- I notice in the plans there was a 1.3
- 14 suggestion of having a second driveway to that end,
- 15 the far end toward the north I think it is, and
- which is now like an unpaved road there now.
- MR. FINELLI: I can clear it up for 17
- you. There is a road, a secondary vehicular access
- 19 that we will abandon and return to landscaping.
- MS. OROZCO: Wonderful. 20
- MR, FINELLI: This is the one we're 21
- 22 talking about.
- MS. OROZCO: Right, because it faces my 23
- 24 bedroom and my house, and if cars are coming there
- 25 in, you know, dark hours, all those lights are going

- 1 where you'd have the largest prayer gathering. During the weekday prayers, the five
- 3 prayer times a day, they are relatively lightly
- attended.
- MR. MALLELA: Okay. But during the
- Ramadan you see a lot more people then.
- MS. TUBMAN: You really can't testify 7
- to that. 8
- MR. FINELLI: There will be testimony.
- MR. MALLELA: Okay. So when you say
- 11 five times a day, will people be coming in and out
- 12 five times?
- MR. FINELLI: Yes. 13
- MR. MALLELA: So there will be a lot of 14
- traffic five times a day? 15
- MR. FINELLI: Again, five people. 16
- MR. MALLELA: Assuming that's the case. 17
- MR. FINELLI: Five people, 10 people. 18
- MR. MALLELA: We don't know that 19
- because -- you can't testify to that either. You
- can't testify to how many people either. 21
- MR. FINELLI: Right. 22
- MR. MALLELA: Okay. Thank you. 23
- MR. FINELLI: You're welcome. 24
- MR. COLLINS: Please raise your right 25

- 1 to be right in my windows, and it is a lack of
- 2 privacy for my family, and I was concerned about it.
- If you're facing the facility, it's to
- 4 the left of a little pond area. It's like a service
- 5 road, I think, apparently, maybe they used for
- delivering materials in the past, but I don't know
- MR. FINELLI: Okay. So the area you're
- talking about is really, really close to the
- northern property line way up here. So that's going
- to be abandoned and returned to landscaping. The
- two ways in, two ways out is able to go around and
- out this way. So it's moving south by about 75, 80 feet. 14
- MS. OROZCO: So you're saying -- you 15
- see that rectangle facing your property across the
- street? That's my house.
- MR. FINELLI: Right there?
- MS. OROZCO: Yeah. There's where I 19
- 20 live, and the service road faces -- I believe that's 21 my house.
- MR. FINELLI: That's the service road 22
- right there. 23
- MS. OROZCO: Right, and my front
- 25 bedroom faces out of the house. It protrudes out of

- 1 the house and the lights really would shine right
- 2 into. So you're saying you're abandoning that.
- MR. FINELLI: That one is abandoned.
- 4 We do have a second one here. It's about 758 feet
- 5 south. If that is the end wall of your house, then
- it is much farther below this location.
- MS. OROZCO: Well, my concern would be,
- 8 and I wish somebody could show me, is your driveways
- 9 in and out of your building, especially out of your
- 10 building, that face right into my home where my home
- 11 is not far from the street, that those lights are
- 12 going to effect me in the dark hours of the evening
- 13 and the morning.
- MR. FINELLI: I will tell you, looking
- 15 at the plan that's right in front of me, I can point
- 16 it out to you when you want to leave the podium.
- The northern edge of this driveway is just about
- even with the back corner of your house.
- MS. OROZCO: Okay. Because my neighbor 19
- 20 behind me, behind my house, when his own -- and he's
- across the street from your parking lot. The back
- of his backyard, when the back light goes on in the
- corner of his yard when the deer come in the middle
- of the night, his light automatically comes on. It
- 25 comes right into our back bedrooms and I have five

- It does affect my life. You know, I go
- 2 to church every week myself, and I respect that
- 3 people want to attend a mosque and have a place of
- 4 worship. I do respect that, and I don't have a
- problem with your minaret. I don't have a problem
- with your dome.
- I have a problem with my quality of
- life and whether the traffic to and from your
- building is going to -- especially the light traffic
- 10 is going to effect that I can relax in my own home
- 11 after I put in a long day of work and I want to
- 12 meditate. I want to study my bible. I don't want
- 13 to have to do it with lights coming in and out of my
- 14 room, flickering in and out of my windows or have to
- block the sun to prevent it. 15
- And the other concern I have is noise. 16
- If those front rooms are a school -- and you 17
- probably can't answer this. I'm not sure. Maybe
- 19 that's a part of somebody else that comes in, the
- 20 functionality of the place, but how do you
- 21 prevent -- I'd like to read in peace or is it in my
- 22 backyard which faces your facility?
- If you're having constant activities
- 24 there day and night, how do I enjoy my property?
- 25 How do I not hear the school children in and out

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- 1 bedrooms, and it's really a problem for the person
- 2 in that room unless they use shades where the light
- 3 doesn't come in, and I don't get the morning sun.
- I think that's unfair, and I just want
- 5 to know whether or not that's going to happen with
- 6 your facility, especially in light of the fact that
- 7 you may have people coming to your facility at 5:30
- 8. in the morning and after the sun goes down.
- And my next concern would be the
- 10 parking lot. It doesn't matter to me how many
- 11 spaces you have. My concern was -- and you might
- 12 not be able to answer this. Was the lighting in the
- 13 parking lot -- because I realize, when you have
- 14 people coming to services, you have to be careful
- 15 that they don't fall and hurt themselves. So you
- 16 have to provide enough lighting to get in and out of
- 17 the building. It may not be a problem at 7:30 in
- 18 the evening, but if your facility is open near
- 19 midnight on weekdays when I have to work in the
- 20 morning, all those lights are going to affect the
- 21 light coming into my home when I'm trying to rest,
- 22 and I want to know is the facility going to have any
- 23 type of light protection or filtering for the people
- 24 who live around them so that doesn't affect my
- 25 day-to-day life?

- 1 playing basketball for hours on end, bang, bang,
- 2 bang with the ball? It affects me. So what can you
- 3 do, can your group do or an architect do to minimize
- 4 that impact on my life?
- MR. FINELLI: Well, inside the
- 6 building, as far as the building is concerned, we're
- 7 talking about a daycare, not education. So the age
- 8 of children will be younger. I wouldn't anticipate
- 9 the requirement of much sound attenuation from
- 10 inside the building to outside the bidding.
- Outside the building in terms of hours 11
- 12 of operation, that's certainly something we can
- 13 address. There is the outdoor activities that are
- 14 required to operate a daycare. We'll have outdoor
- activities. Most of that is, you know, back here. 15
- So the building itself will shield at 16
- 17 least the eastern -- western side of the road, and
- that area is pretty much surrounded by a lot of
- woods which will attenuate any sound to those homes 19
- 20 immediately. As far as any recreation that's 21
- 22 happening in the parking lot, it's more of a
- 23 management issue. There honestly is not anything
- 24 physical that we can put around that that is going
- 25 to mitigate sound.

- Landscape buffering, it is required,
- 2 and we are providing landscape buffering which is
- primarily intended to mitigate the light pollution
- 4 to the neighbors on the neighbors over here, and
- there is -- there's a fair amount of landscaping
- 6 here. There will be a landscape architect that will
- 7 describe that in more detail. It's not intended to
- be a sound mitigation tool.
- So as far as any other recreation
- 10 that's in the parking lot itself, I don't really
- 11 have an answer for you other than it's a matter of
- 12 how we would manage it. If it's daycare and
- weekends, it's certainly going to be in the daytime.
- 14 It's going to be nine to five kind of issue. It's
- not going to be after dark. It's not going to be
- 16 before dark or before sunrise, and that's the only
- answer I can really give you.
- MS. OROZCO: I don't know if the town 18
- 19 can answer this, the board. I don't know enough
- about this kind of thing.
- Are there any ordinances how late an 21
- institute like this can be opened in an evening 22
- generally? Am I to expect your facility could be
- 24 open to midnight with all the lights on and all the
- 25 noise without restraint?

- Along the front, you know, sometimes
  - 2 you're at cross purposes. We need to keep
  - 3 visibility for traffic, people going in and out of
  - the driveway. There are site triangles that are
  - 5 required to be maintained and not allowed to be
  - obscured by vegetation, and on the other hand, we're

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- trying to incorporate shrubbery, trees, you know, to
- mitigate sound. So there's some tension there.
- MS. OROZCO: I wasn't here last night.
- I wanted to be here, but I had another commitment.
- 11 There was something in the notation that we were
- supposed to have this meeting a couple weeks ago,
- something about somebody was looking to use
- shrubbery instead of trees or something. You were
- going to use something else in place of something
- else. Did that not happen then. 16
- MS. TUBMAN: This will be the testimony 17
- of the landscape architect, but the note you are
- speaking of was to increase shrubbery on the grounds 19
- as opposed to right against the building. 20
- MS. OROZCO: Okay. 21
- MS. TUBMAN: But there will be 22
- testimony on that. 23
- MS. OROZCO: Okay. When will we expect 24
- 25 to have the testimony? What's the time frame?

- MR. FINELLI: As an applicant, we will
- provide testimony that will tell you hours of
- operation, and when that discussion is going on, we
- can certainly get more clarification in terms of
- 5 frequency. You know, is that a weekend thing? Is
- it during the week? Those sorts of things.
- MS. OROZCO: So I'm waiting to hear
- from somebody who will speak about the functionality
- of the mosque. 9
- MS. TUBMAN: That's correct. 10
- MS. OROZCO: And I'm waiting to hear 11
- from somebody about the traffic? 12
- MS. TUBMAN: Yes. 13
- MR. FINELLI: Yes, ma'am. 14
- MS. OROZCO: And about the landscaping 15
- or mitigation of light. 16
- MR. FINELLI: The landscaping, because 17
- the landscaping is required by code, and it is 18
- specifically designed to address light pollution,
- especially as we discussed yesterday, that the
- direction of the parking is, you know, sort of
- north/south to our backyards. You know, these
- backyards especially would be affected by any
- 24 headlights in the spaces. So, yeah, that is the
- 25 primary buffer.

- 1 Anybody know.
- MS. TUBMAN: It's hard to tell. The
- meetings go late, and we have witnesses backed up.
- MS. OROZCO: Okay. How will we be
- notified.
- CHAIRPERSON KANE: The next meeting --
- this, obviously, will be carried, and it will be on
- Monday, February 24, at this facility. So we will
- accomplish what we can tonight, and then we meet
- next will be on the 24th of February.
- MS. OROZCO: I'm not going to be able
- to make it that meeting. Is there a way I can see
- the notes or transcript or have access to that
- information.
- MS. TUBMAN: We will be providing 15
- transcripts. We can't do it instantaneously. We
- don't have last night's transcript, for example, but
- we will be providing a transcript to the planning
- board on this.
- MS. OROZCO: Okay. Just so I can kind 20
- 21 of keep abreast of what's happening. Thank you.
- MR. FINELLI: You're welcome. 22
- MR. OROZCO: Shalom. Wilson Orozco, 23
- O-R-O zebra Charlie O.
- MR. COLLINS: Mr. Orozco, please raise

1 extremely helpful for all of us who live within the

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- 2 area if you could put together a model with all the
  - 3 existing properties around it and it won't have to
  - 4 be detailed, only have to be a cube.
  - How long does it take to model a cube?
  - 6 I think it takes about 30 seconds to put a cube.
  - 7 Most of the houses, they're just multiple cubes, and
  - 8 then you can model the landscape and then we could
  - 9 all get a good feel of how this is going to affect
  - 10 all of us.
  - Furthermore, we could also see how the 11
  - 12 lighting is going to effect us because we sit here
  - 13 and we're asking ourselves, you know, the lighting,
  - 14 how high it's going to be. You have no idea how the
  - 15 light is going to affect my way of living.
  - Ms. Orozco just asked the question 16
  - about some other traffic going in and out. Do you
  - 18 have any idea how that's going to affect the quality
  - of life? 19
  - I know if it's going to affect her, 20
  - 21 it's going to affect me. Do you have any idea? Can
  - 22 you quantify how that traffic going in and out going
  - 23 to affect her and me?
  - MR. FINELLI: There's not a drawing
  - 25 that can answer that question. We both know that,

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- 1 your right hand. Do you swear or affirm to tell the
- 2 truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth so
- 3 help you God?
- MR. OROZCO: I do.
- MR. COLLINS: Thank you.
- MR. OROZCO: How is the 3D rendering 6
- done, the one that we're looking at?
- MR. FINELLI: The software we use is
- Google SketchUp. We draw the building. We draw it
- 10 to scale in dimension horizontally and vertically.
- 11 You know, we draft it the same way we would draw it
- 12 by hand, and once we've created that three
- 13 dimensional model, we can manipulate it, spin it,
- look inside, look outside, color it.
- MR. OROZCO: So it's actually a 3D 15
- 16 model --
- MR. FINELLI: Yes. 17
- MR. OROZCO: -- that you say we can
- 19 manipulate. One of my neighbors asked why couldn't
- 20 we just somehow take that model and drop it into
- some kind of a landscape so you can get an idea on
- the reference how this building affects the rest of
- the landscape. Would that be difficult to do?
- MR. FINELLI: It's really not that .
- 25 difficult, no, but it's -- we have to pick a

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- 1 right?
  - MR. OROZCO: You tell me.
  - MR. FINELLI: Is there a drawing that 3
  - 4 could answer how your wife's reaction is going to
  - 5 affect your reaction?
  - MR. OROZCO: Having said that --
  - MR. FINELLI: I'm married 35 years. 7
  - The answer is no.
  - MR. OROZCO: Having said that, I was a 9
  - 10 little confused by the total occupancy, right?
  - Whatever number you come up, whatever
  - 12 the magic number is, what elephant, it's going to
  - 13 happen several times a day, right?
  - And that's the number my understanding
  - 15 is the same number that the traffic engineer is
  - going to use, right? 16
  - And somebody said before that there's a 17
  - 18 slight discrepancy. Are those discrepancies going
  - to be reconciled sometime in the near future?
  - MR. FINELLI: Well, we reconciled them 20
  - 21 about an hour ago. The 437 number is the maximum
  - occupancy devoted to prayer space. Okay. 22
  - MR. OROZCO: But that can be in the 23
  - morning, in the afternoon and at night? 24
  - MR, FINELLI: Yes. 25

1 perspective or there's just a lot of repetition. If

- 2 I were to take a photograph, then I could take the 3 photograph, I could scale the photograph based on
- 4 known coordinates. I would pick out landmarks like
- 5 the existing building corner and the existing
- 6 telephone pole let's say, scale that to my model,
- 7 scale the photograph to my model and then introduce
- 8 the model.
- That's not something that I can
- 10 manipulate. I'm going to create a two-dimensional
- 11 drawing based on that model. So I have to pick my
- perspectives.
- MR. OROZCO: Okay. How long will it
- 14 take to make that particular model, minutes, half hour, hour, two hours?
- MR. FINELLI: It's about two weeks of 16
- drafting time involved in that model. So about 80
- to a hundred hours.
- MR. OROZCO: That's a good bill. I've 19
- used Pro-3D, AutoCAD, SolidWorks. MR. FINELLI: I feel sorry for you.
- 21 MR. OROZCO: Something like would only 22
- 23 take me I'd say a couple of hours depending on how
- much detail.
- Having said that, I think it would be

- MR. OROZCO: So 437 at 10, 437 at 12 2 and 437 later on, right? How does that translate to
- 3 the traffic study?
- MR. FINELLI: The traffic expert --
- 5 believe me, I'm not a traffic expert. The traffic
- 6 expert ---
- MR. OROZCO: I understand that. 7
- MR. FINELLI: That is his expertise. 8
- He will be able to explain this.
- MR. OROZCO: Okay. Thank you. 10
- MR. MALLELA: One question. 11.
- MR. FINELLI: You get two every night. 12
- MR. MALLELA: I forget. I'm getting 13
- 14 hold. I am old anyway.
- One of the questions I had is this was 15
- testified by the engineer yesterday, and you did the
- same thing today. You made a categorical statement
- 18 the parking lot is full, people just go back. If
- the parking lot is full, people will just go find
- another mosque or go somewhere else, but it doesn't
- work that way. I know it. 21
- I've lived long enough to know that 22
- 23 people will find street parking. Is there some
- 24 reason for you to believe that they will not try to
- 25 park on the street?

- MR. FINELLI: Again, we're talking
- about in a general -- any five times a day, there
- will be people coming at different times a day.
- Yes, if they work together, if they live close
- together.
- MR. MALLELA: I don't know too many men
- that car pool. I go to the temple 202. Nobody does
- that. It's a very unrealistic thing to say. I
- would say, if you're having 200 men, 200 men or
- hundred men, hundred women, maybe two per car, but
- the ratio 220 and 230, I cannot see your ratio three
- MR. FINELLI: Come back to the parking 13
- 14 expert.
- MR. MALLELA: I'm saying, because you 15
- 16 mentioned in the numbers, I expect a lot more cars
- in your ratio of one to three.
- MS. TUBMAN: You really can't address
- 19
- MR. MALLELA: I'm saying because we 20
- 21 talked about that.
- MR. FINELLI: Now, you're getting me 22
- 23 yelled at.
- MR. MALLELA: She yells at everybody
- probably, don't you think?

- CHAIRPERSON KANE: Is there anyone else
- 2 in the public that would like to ask a question of
- 3 the architect? Okay. Seeing none, I will close
- 4 that portion of the meeting.
- MR. COLLINS: We are past 10. We're
- going to carry to a date certain and that date
- certain is February 24 at 7 p.m. at this meeting
- 8 space. We also are expecting and planning that we
- will have a meeting on March 24 at 7 p.m.,
- 10 hopefully, at this meeting space. Although, we are
- 11 still coordinating it with the high school, but for
- 12 now, we are definitely carried to February 24, 7
- p.m. at this auditorium.
- CHAIRPERSON KANE: Adjourn. 14
- MR. CHARLES: If I could just quickly, 15
- 16 I heard a lot of data request tonight, and I'm not
- sure what the right venue is for -- maybe it's the
- attorney to talk to the client or what, but when we
- come back, in order to be better prepared, I heard
- questions, and I think the one question was actually
- 21 in Ms. Doyle's report regarding either lowering or
- 22 eliminating the minaret.
- That's a discussion with the applicant 23
- that I think the attorney has to have, changing the
- color of the dome. I think eliminating the outdoor

MR. FINELLI: I think I mentioned this

- 2 yesterday. When we talk about occupancy, when we
- 3 talk about this type of use, any house of worship,
- 4 there are always a couple of times a year that will
- 5 exceed all of our expectation clearly. It is -- we
- 6 have no anticipation and I saw nothing in visiting
- 7 all of those mosques that would lead me to believe
- 8 that we will ever approach anything close to maximum
- occupancy except for a couple of times a year.
- That is just -- that is just what I
- 11 have observed where I went with my own two eyes,
- what I've learned by talking to people at other
- mosques. It will be the -- there are two primary 14 seasonal services, the Ramadan service, the EID
- 15 service. You will hear testimony about these.
- 16 They're a couple times a year. So if you're talking
- 17 about any given Saturday, I would certainly not
- anticipate the full parking lot. I just wouldn't.
- MR. MALLELA: Another question I also 20 have is, the way you described the occupancy, you
- 21 had 220 in the main banquet room and then to the
- 22 ladies you only had like 30. MR. FINELLI: Correct.
- 23 MR. MALLELA: So, basically, I don't 24
- 25 know. You're expecting the men to car pool?

Page 143 Page 141 CERTIFICATE OF OFFICER 1 1 basketball court was brought up. I heard a 2 2 comparison scale between the old facility and this 3 3 one. I think it would make sense to have a view of I CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true 4 4 what the maximum development view would be without and accurate transcript of the testimony and variances. I heard that come up a number of times. proceedings as reported stenographically by me at I think there were just some things -the time, place and on the date as hereinbefore set 7 I also heard about the possibility of an additional 8 forth. Stormceptor to collect runoff from the parking lot. I DO FURTHER CERTIFY that I am neither I think there are a number of data elements that we a relative nor employee nor attorney or counsel of could bring to the next meeting. If the applicant any of the parties to this action, and that I am 11 could bring that, that might facilitate the neither a relative nor employee of such attorney or discussion and some of the testimony. So I just 12 counsel, and that I am not financially interested in 13 wanted to say that. 13 14 the action CHAIRPERSON KANE: Thank you. Would 14 15 that be possible, Ms. Tubman? 15 16 MS. TUBMAN: We will take all of those 16 DIANE M. HOLMES, C.C.R. Certificate No. XI01660 17 suggestions into consideration. 17 CHAIRPERSON KANE: Thank you very much. 18 18 MS. TUBMAN: I cannot give you an 19 19 20 answer myself. 20 CHAIRPERSON KANE: Thank you. Thank 21 21 you. Okay. Anything else? 22 22 Okay. Can we have a motion to adjourn? 23 23 MR. MOENCH: So moved. 24 24 CHAIRPERSON KANE: Second. 25 25 Page 142 MR. RODZINAK: Second. 1 CHAIRPERSON KANE: All in favor? 2 (All respond aye.) З (Proceedings conclude at 10:05 p.m.) 4 5 6 7 8 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24

25