

Acton selectmen push new TD Bank plan close to sidewalk

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Acton, Mass. — A new branch bank may be coming to Kelley's Corner, but town officials want a plan they say will be safer for pedestrians and ease traffic, with fewer parking spaces for more of a village feel.

Selectmen voted Aug. 23 to grant a special permit request from TD Bank, on the condition that the plan sets the building closer to the street. The selectmen said making Kelley's Corner pedestrian friendly was a priority.

"I felt strongly that we didn't want to write a denial, but if we were going to write an approval it would have to have conditions," Selectman Janet Adachi said.

The bank is planned at 408 Massachusetts Ave. — also Route 111 — on a site that currently houses Acton Auto Inspectors and a filling station still in operation. According to the draft decision document, TD Bank requested a total of 26 parking spaces both in front and behind the building.

The selectmen's decision said only seven spaces were required in the Kelley's Corner district, and directed the bank to remove the front parking spaces.

The site, near the intersection of Routes 111 and 27, is in a section of town considered a high traffic area for business.

Adachi said she sympathized with TD Bank for their work in redesigning draft plans for the site multiple times and recognized their need to comply with corporate standards. But the selectmen agreed that Acton residents want the area to be more accessible to walkers.

The bank has 20 days to appeal the decision from the filing date.

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