The Simplex site is currently zoned for industrial use with limited housing along the perimeter. The Caragianes petition intended to secure City Council approval for a mixed-use development including housing, a hotel, and industrial or office space. The petition was allowed to die in the Committee of Ordinances after an allotted 90 days from its submission when it became clear that the petition would not pass the council. It would have required six of the nine council votes. Turk refused to specify the site “have been given better than a fair shot,” according to Milne. “Physical development is now the name of the game.”

The city can issue special permits to allow slight zoning changes, he said. He estimated that 85 to 90 percent of the development could be accomplished without rezoning.

Milne disagreed with the contention that MIT is ignoring neighborhood needs. “There is a spectrum of jobs in high-tech,” he said. “MIT, the purest example of high-tech, employs many blue-collar union workers.”

Blue-collar workers compose only a small fraction of the Cambridge population, he said. “The housing problem is more complex,” Milne said. The problem is not unique to Cambridge, he said, but strict rent controls keep demand artificially high.

There is general agreement in Cambridge that development is needed. Milne said, “For five years we have been spinning our wheels. It is important to get moving on it.”

The preliminary agreement reached with Cybersan is a “fortunate circumstance” just three months after signing on Forest City as developer, he said.

Planes made for Simplex site

One of the five most dense cities in the country, it added. Another problem with the Caragianes petition is its provisions for housing, which Cavellini described as too few and too expensive. The number of reasonably priced housing units is “ridiculous,” he said.

The housing provisions, he said, would violate “linkage concept” where the developer takes responsibility for the pressure placed on local housing availability. A letter to Forest City Enterprises states, “the Simplex Steering Committee can’t, and won’t, sit idly by as the neighborhood continue to be blighted in anticipation of a luxury high-rise development insensitive to neighborhood needs.”

The Steering Committee can keep any zoning petition from being passed, according to Cavellini, “If MIT's' money might be better used elsewhere” he said. “Unless MIT opens to discussion, it is not going to be a smooth process.”

Milne disagreed: “MIT does not need a zoning change.” He said the Institute viewed the Caragianes petition as a compromise.

The opponents of MIT’s plan for the site “have been given better than a fair shot,” according to Milne. “Physical development is now the name of the game.”

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MIT may cut IAP languages

what out of line with the reality of our needs if we are to accommodate everyone,” Turk said.

While no formal decision to eliminate the IAP subjects has yet been made, Turk said, “given the budgetary situation, it looks as if IAP is one place where we might have to cut.” A decision will probably be made in the spring, he said.

Turk refused to specify the cost of the tuition, since it involves almost entirely of salaries, he said, and that information is confidential.

The IAP intensive language program began when IAP did, 10 years ago, with a German 1 course. Russian I was added three years ago, and French I this year.

The subjects’ popularity has grown. With a class size limit of 30, between 20 and 30 students were turned away from each of the French, German and Spanish classes. None were turned away from the Russian classes.

Although Romaine said the Foreign Languages and Literatures section intended to offer English as a second Language, Turk said that idea was discussed and rejected as “not appropriate” for an IAP subject.

There are no present plans to make cuts in the section’s regular course offerings, he said. “We've been trying to run a lean a program as possible, but as strong a program as possible,” he said. Romaine suggested enrollment in some language subjects might be restricted. “You reach a point where, for an IAP course, it makes sense to have to be taken which might delay some-one's ability to take certain subjects,” he said.

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