

From: Cindy Goldstein [<mailto:cbgoldstein@comcast.net>]
Sent: Monday, August 29, 2016 12:42 PM
To: Neil Wishinsky
Cc: Alison Steinfeld
Subject: 1299 Beacon Street- proposed development

August 29, 2016

Dear Chairman Wishinsky,

I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed 40B development at 1299 Beacon Street. I am a resident of 70 Sewall Avenue and have lived in the Coolidge Corner area for over 40 years.

Simply put, a 12 story, 108 unit, 183 parking space plus retail development is too massive for the lot and neighborhood, architecturally out of character, and a potential traffic and safety hazard in an area that is already dangerous for both pedestrians and vehicles.

As you may be aware, the plans show the parking entrance to the proposed building on a short, one-way section of Sewall Avenue that is currently often congested. Activity at the post office rear parking area spills over onto the street with truck and car loading and unloading at all hours of the day and night. Temple Sinai uses its side and front entrances for drop-off and pick-up of children for various programs during the day and some evenings. Trader Joes shoppers exit the parking lot and turn onto Sewall and Charles Street to access Beacon Street. I have often had to walk in the street on Sewall Avenue while cars and trucks are temporarily parked on the sidewalk. Charles Street, also a heavily used, partially one-way street, can be a danger to pedestrians trying to cross it as cars from Sewall come around the corner at too high speeds.

Sewall Avenue continues past Charles Street as a two-way block and is used as access to St. Paul and Beacon Streets, backs up with cars and trucks attempting to make a left or right turn onto busy St. Paul Street, and is often partially blocked by trucks using the loading dock for 50 Longwood Avenue.

If there is another street in the Coolidge Corner area that is less suited for a development of this size with its inherent problems and hazards, I would like to know where it is. Brookline needs more affordable housing, but this project is not it.

Sincerely,

Cindy Goldstein
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