

From: michele russell [<mailto:michelerusselleinhorn@gmail.com>]
Sent: Sunday, August 21, 2016 12:31 PM
To: Neil Wishinsky; Alison Steinfeld
Cc: lkshivdasani@gmail.com; ramesh.shivdasani@dfci.harvard.edu; Malcolm L Russell-Einhorn; Linda Katz
Subject: proposed development at 1299 Beacon St.

August 21, 2017

Neil Wishinsky, Chairman

Board of Selectmen

Town of Brookline

333 Washington St

Brookline, MA 02445

To the Board of Selectmen:

We are writing to express our serious concerns about the building project being proposed at 1299 Beacon Street. We are strongly opposed to this construction.

The project, a 14 story building that would be the tallest in Brookline, is proposed to be built between Beacon and Sewall Avenues. It would sit between the Trader Joes and the US Post Office—Temple Sinai is next to the US Post Office.

We live in the Victorian on Sewall Avenue (51 Sewall) that is next to the condo development at 30 Longwood that faces directly across from the driveway and parking lot of 1299 Beacon.

Sewall Avenue is a narrow one way street. It is currently a traffic and safety nightmare. Cars use it as a cut through from Longwood to Beacon. Customers from Trader Joe's park on the street, as even the overflow lot in Neena's Lighting (the planned site for this 14-story tower) isn't sufficient to handle all of the parking. Meanwhile, the US Post Office does not have enough space in its lot and: 1. parks its trucks on Sewall; 2. employees park their cars on Sewall; 3. large postal trucks park on the sidewalk as there is nowhere else to park; 4. large postal trucks drive into the areas across the street in order to turn and back into the post office's small delivery area; and 5. at times during the day when postal employees and trucks are packed up for deliveries, the street is often blocked up.

On top of this, Temple Sinai has a school and has services and other activities resulting in additional traffic coming to pick-up and drop off members. Double parking is routine on Sewall. In addition, not a day passes when someone drives the wrong way up single-direction Sewall. Moreover, pedestrians sometimes cannot walk on the north side of Sewall where the post office is now because the trucks park over the sidewalk; this is frequently dangerous for children and disabled pedestrians in particular. We should add that the sidewalk on the south side of the street has also become more hazardous as delivery and service vehicles pull up on this stretch of sidewalk due to the unavailability of any other places (which not only cause impediments to pedestrians, who are forced onto the street, but break up the pavement on the sidewalk; the sidewalk is now beginning to crumble in several places, creating an uneven surface). Perhaps most alarming, ambulances and fire trucks have sometimes been stuck in traffic on this street—something that becomes even more hazardous during snowfalls.

It is on this street that the developers are proposing to build a 14 story building that will accommodate 174 cars that will access the building via Sewall Avenue. The problems above would clearly become worsened with the addition of a very large number of residents, service aides, vendors, and others entering and exiting the new development on already burdened Sewall Avenue. It borders on insanity to think that this street, with its current character, could accommodate anything more than an additional few vehicles on a regular basis.

This audacious, out-of-proportion development shows a clear disregard for the residents and businesses on the street, and for the residents of Brookline as a whole, many of them frequent pedestrians on Sewall and Longwood Avenues. Most disturbing, it shows a ***total lack of acknowledgement of a traffic and safety situation that is well known to the owner of the property who himself has attended meetings in the Town concerning the traffic and congestion caused by the postal trucks.*** Something this large, with perhaps 150 new permanent residents (there are 108 units proposed and it is fair to assume that some could have more than one person), simply does not belong in this location.

We urge you to contact state officials to deny approval for this project.

Sincerely,

Michele and Malcolm Russell-Einhorn

51A Sewall Avenue

Brookline, Mass 02446

617-872-1558

michelerusselleinhorn@gmail.com

m.russell-einhorn@umb.edu