

From: Marian Harris [<mailto:harrismh@gmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, December 07, 2016 10:50 PM
To: Alison Steinfeld
Subject: 40B proposal for 455 Harvard

Dear Board of Selectmen,

We are writing to express our concerns regarding the 40B proposal currently under consideration for 455 Harvard St. We live at 82 Thorndike St, so there is only one house between us and the proposed development.

We have a number of concerns.

An increase in the number of cars: Traffic is already congested at this corner, making it difficult to cross or turn left onto Harvard St. from Thorndike. This development would increase traffic, which is both a nuisance and a safety concern. We have two elementary school age children, and there are many additional children on Thorndike who walk to school through this intersection. In addition, street parking is already difficult on this block of Thorndike during the day, and this development would increase that problem. The proposed stacker parking would almost certainly be so inconvenient that residents of the proposed development, as well as visitors to the development, would use street parking whenever coming and going during the day. This would be a hardship for anyone who lives on the street who occasionally has visitors. For example, our elderly parents would not be able to park near our house. Our understanding is that the proposed stacker parking also creates a lot of noise when it is being used, and will be loud enough to disturb the neighborhood, especially when used at night. Having the entrance to the parking be on Thorndike is especially problematic and will only exacerbate the traffic and safety concerns mentioned above.

Scale: The proposed development is out of proportion to other residences on Thorndike and this portion of Harvard. Virtually no green or open space is planned at ground level. As planned, the building would entirely overshadow our neighbor's house.

Overall burden on neighborhood services: There are now 6 proposed 40B developments within 1/4 mile. If all are built, this will be a huge burden on neighborhood services, including traffic, trash and recycling, emergency services, and schools.

Environmental concerns: 455 Harvard St was formerly a gas station, with documented past EPA violations. While some assessment has been performed previously, our understanding is that this was done with the assumption that there would be no digging deeper than 3 feet. There would need to be further assurances that deeper digging and disruption of the soil would be safe for the neighborhood and the families with young children who live nearby.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We appreciate your efforts.

Best,

Marian Harris and Alan Mullen
82 Thorndike St.