

December 12, 2016

Board of Selectmen  
Brookline Town Hall  
333 Washington Street  
Brookline, MA 02445  
(VIA EMAIL)

RE: Safety & Community Concerns – 1299 Beacon Street 40B Project as Proposed and Revised

Dear Mr. Chairman and Honorable Members of the Board:

We have seen the revised proposal for the 40B mixed-use development at 1299 Beacon. Although we appreciate that the developer has modified the plan in response to some of the Town's questions, we remain concerned that even the modified project will exacerbate unsafe conditions on Sewall Avenue.

Between an extremely busy grocery store, a US Post Office sorting facility, and Temple Sinai's children's programs, the stretch of Sewall Avenue between Longwood Avenue and Charles Street is already very dangerous from a combination of double-parked vehicles, trucks that drive on sidewalks to enable tight turns, and the high volume of pedestrian and bicycle traffic, including families, elderly, and disabled persons. The problems are significantly exacerbated every winter because overnight and double parking of postal vehicles impede the Town's snow removal efforts. These well-known problems are underlined by the bicycle fatality a few years ago, the sorry state of sidewalks (which needed repair again this year), and the chronic difficulty of emergency vehicles to traverse this stretch. Any congestion and circulation issues which impact Sewall additionally impact ambulance access to and from Longwood Medical Area.

The 2 stories of proposed retail space add to the untenable nature of this development, as all access for delivery vehicles and customers is planned from Sewall Avenue. The circulation and parking plans are unquestionably insufficient to support retail and residential needs of the proposed scale; no attention has been given to the substantial volume of refuse that will need to be removed daily from the building.

We embrace efforts to bring affordable senior housing to Brookline, but even the modified development proposed at 1299 Beacon Street significantly exacerbates already unsafe conditions on Sewall Avenue.

The developer has not reached out to neighbors to discuss the plans or how we might work as a community to mitigate the pressing safety concerns the project will engender. We hope there will be additional public hearings to address the abutters' legitimate and serious concerns. Many thanks.

Sincerely,

Ramesh and Lisa Shivdasani  
51B Sewall Avenue  
(508) 982-8793 and (617) 733-6675

cc: Ms. Alison Steinfeld, Director, Planning & Community Development Department  
Ms. Stephanie Orsini, Town of Brookline