



# TOWN OF BROOKLINE

*Massachusetts*

## **BROOKLINE PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

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Meghan Hanrahan Richard, Staff  
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April 3, 2017

Dear Members of the Zoning Board of Appeals,

The Brookline Preservation Commission appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed 455 Harvard Street Chapter 40B Comprehensive Permit Application, proposed by Harvard Danesh 455, LLC. The Commission understands that the project includes the demolition of the existing structure at 455 Harvard Street, and the construction of a new building containing 17 residential units, of which 4 will be affordable. At its March 22, 2017 public hearing, the Brookline Preservation Commission reviewed the proposed plans for the site and provided the following comments:

- The existing structure on the property, originally a Texaco gas station constructed in 1935, does appear to be architecturally or historically significant. Therefore, mitigation for the building's demolition by means of architectural and engineering documentation in accordance to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation is warranted in this case.
- The Commission reacted favorably to the inclusion of ground floor retail space along Harvard Street.
- The overall height and massing of the proposed structure should step down along Thorndike Street, especially at the rear due to its immediate proximity to the two-family house at 78 Thorndike Street.
- The Commission responded positively to the overall design of the proposed Harvard Street elevation, but felt that the Thorndike Street elevation should be reworked in some way to better reflect the residential nature of Thorndike Street. This would help to reduce the overall imposing nature of the project along Thorndike Street.

On behalf of the Commission, I again express gratitude for the opportunity to provide comments to the Zoning Board of Appeals regarding the 455 Harvard Street project, proposed by Harvard Danesh 455, LLC.

Sincerely,

Meghan Hanrahan Richard  
Preservation Planner, on behalf of the Preservation Commission

cc: David King, Chair, Brookline Preservation Commission  
Alison Steinfeld, Director of Planning and Community Development  
Daniel Bennett, Building Commissioner  
Linda Hamlin, Chair, Planning Board  
Mel Kleckner, Town Administrator