

Subject: Carol Macbain

From: Carol Macbain <carolmacbain@gmail.com>  
Sent: Saturday, January 27, 2018 2:35 PM  
To: Maria Morelli  
Subject: Babcock Place development

To the ZBA:

This building is all that new housing should not be and will help discourage the acceptance of new affordable housing by current town residents. We all want affordable housing. It's a necessity. But current residents of the area should not have to give up their quality of life by accepting a building that puts such a burden on the neighborhood.

There needs to be space around all buildings. The only justification for a tall building is that it can provide alternative green space around it. This building does not. The fact that they plan to remove all trees on the site shows that the project is just too large.

New buildings need to provide services that do not infringe on others' rights, i.e. adequate space for trash collection, guest and resident parking, fire department access. This building may have a sprinkler system, but older adjacent buildings need space for adequate fire protection.

Even though this project may meet current fire code requirements, that does not mean it is a safe building. Brookline needs a higher standard when new types of construction are allowed, especially when this construction is placed in a crowded residential area near older buildings.

Affordable housing cannot be achieved at the expense of current residents' quality of life. The ZBA must not set a precedent by allowing this ill-conceived building to be built in an area that is already heavily populated. Affordable units, as much as they are needed and welcome in our town, must only be built in areas that have the space to accommodate them.

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Brookline resident  
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