



# TEMPLE SINAI

A vibrant, progressive community

April 12, 2018

**Rabbi**

Andrew D. Vogel

**Associate Rabbi**

Shoshana Meira Friedman

**Rabbi Emeritus**

Frank M. Waldorf

**Education Director**

Heidi Smith Hyde

**Executive Director**

Linda Katz

**Cantorial Soloist**

Rabbi Cherina Eisenberg

Jesse Geller, Chair  
Zoning Board of Appeals  
Town of Brookline  
333 Washington Street  
Brookline, MA 02445

To the Brookline Zoning Board of Appeals:

We are writing to express Temple Sinai's grave concern about the building project being proposed at 1299 Beacon Street. As neighbors directly affected by the proposed project, we have contacted Town of Brookline officials about this in the past and continue our strong opposition to this building project.

Certainly, the size of the 1299 Beacon Street building -- out of scale with the rest of Coolidge Corner -- is a concern to us. However, our more significant objection relates to the safety of the people living in the neighborhood, particularly the children who attend Temple Sinai's Religious School.

**2017-18 Staff Office Location**

Chestnut Park Senior Living  
Parking & Main Entrance  
19 Chiswick Road, Brighton

The address of the proposed building is on Beacon Street, but because the rear of the building faces Sewall Avenue, the project has an equal if not greater impact on Sewall Avenue, where our congregation is located. The plans for the proposed building indicate that its loading dock and parking access will be from Sewall Avenue. This part of Sewall is a one-way, narrow street which is already jammed with traffic, lined with parked postal trucks and double-parked cars.

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Consider Sewall Avenue at the present time. The very popular Trader Joe's market sits at the corner of Sewall and Longwood. The parking lot of that market is so congested that it needs to be monitored by a paid parking attendant. Continuing down Sewall, one sees that it is clogged with postal trucks and the coming and going of postal workers who need to access the rear of the Main Brookline Post Office. (The Main Brookline Post Office is immediately adjacent to the proposed building.) At the end of that short block is Temple Sinai. The only entrance to Temple Sinai's Religious School is on Sewall Avenue. There are roughly 170 children attending our school, ranging from pre-schoolers to high school students. In addition, Temple Sinai rents space to smaller schools including some classes for toddlers. We feel it imperative for all of those children be able to walk to our school and cross the streets to reach our school building in a safe environment.

The street is already congested and difficult for public safety vehicles to traverse. With the proposed loading dock and parking garage for 1299 Beacon Street also emptying onto our street, Sewall Avenue could easily become impassable for large segments of each day. At some times, there will be no way for an ambulance or fire truck to get down the street.



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The proposed construction at 1299 Beacon Street would worsen an already serious public safety problem. Delivery trucks and the additional cars traveling down Sewall Avenue or waiting to get into the 1299 Beacon's garage cannot be supported by a small street like Sewall Avenue.

Temple Sinai reiterates its strong support for the concept of affordable housing in Brookline. However, the negative impact of this wholly unsuitable project to the current users and residents of Sewall Avenue is significant. It has the potential for seriously undermining the safety of Temple Sinai's Religious School students and our temple members. We strongly feel the project should not be allowed to move forward.

Sincerely,

*Nora Abrahamer*  
President

*Andrew D. Vogel*  
Rabbi

Cc: Maria Morelli, Brookline Planning Department