

**From:** Lee Biernbaum  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 28, 2018 4:32 PM  
**To:** Polly Selkoe

Dear Select Board,

I recently received the notification about the proposed 40B Development at 500 Harvard Street.

While I understand this is a preliminary plan and many details and approvals are forthcoming over the next months, I wanted to offer a few words in general support of additional housing and additional density in the neighborhood.

As an abutter at the top of Verndale Street, I am aware there will be short-term disruption during construction and I look forward to future presentations discussing those aspects of the project.

However, it is vitally important that Brookline continue to support additional housing and the density that comes with it. My family moved to Brookline in 2012, and already could not afford to move into our same apartment today. This increase in home value is only of monetary benefit to me if I decide to leave metro Boston, but the downsides from the rapid appreciation will be manifest every day. A Brookline that is unaffordable to all but the richest-of-the-rich is not what drew me to the Town and it is profoundly disappointing to know I cannot recommend our neighborhood to friends or coworkers.

The idea of this project should be a prime example of what we need more of in Brookline... removing single-story retail, half occupied by a parking lot, on a major street, and replacing it with a multi-use building with limited parking. Living just across the street from this proposed site, I know you can live in this part of town with kids, and have no car (as I do with my 2 kids). Maximizing the use of space for people, as is proposed here, is commendable.

I leave to future hearings any judgement on the exact details of the project and reserve my right to complain (as any Brookliner would!) if there are problems with the project specifics, but, generally speaking, this a time for me to speak up and be able to say, literally, "Yes, even in my (front) yard."

Thank you for your time and I look forward to the opportunity to attend future hearings in person.

Lee Biernbaum  
7 Verndale Street