



TEMPLE SINAI

A vibrant, progressive community

September 18, 2019

Rabbi

Andrew D. Vogel

Education Director

Heidi Smith Hyde

Executive Director

Linda Katz

Student Rabbi

Talia Stein

Student Rabbi

Sam Blumberg

Part-Time Cantor

Maayan Harel

Rabbi Emeritus

Frank M. Waldorf

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

To the Brookline Zoning Board of Appeals:

We write, once again, to voice Temple Sinai's concerns about the proposed building at 1299 Beacon Street. As you know, Temple Sinai is located just down Sewall Avenue from that site. Although the synagogue steps face Charles Street, the main entrance to our school and offices is on Sewall Avenue.

We reaffirm our unequivocal support for affordable housing in Brookline. As we have stated in the past, we are opposed to the proposed project based on its design, out of concern that as designed it will have a negative impact on the safety of our members - both children and adults. While our primary safety concern relates to our members, our concern extends to the safety of the rest of the Brookline community including the future occupants of the proposed building.

Our opposition continues to be centered on the footprint of the building, which we understand is unlikely to be changed at this point. We, along with all our neighbors and adjoining businesses, still strongly believe this project is unduly and excessively large for the site. We are also troubled about traffic changes which will take place on our streets and in the area. We are unaware of a traffic management study or planned mitigation for traffic that we expect will have a significant impact on Sewall Avenue and Charles Street. We would like confirmation that this will be addressed both for the long term and as part of the construction planning process.

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Given that approval of the building is now likely, we would like assurances that representatives from Temple Sinai will be a part of the construction planning process both with the developer and with Town officials through a formal Construction Planning Committee on which Temple Sinai would have a seat. This Committee would work collaboratively with the developer to ensure that during the construction process safety, accessibility and convenience are preserved. We ask that the ZBA and Town of Brookline impose this and other conditions and restrictions to assure the integrity of our building and property. Most importantly, we feel it incumbent on the developer and the Town to assure the safety and well-being of our members and the greater Brookline community during construction and as this project moves forward.

Sincerely,

Yuval Gilbert
*Treasurer and Co-Chair,
Building Committee*

Jeffrey Simon
*Co-Chair, Building
Committee*

Charles Homer
President

Cc: Maria Morelli, Brookline Planning Department