

From: Eddine Saiah [mailto:]
Sent: Sunday, December 15, 2019 11:47 AM
To: Maria Morelli
Subject: Concerns about 500 Harvard St Brookline

Dear Miss Morelli:

My name is Eddine Saiah. I live at 19 Kenwood St in Brookline, 2 houses down on the same side of Kenwood St from the proposed construction site for 500 Harvard St.

My family and I purchased our current house on Kenwood St in 2013. Among the reasons we chose this location:

- We loved the peaceful feel of Kenwood St despite being just off the busy traffic on Harvard street.
- despite being renovated, the house was built in 1890 when most other houses on this street were built. There is a beauty to the homogeneous character of the street with slate roofs, all 3 story level houses with beautiful trees on each side of the street.
- the street has a good mix of young professionals, older residents and families with kids are various ages in Brookline schools. We have a child in Brookline high school, my neighbor next door has kids at the Coolidge Corner school. Kids walk to school and hang out at the Coolidge Corner Park at the end of Kenwood St.
- I love gardening and having a small front yard and a backyard was a dream come true.
- We like to walk everywhere.

As a neighbor and a Brookline property taxes payer, the proposed new development raises several concerns:

- Fit in the existing neighborhood: a 6 story building just 2 houses down from my house is excessive and out of place. How does this fit with the character of the neighborhood? When you stand on Harvard St next to the Levine Chapel facing towards Allston, there isn't a single building higher than 3 stories. A 6 story building is a monstrosity, especially by judging the ugly building erected by the same developer at 455 Harvard St.
- Shade: I love gardening as I mentioned earlier. I am concerned that a 6 story building will cast shade on my property as well as other properties which will restrict what one can plant and grow on their properties.
- increased traffic: we love walking everywhere as I mentioned above. With 30 new units, that's more car traffic, and more ubers coming and going through the neighborhood. As it stands now, it takes us a while to be able to make a left turn on Kenwood St while driving on Harvard St which is a safety concern with cars honking behind or trying to pass on the right with limited available space.
- Safety concerns for the kids: as I mentioned above, lots of kids walk to school and to the park at the end of the street. This project will create serious concerns about safety with again increased traffic and the presence of heavy equipment.
- Nuisance from the construction: noise, inability to use the sidewalks, rodents that will escape the existing building and heavy equipment that will be on site and spilling over to the streets and sidewalks.
- Creating a precedent: if this project is approved as is, the next buildings that will come up in the vicinity like in the TJ Max lot for example (we all know it's just matter of time) would be 6 or 8 or 12 story buildings or even more. This will create a suffocating feel to the neighborhood with no open space and no sun coming in. Just sad looking box buildings.

To preserve the integrity of the neighborhood, 500 Harvard St should be no taller than a 3 story building. The design should absolutely respect the existing feel of the neighborhood. This will also help limit the length in time of the project, limit the number of units, traffic and other issues raised above.

Due to a scheduling conflict, I am unable to attend the zoning board meeting on the 19th. I hope you can relay these serious concerns on my behalf.

Thanks and best,

Eddine Saiah
19 Kenwood St
Brookline, MA 02446