

Monique Baldwin

From: paulsaner@comcast.net
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2020 9:53 AM
To: Jesse Geller; Maria Morelli
Cc: Monique Baldwin; Joseph Braga; Todd Kirrane; 'David Trevvett'; 'Tina Kurys'
Subject: FW: 370 Harvard Street - 40B - Request for Modification to Conditions - Determination of Insubstantial Changes

Jesse and Maria,

I would appreciate your forwarding the below to the ZBA members hearing the above referenced case.

My interest and qualifications related to this access matter are as a legally blind resident pedestrian and the former Commissioner for the Mass. Commission for the Blind. I urge the ZBA to reject the so called minor modification related to an accessible warning.

Thank you,
Paul Saner
462 Chestnut Hill Ave.
617-835-5382

From: paulsaner@comcast.net <paulsaner@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2020 2:51 PM
To: 'Amy Schectman' <aschectman@2lifecommunities.org>; 'Jennifer Gilbert' (jgilbert@boballenlaw.com)' <jgilbert@boballenlaw.com>
Subject: 370 Harvard Street - 40B - Request for Modification to Conditions - Determination of Insubstantial Changes

Amy and Jennifer,

It has been brought to my attention that a “minor modification” to the comp permit is being sought to not require an auditory warning to pedestrians crossing the public sidewalk when cars emerge from the project’s parking garage. Unless you advise this isn’t accurate, I wanted to let you know that I will be forwarding this note to the ZBA. This is hardly “insubstantial” to the visually impaired residents of Brookline and those who will undoubtedly be living in the project itself. As Amy knows, visual impairment is highly correlated with age. The warning light that will remain is worthless to the blind.

The blindness community has been working with Town officials to provide more and properly functioning accessible pedestrian signals (APS). With the help of the Pedestrian Advisory Committee, it was determined that most of the modern APS the Town has along Beacon Street have had their volume turned off. That renders those devices as worthless to the blind since without a tone indicator a blind person doesn’t even know it is there. The Town has recently resolved that.

Neighbors in an urban area like this shouldn’t be dictating public safety to avoid any inconvenience from a tone indicator. In Boston, the tone indicator from APS are set low upon installation and then gradually turned up to help neighbors become more accustom.

Hope you both enjoy the weekend.

Paul

