

From:Thomas Marton <email address redacted>
Sent:Wednesday, September 30, 2020 10:42 PM
To:Maria Morelli <mmorelli@brooklinema.gov>
Subject:500 Harvard St

Maria – I hope you and your family are well.

I “attended” the ZBA meeting this eve re: 500 Harvard St. Thank you for your continued generous service to our Brookline community.

It did not seem the general public was invited to comment during the zoom meeting (I departed at 8:10PM for a political meeting), but I would contribute the following thoughts/observations re: the 500 St proposed development, if I may:

I appreciate and agree with the general thrust of Cliff Boehner’s overview remarks, but was dismayed to hear him speak so positively of the building by the same developer at 455 Harvard. From my perspective, while it is shaped well for the lot, it impresses one as a “cheaply made” building (indeed, it looks like a “false” brick facade). Also, that development ignores/interrupts the brick inlay for the sidewalk frontage that runs all the way up and down Harvard St on both sides, and uses industrial zone strength lights in the exterior canopy for the main entrance.

If it is indeed the same developer for 500 Harvard, I would push back on 455 representing a good “standard”. By contrast, I think the building where the new Tatte is housed (420 Harvard?), and hopefully also the not yet completed bldg next to the KI synagogue, provide much superior examples for a standard against which any development should be measured.

In addition, as a nearby resident, I feel strongly that any new building should not exceed 4 stories. A taller building would not fit the neighborhood profile, and both that stretch of Harvard St and the public school system are already over-congested. Piling on extra height and extra units at that location would not represent thoughtful, forward-looking development.

Thanks for your consideration of this. (And, in the meantime, perhaps the sidewalk and lighting issues at 455 could still be addressed!)

With regards,
Tom Marton (32 Russell St)

Thomas Marton, Esq.