

Kent Station Street Affordable Senior Housing Project Warrant Article History and Status – May 24, 2022

As an abutting resident and owner of Liz Linder Photography, I was involved in the Kent Station project from close to the start.

In 2016, Warrant Article 34 proposed a winning solution: to preserve essential parking by developing affordable housing above town-owned lots (the Kent Station lot being the pilot).

In 2022, Warrant Article 30 gives the selected developer the option to eliminate or reduce essential parking spaces at their discretion to close a budget gap, pitting affordable housing against parking and neglecting considerable impacts on the business community.

Following opposition and weeks-long dialogue with Brookline Village merchants and business associations, a proposed rewrite of WA 30 corrects facts and ensures a study and public hearings in advance of any RFP to identify, secure and maintain replacement spaces for merchant use.

The new language was discussed/drafted/approved by the following entities, and we ask that the Advisory Committee do the same:

- Ad-Hoc Subcommittee*
- LCAC (Livable Community Advocacy Committee), Brookline Community Aging Network*
- The original petitioners of Warrant Article 30*
- Town of Brookline Select Board*

Warrant Article 30 in its original form disregards the community by giving too much power to the developer. The rewrite of Warrant Article 30 approved by the Select Board is more aligned with the realities of the community it proposes to serve. Town Meeting Members will vote with Brookline Village in the balance, and we need an accurate Warrant Article, with assurances for the business community.

I urge the Advisory Committee to approve the updated language or have the selected developer close the budget gap in a different manner so it's not on the backs of small businesses in Brookline Village, upsetting the ecology of a local economy. Then, we can more thoughtfully explore creative solutions to support important initiatives.

Thank you for your attention.

Liz Linder
newly elected Town Meeting Member, P4