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To: the Brookline Board of Appeals  
Re: the application by Chestnut Hill Realty to expand Hancock Village.

There are many reasons the proposed expansion of Hancock Village should not happen. I ask the Board of Appeals to deny or to not now grant the permit application because the proposal would take and build on green space that:

- has been determined by the Brookline Preservation Commission to be an endangered historic resource.
- is eligible for the National and State registers of historic places.
- was designed by the firm of Frederick Law Olmsted. The proposal would apparently destroy significant aspects of the Olmsted design.
- is said to be the home of endangered species. This should be determined before any destruction of necessary habitat, including upland habitat is permitted.
- is a recreation area enjoyed by residents of Hancock Village and many of its neighbors.
- is in a Neighborhood Conservation District. A waiver from NCD jurisdiction is needed to build on the green belt and should not be granted.

My understanding is that Chapter 40B allows local laws to be overruled under certain conditions. Is allowing the same as requiring? And it seems to me that at least some of the protections of the green space are more than local. The determination by appropriate State agencies of impacts on the Olmsted design and the possible protection of endangered species seem to me more than local.

The loss of such significant green space would impact many residents of the area. It is privately owned but it is used by the public. It has been used by neighbors without permission for many years, since it was created. Is there a neighborhood right, created by adverse possession to use this space?

This proposal threatens other significant and privately owned green spaces in Brookline. Many issues raised by this permit application are now being litigated. I hope the Board of Appeals can at least stay its determinations until decisions have been finally made in Court.

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