



TOWN of BROOKLINE

Massachusetts

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MELVIN KLECKNER
Town Administrator

March 26, 2015

Ms. Katharine Lacy, AICP
40B Specialist
MassHousing
One Beacon Street
Boston, Mass. 02108

Dear Ms. Lacy,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the application for Site Approval for 21 Crown, the development proposed at 21 Crowninshield Road in Brookline.

Enclosed please find the Town's Response to MassHousing prepared by the Planning and Community Development Department, including letters from pertinent departments, boards, and commissions. Pursuant to the Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40B regulations (760 CMR 56.00), the report summarizes previous municipal actions the Town has taken to meet affordable housing needs.

The Board of Selectmen acknowledges the careful analysis conducted by Town planners in accordance with the factors that define conformance to the regulations, and we support the report's findings and recommendations: The project as designed is not appropriate for the site because its scale, layout, and parking configuration are incongruent with the existing development pattern of the carefully conserved, architecturally coherent Crowninshield neighborhood, which is currently under review by the Massachusetts Historical Commission for designation as a Local Historic District. In addition, the Preservation Commission has confirmed findings that the house, an Arts and Crafts gem, and the garage are historically and architecturally significant and one-year stays of demolition have been placed on them.

The Town can provide several examples of affordable housing developments that have been integrated successfully through sensitive design, adaptive reuse, and conservation of natural resources. We urge MassHousing to encourage the developer to work with Town so that the project relates more compatibly to the Crowninshield neighborhood, a cultural asset to the Brookline community.

Very truly yours,

Kenneth Goldstein
Chairman