

## re: In Consideration of Brookline Village and WA 30

Liz Linder <liz@lizlinder.com>

Wed 5/4/2022 12:21 PM

To: Alisa Jonas <alisa@jonasdays.net>

Cc: lindaolsonpehlke@gmail.com <lindaolsonpehlke@gmail.com>; dpollak@abacusarchitects.com <dpollak@abacusarchitects.com>; cbrownAC@comcast.net <cbrownAC@comcast.net>; Lisa Portscher <lportscher@brooklinema.gov>

Dear Alisa, Linda, David, Cliff, and Lisa,

I'm writing to express my concern around Warrant Article 30. This Kent/Station Street affordable housing project was approved **contingent** on the developer maintaining existing spots for continued use, and **this lot was specifically selected for the purpose of using air rights above said spaces.**

Given that the community worked hard to come up with a creative solution for an affordable housing problem, which was to build over town owned parking lots, and the parameters were clear at the time of the RFP, elimination of these spots calls into question the intent all along, and choice of this developer.

Allowing the developer to back out of the commitment to maintain existing parking spaces in the Kent/Station Street lot without due process allows a form of shortsighted maneuvering that will have cascading negative impacts on the business and local community.

From the perspective of someone involved in the process that led to selecting the developer (I sat on the Kent/Station Street Affordable Senior Housing Committee and the Kent/Station Evaluation Committee), I supported the project and invited the community to offer input on design considerations that ensure this development would be a good neighbor.

The creative solution to a setback is not to eliminate the creative vision that the town agreed upon to move forward with community development. If the proposed solution is to eliminate parking, the right move forward is to go back to the drawing board. If WA 30 passes, it sets up precedent wherein Brookline is subject to the whims of developers who have their own agendas. The town must find a better way to move forward in alignment with the original agreement.

The Kent/Station Street lot is a neighborhood-specific solution that supports residents and businesses without which it would be difficult to function. WA 30 misrepresents the situation by positioning affordable housing in opposition to these essential parking spaces, citing plenty of other parking options, when in fact there are very few, and there seems to be an attempt to pass this swiftly with minimal effort to include the community most impacted.

As a resident and small business owner for close to 20 years in Brookline Village, I find development with community participation an exciting conversation, and am drawn to this area with its vibrant character and diversity in residents and businesses. I've seen significant development in Brookline Village and note that the most successful projects were thoughtfully created *in consideration of community impact*.

I look forward to your response in consideration of the bigger picture, and what's at stake.

Warmly,

(newly elected) Town Meeting Member

Liz Linder

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