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EMERITUS

Roger Lipson

May 25, 2022

Dear Advisory Committee,

The Brookline Chamber of Commerce supports building sorely needed affordable housing. However, we cannot and will not support affordable housing at the expense of eliminating parking that is vital for the livelihood of the Brookline Village business district.

We understand that Brookline Village businesses and the petitioners for Warrant Article 30 negotiated a compromise on Warrant Article 30 that allows oversight from the business community during Town reviews and hearings to evaluate how to replace lost spaces without negatively impacting businesses.

It has also come to our attention that greater clarity is needed for new language for Warrant Article 30 that was approved by the Select Board. A “yes” vote on the new language represents a compromise that the business community is willing to make.

If the new language is not approved, we ask the Advisory Committee to recommend that Town Meeting Members vote “no” on the original petition, since the original petition adversely impacts businesses.

If we want a thriving business community, sufficient parking is critical. Our businesses, that are competing with online options and reeling from the pandemic, are reliant on customers who travel by car as well as other modes of transportation. Eliminating already sparse parking will jeopardize businesses. We have an opportunity to support the needs of more than one segment of the community.

Sincerely,

Deborah G. Miller
Executive Director