



CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

City Hall

1000 Commonwealth Avenue, Newton, MA 02459-1449

Telephone: (617) 796-1120 TDD/TTY: (617) 796-1089 Fax: (617) 796-1086

www.newtonma.gov

Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

To: Zoning Board of Appeals Members

From: Brenda Belsanti

Date: October 14, 2024

Subject: Materials for **October 16, 2024** Public Hearing

Packet 2

Hello,

Please see the following supplemental materials for the upcoming hearing on October 16, 2024 Public Hearing. The following board members are scheduled to sit: *Michael Rossi (Chair), Brooke Lipsitt, Stuart Snyder, Elizabeth Sweet, William McLaughlin, Denise Chicoine (alternate) and Jennifer Pucci (alternate).*

1. Resident emails (2) regarding 78 Crafts Street dated September 18, 2024 to October 3, 2024.

Thank you,

Brenda Belsanti

bbelsanti@newtonma.gov |

From: Gail Deegan <gaildeegan@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, October 11, 2024 1:32 PM

To: Brenda Belsanti <bbelsanti@newtonma.gov>; Newtonville Area Council <NewtonvilleAreaCouncil@newtonma.gov>; newtoncitycouncil@newtonma.gov; Jaclyn Norton <jnorton@newtonma.gov>; Mayor Ruthanne Fuller <rfuller@newtonma.gov>; Barney Heath <bheath@newtonma.gov>

Subject: In support of 78 Crafts Street

[DO NOT OPEN links/attachments unless you are sure the content is safe.]

I have lived in the same home on Upland Road in Newtonville since I married my husband in 1978. My two children attended Cabot School, Bigelow Middle School and Newton North High School.

My husband died unexpectedly in our home on 9/15/24. Half of our home was significantly water damaged as the result of the accident related to his death. Our home will not be fit to live in for 6-7 months. The grief of losing my husband and the sadness of not being able to live in our treasured home is overwhelming. I wanted to find an apartment in Newtonville where I could live while the house was being restored. Newtonville is my home too.

I was fortunate to be able to rent the last available apartment in Trio on Washington Street. Management at Trio could not have been nicer or more accommodating to me. I know several former Newton homeowners who are members of the community.

I hope there are not many people who have similar circumstances to me. Having a lovely place to rent in Newtonville is a gift to me at this time.

I strongly support the proposed development at 78 Crafts Street. It is time for the elected Newton officials to act. Enough studies, discussions, meetings and compromises have taken place.

Time is money. The recent hurricanes in Florida will put additional cost pressure on building materials which have already risen significantly since the 78 Crafts Street project was first proposed.

Newton businesses need places for their employees to live in the city, our city employees need to be able to find affordable housing in the city, and more residents mean more customers for local businesses. I have learned the importance of having an apartment to live in when the need arises.

I request that the Newton decision makers take a walk in Newtonville to see firsthand the increased vibrancy due, in part, from the Austin Street and Trio developments. 78 Crafts Street will do the same for Nonantum and Newton Corner.

Thank you for considering my input on this very important decision.

**Gail Deegan
240 Upland Road
Newtonville, MA 02460
617-877-8856
gaildeegan@gmail.com**

From: Carolyn Gabbay <cgabbay@newtonma.gov>

Sent: Monday, October 14, 2024 6:46 PM

To: Laura De Veau <ldeveau@newtonma.gov>; Gail Deegan <gaildeegan@gmail.com>; Brenda Belsanti <bbelsanti@newtonma.gov>; Newtonville Area Council <NewtonvilleAreaCouncil@newtonma.gov>; newtoncitycouncil@newtonma.gov; Jaclyn Norton <jnorton@newtonma.gov>; Mayor Ruthanne Fuller <rfuller@newtonma.gov>; Barney Heath <bheath@newtonma.gov>; Tarik Lucas <tlucas@newtonma.gov>; David Micley <dmicley@newtonma.gov>

Subject: Re: In support of 78 Crafts Street

Greetings Gail

Again, my condolences.

With respect, many abutters and local neighbors have very strong opinions and legitimate concerns about the project proposed at 78 Crafts Street.

While I understand your reasons for favoring expensive housing expansion, as a resident on Upland Road for many years you have been personally shielded by distance from the first hand experience with impacts of the kinds that the Crafts Street project will impose on residents (both homeowners and renters) who resided in proximity to the project (traffic, flooding, excessive density, shadowing, property value impacts, etc.). They should be listened to and their concerns should be given due regard, with an extra measure of priority and weight (vs the advocacy of people whose homes are not impacted) given their proximity to the project and the direct impact they will experience.

I understand that the 78 Crafts project registered for 40B treatment so, for better or worse, there may be precious little that the neighbors and abutters can do to have their concerns heard and appropriate mitigations undertaken. But given the situation, I cannot endorse your request for project support.

Cheers,
Carolyn

We  Newtonville