

Linda M. Finucane

From: Stephen Bergman <sshem@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, August 24, 2014 6:18 PM
To: Linda M. Finucane
Cc: 'Alison Leary Mooradian'; 'Terrence Morris'
Subject: Data for Land Use Site Visit: 93 Bellevue Street
Attachments: Newton 93 Bellevue Plot Plan August 2014.pdf; Newton Boston Tree Letter page 1.pdf; Newton Boston Tree Letter page 2.pdf

Importance: High

Stephen Bergman, MD, Ph.D and Janet Surrey, PhD
75 Bellevue Street
Newton MA 02458
August 24, 2014

Dear Linda,
Hope you are well. Could you please forward this letter and 2 attachments (a single page, and two pages of a letter) to the Land Use Committee of the Board of Aldermen on Monday. They are scheduled to visit Lot 40, to which we are abutters, at 8 am on both Tuesday and Wednesday. Thanks.

Dear Aldermen of the Land Use Committee:

This concerns the special permit requested by the Rashees at 93 Bellevue Street. We—Janet Surrey and Steve Bergman—are the main abutters to Lot 40, the “conservation-restricted land” adjacent to Lot 39. We have publicly stated our opposition to the request concerning any alteration to Lot 40. Terry Morris, our counsel, is preparing legal documents to submit to you.

Our Alderman, Allison Leary, suggested we send this letter and attachments to members of the Land Use Committee, prior to your site visit to Lot 40 at 8am this Tuesday and Wednesday, August 26 and 27.

To our knowledge, you Aldermen have not yet received from the Rashees a specific and detailed Plot Plan of the latest proposed Driveway and Parking Lot travelling through Lot 40.

Neither have you received any detailed, independent assessment of how the construction of the Parking Lot and Driveway will damage many very large trees, and thus be a hazard to our abutting property.

In order to make your site visit as productive as possible, we are hereby submitting essential information to you, in the 2 attachments:

1) Plot plan: based on the plan the Rashees gave us, and with our (approximate) dimensions and locations of the Parking Lot (45 by 45 feet, square) and the Driveway (15 feet wide, 150 yards long, 12 to 18 inches deep, underheated asphalt). Our approximations are based on the Rashee’s on-site surveyor’s stakes and bright red tape next to our property. Please note that the location of the Parking Lot is not obvious from the surveyor’s markings, which is why we are making it clear on this plot plan;

2) The impact of the drive and parking lot construction on the trees: we attach a report we received from Steve Rose, certified arborist, president of the Boston Tree Company. This details the extensive damage by this construction and driveway itself to the trees: not just the ones with the red ribbons around them marked for destruction, but also, because the driveway construction and heavy use will cut many of the main roots, the death of a total of about 10 tall (50 to 90 feet) trees, many of which will become a hazard for falling on our house, carriage house, and property. Steve Rose and two other arborists have said that the largest tree (not an “ash,” but of the “nut family”), which is to be chopped down, could live for another 20 or more years with standard care. Steve Rose’s conclusion: “This driveway as proposed should not be constructed.” He is available to appear at the Land Use Committee Working Session.

We hope this will help you have a productive visit to the site.

Gratitude,
Steve and Janet

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