

Linda M. Finucane

From: Peter's Gmail <peter.ngo@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 12, 2014 12:16 AM
To: Linda M. Finucane; Daniel Sexton
Cc: Denise Staubach
Subject: Proposed Staubach Renovation

Dear Ms. Finucane, Mr. Sexton, and Newton City Officials,

I am writing this letter to convey my wholehearted support for the proposed renovation of the Staubach residence. I live several houses down from Denise and Peter Staubach at 73 Wedgewood Rd.

I have reviewed the proposed renovation drawings/plans which Denise and Peter have shared with the neighborhood and I am pleased that the renovations maintain the same beautiful cape style of their home which they have meticulously maintained.

Their renovation plans highlight their commitment to stay in the neighborhood and invest in our community.

I understand the rationale for regulations on renovations, but I also know that the spirit behind these regulations is to maintain the beauty, character and value of neighborhoods. Wedgewood Rd has many beautiful homes situated relatively close to each other on relatively small plots of land. Many of the homes front yards are larger than their backyards. While this may mean that one neighbors kitchen window can directly face another's living room window and most of our backyards are too small to play catch with a baseball, it also means that neighbors are out in the fronts of their houses and on the street more. It means we see each other more frequently. We talk. We share gardening tips. We borrow tools and books. We organize neighborhood card games and impromptu neighborhood picnics at the park on nice days. We have annual block parties and goodbye parties when neighbors move away. It means the kids run from house to house and play games on the street. In short, it helps create a close-knit, vibrant and welcoming community that takes pride not only in the beauty of the homes on the street but the character and qualities of the neighbors who dwell in them.

When our family moved into the neighborhood 4 years ago nearly every day of the first week we arrived was accompanied with a new neighbor introducing themselves at our door with homemade treats and meals to welcome us. It is neighbors like Denise and Peter who not only take pride in the care of their home but also take interest in the lives of their neighbors that brings the most value to our neighborhood. The few inches of setback that may be lost in renovation are undoubtedly overshadowed by allowing them the space in their home needed to stay in and contribute to our wonderful Wedgewood community.

Sincerely,

Peter Ngo
73 Wedgewood Rd
West Newton, MA