

Robert B. Hudson
Perry Hewitt
96 Nonantum Street
Newton, MA 02458

June 3, 2014

TO: Land Use Committee
Board of Alderman
City of Newton

FROM: Robert B. Hudson and Perry Hewitt, owners, 96 Nonantum Street

SUBJ: Variance request for retaining wall at 79 Shornecliff Street, Newton, MA

We hereby request, should a variance for the above property be granted, that it contain language requiring that the following modifications be made and steps taken:

1. If the variance is approved, the retaining wall be no more than five feet in height (and that the level of the base remain unchanged);

2. If the variance is approved, the retaining wall be placed an additional 5 feet further from our property line for a total of 10 feet distance from the property line (and 12 feet from our fence): (a) to lessen the invasive element of the entire project, and (b) to provide enough room for the plantings that the owners are to put in place to have sufficient space and light to grow;

3. That the wall have a finished rather than a raw surface;

4. That the plantings extend above the height of the fence/railing they will have to place on top of the retaining wall and that the plantings extend the entire length of the wall (facing both 96 & 100 Nonantum Street).

5. That the plantings meet specifications that Patricia Rowe of 100 Nonantum Street has discussed with the owner and the City;

6. That there be no exterior lighting in either the enclosed porch or exterior walls above the lawn which shines onto our property.

We thank you for your careful consideration to these requests. Discovering that new owners of a property that we have abutted for 34 years intend to install a lawn/wall/fence extending 3 feet over one's own 7-foot wooden fence has been extremely unpleasant to contemplate. Any steps that you can take to move and camouflage this unwanted intrusion will be much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Rob Hudson & Perry Hewitt

