



**ARLINGTON
TREE
COMMITTEE**

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ArlTreeCmte@gmail.com

Dear Mr. Klein

February 7, 2023

Re: Response to January 26, 2023 Zoning Board of Appeals re: Docket 3719

We are writing in response to the proposed plans of Docket 3719 the redevelopment of 1021 – 1025 Mass Ave as of January 26, 2023. We agree with the comments of Mr. Boehmer, town hired review architect, when he suggested the design be decoupled from the many constraints of the project, and instead asked that the project be designed from a more individualized approach to the site. We support Mr. Boehmer's comments regarding the value of larger side setbacks with neighbors, and further asking the builder to reconsider the placement of the building footprint to accommodate a mature 42" sycamore at the back of the lot. These are similar recommendations by the Tree Committee sent to Ms. Lynema on November 27 2022 included in a Memorandum of combined feedback letters provided to the Zoning Board of Appeals by Ms. Lynema. We further suggested the thoughtful retention of mature shade trees growing on the side and back setbacks.

We also agree with the public comment made by Ms. Evans on January 26th 2023, which was similar to the comments by the Tree Committee in the previously mentioned document provided on November 27 2022, recommending there be consideration of the streetscape at this project location, and urged the developer to maintain a front setback that would allow for shade tree planting. The current proposed design indicates two small trees, of understory size, offering little for the shade concerns of the street scape. This area of Mass Ave is of particular concern as it is a heat island in the town in its current condition. The lack of public area along the sidewalks to plant street trees, a result of rebuilt ADA compliant sidewalk widths, inclusion of bus and bike lanes, and the presence of overhead wires, limits the ability to plant public street trees to cool the streetscape. Rebuilding in areas such as this should include sufficient area for planting shade trees to enhance the streetscape. The massive size of the rebuild of the Arlington High School is an example of purposeful retention of large shade trees and an extensive shade tree frontage planted to cool the streetscape and offset the large high school buildings' footprint. We urge the town to take these redevelopment opportunities in their review to hold steadfast to building a climate forward streetscape which makes room for shade trees.

Mary Ellen Aronow

Co-Chair, Arlington Tree Committee

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