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Date: Mon, 25 Mar 2019 15:51:20 -0400
Subject: Re: Input to the Proposed By-Law Amendments

Hi Keith,

Thank you for your comments.

Best,
Erin

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Date: Mon, 25 Mar 2019 19:49:31 +0000 (UTC)
Subject: Input to the Proposed By-Law Amendments

Hi Jennifer, Erin,

Erin, Thanks for getting back and speaking with me earlier today. Very helpful to me.

As I mentioned, my input is based on concerns about environmental impact of the proposed by laws. I brought this up during the 11 March public hearing asking about environmental impact studied and had a nice exchange with Andrew after that meeting about environmental impact assessment and development. I have always had a great interest in open space and tree canopy in urban and suburban areas and this is developing into a particular interest in trees in Arlington. I recently joined the Tree Committee in town. I am not speaking for the Tree Committee now, however.

When I look at the proposed changes, my biggest area of concern has to do with set backs, especially in the street front part of buildings. This is where plantings and greenery are given space that greatly affect the way the street-scape feels for residents and passers by. A great many of the buildings that are in the zones for the proposed changes were built in an earlier era and are anywhere from 2 - 6 stories high. Their impact on the street level feel is almost all positive or neutral both environmentally and aesthetically because there are setbacks that have allowed for planting and trees to grow. This also affects drainage and groundwater in significant ways. I support green planting on terraces, setbacks, and rooftops but I do not believe these are of much value at street level.

I also want to mention that it is very clear that the work you have been doing is very hard and that you have worked hard on it. Zoning is always a hot button issue for people because it affects quality of life in so many ways. I believe there may be value in postponing and continuing the work on these amendments in the next year and would look forward to working with you on that. Just know your work is appreciated.

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