

From: "Jenny Raitt" <JRaitt@town.arlington.ma.us>
To: "Joanne Cullinane" <cullinanejoanne@gmail.com>, ABunnell@town.arlington.ma.us, EBenson@town.arlington.ma.us, KLau@town.arlington.ma.us, DWatson@town.arlington.ma.us, achapdelaine@town.arlington.ma.us, mkrepelka@town.arlington.ma.us, JCurro@town.arlington.ma.us, DDunn@town.arlington.ma.us, JHurd@town.arlington.ma.us, DMahon@town.arlington.ma.us, CRowe@town.arlington.ma.us
Date: Thu, 28 Mar 2019 15:18:28 -0400
Subject: Re: Proposed zoning changes unacceptable

Joanne,

Thank you for writing to us to express your concerns. The Redevelopment Board, which is Arlington's Planning Board, voted to recommend action on a number of warrant articles last night. Their votes considered and incorporated the input of many residents through public comments received both at public meetings and by email, including removing the allowance of open space on roofs, addressing concerns about shadows from higher-story buildings onto lower-story buildings, and increasing affordability requirements. The Board will be issuing their Report to Town Meeting soon which will illustrate how public feedback was incorporated into the proposed amendments and describe their rationale for how they voted on each Article.

We would be glad to discuss the votes and the proposed amendments with you anytime. We are holding Office Hours on Thursday, April 11th from 5-7 pm in the Department of Planning and Community Development. We are also holding informational meetings at the following schools: Peirce (tonight), Thompson on 4/3, Hardy on 4/4, and Brackett on 4/10 - all meetings start at 7 pm.

All of the materials presented to and considered by the ARB are available at www.arlingtonma.gov/arb, including links to ACMi recordings of meetings. The Report to Town Meeting will be posted to this page and the Town Meeting page.

Please let me know if you have further questions.

Thank you again,
Jenny

Jennifer Raitt
Director, Department of Planning and Community Development
Town of Arlington
730 Massachusetts Avenue
Arlington, Massachusetts 02476
781-316-3092

From: Joanne Cullinane <cullinanejoanne@gmail.com>
To: A.Bunnell@town.arlington.ma.us, EBenson@town.arlington.ma.us, KLau@town.arlington.ma.us, DWatson@town.arlington.ma.us, achapdelaine@town.arlington.ma.us, jraitt@town.arlington.ma.us, mkrepelka@town.arlington.ma.us, JCurro@town.arlington.ma.us, DDunn@town.arlington.ma.us, JHurd@town.arlington.ma.us, DMahon@town.arlington.ma.us, CRowe@town.arlington.ma.us
Date: Thu, 28 Mar 2019 08:49:07 -0400
Subject: Proposed zoning changes unacceptable

Hello,
I am writing to express how shocked I was to learn, completely by chance, of

a plan to change the fundamental character of our town via a top-down decision.

I cannot believe that sweeping zoning changes are in the works even though there has no serious attempt to explain those changes or solicit input from Arlington residents who have so much at stake. Virtually *nobody* I have mentioned this to knows it is happening.

I feel the changes are simply a boon to developers that will do will do next to nothing to increase the stock of affordable housing in town. As such, they make no sense. Realistically speaking, the damage to our town will not even be not offset by any greater good.

The past shows that the proposed changes will

increase the number of luxury units in town while doing significant damage to the environment and the town's livability and desirability. This is an incredibly bad deal and I question whether anyone who wants this for

Arlington knows anything about Arlington.

The changes reduce the amount of open space and of green space we have in town. These are already in short supply. It is laughable to think that rooftop gardens will compensate for the green space that would be taken away.

The changes seem designed to turn Arlington into a mini-Somerville when those of us who chose to move here chose to do so because we do *not* want to live in Somerville. We like the semi-urban, semi-suburban feel of the town and do not want more population density. I grew up in Boston and already find East Arlington, where my home is, far more "urban" than the part of Boston I grew up in. How urban must we become?

Arlington is more like Belmont and Lexington in terms of its feel and it is foolish to turn this Town into a City.

I feel these articles are a threat to the character of the town as we know it and do not believe it is just to pass them without including the biggest stakeholders - Arlington's tax payers - in the conversation. You must not steamroll over the residents of this town. We strongly oppose these changes. We deserve better.

Sincerely,

Joanne Cullinane

38 Rawson Road

Sent from my iPhone