

Dear Members of the Redevelopment Board, Members of the Select Board & Ms. Raitt,

Town residents who use Massachusetts Avenue (most of us) would be grateful to you if you would arrange for rehabilitation of the Atwood House in conformance with the provisions for its protection put in place with the arrival of CVS. It would be a huge improvement to have the vandalized structure brought back to its attractive appearance and hopefully to good use. It has been depressing to see blight allowed to develop with full awareness of Town officials and in an area frequented by our high school students. What does that say to them about appreciation for our historic structures, environment, and aesthetics? And what does it say to developers/landowners about complying with permit requirements? Is the Town willing to turn a blind eye to developers who have been required to preserve a valuable structure but nevertheless neglect and abandon it hoping it will just disappear? It is hoped that the current requests of the owner and his attorney which require reopening of the permit, and your Board's own prior commitment to preservation will enable rehabilitation of the Atwood House by resolution of those parts of the permit that have been ignored by the property owner for the past decade.

You might find the comment of Richard Duffy (former Arlington Historical Commission Chair) interesting:

"The Atwood House was an important point of reference when the large CVS was to be built. It was to function as a sort of visual transition from the First Baptist Church to the CVS. Moreover, the roof ridge of the CVS building was designed to be at the height of that of the Atwood house."

Very truly yours,

Patricia

P.S. You are probably already familiar with my husband's early communication on this subject but I have also attached them here for your convenience.

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