7/16/2020

From: Carla Gates <carlagates247@gmail.com>

To: jraitt@town.arlington.ma.us

Date: 07/15/2020 12:40 PM

Subject: Expressing opposition to proposed Mass Ave development across from high school

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Dear Sir / Madam on the ARB:

I am writing to express our family's opposition to the proposed commercial development across from the high school on Mass. Ave. I understand you are meeting on July 20 and I cannot attend.

https://www.yourarlington.com/arlington-archives/town-school/planning/17473-arb-071320.html?fbclid=IwAR0xupamai NyfNDtpg74 6rpDAoTgyel9K DIUGGtuh9XIEiWFn BwS8r8

>> I thought you may also be interested in the comments of other town residents about this development. Screenshots are attached with all names redacted. These comments (and more are being added daily) were in response to the above article.

In our family's opinion, the proposed design is:

- truly unattractive too dark and modern non "local" materials and building methods
- out off step with the best of the "look and feel" of the neighborhood there are lovely homes behind this building! - how visually disruptive this would be!
- too large for Arlington and the location too many stories, too massivelooking
- has no "nod" to Arlington's past either our colonial past or at the very least the era when most of the houses were built in Arlington (1910 1940)

It seems like the architect / developer didn't even take into account the local Arlington 'vibe' but just designed an ugly building - out of context - in their office far away from Arlington. We're already horrified that the ARB approved the multi-story building across the street which looks so out of place in that spot. Friends and family who visit us from out of town often remark on how non-cohesive Arlington's commercial architecture is. And this proposed building is amongst the worst plans we've seen to-date.

Please do not approve.

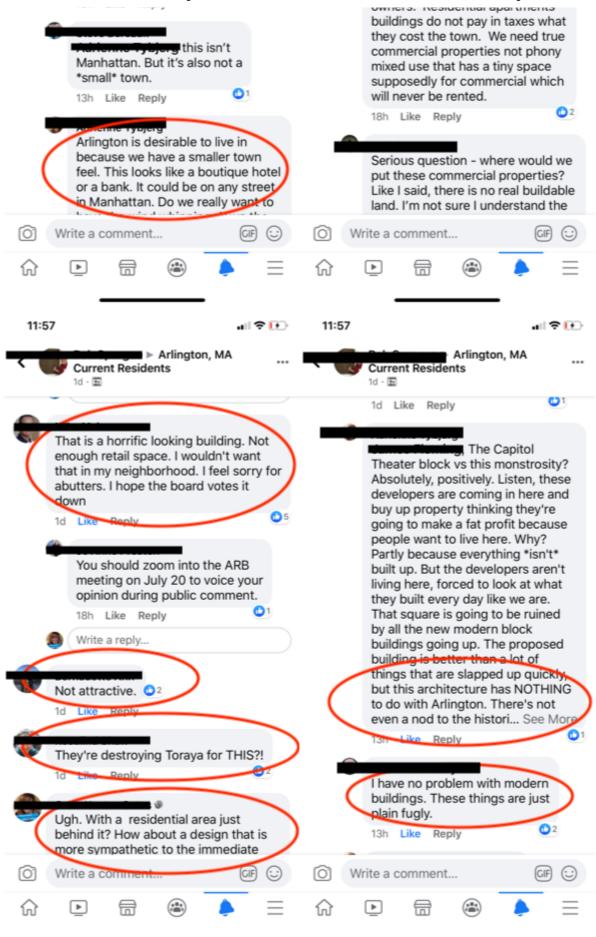
Towns which have done better job with recent "downtown" / village commercial architecture and development: Winchester, Belmont, Wellesley, Needham, Lexington. Can we look to those towns as models?

Thank you, Carla Gates and family (20-year+ residents) 7/16/2020

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