

Good Evening Members of the ZBA,

My husband and two children and I live on White Street, in the neighborhood to be affected by the Thorndike Place development. I support the development because we have a housing shortage and we all have to do our part. But also, because it's an opportunity. This is Arlington's last chance to preserve its last woods, and I ask you to make that solution happen. No more playing violins on the Titanic, gentlemen. Make this developer preserve our open space.

As I see it, the Town missed the opportunity to get another Route 2 off-ramp (an onerous MassDOT process that takes a lot of collaboration), instead burning bridges and huge amounts of my money on futile legal battles. Traffic is going to be terrible in our neighborhood. That's how it is. But we - YOU - can still help achieve a win: publicly-accessible, eco-friendly, adequately-funded open space. If in five years we have 179 new units, terrible traffic AND a huge fence? That will be some legacy.

Please help us control what we still can, and preserve this rare natural space. Please find a way to work with this developer to create a public, woodland park that will be an asset to Arlington.

Sincerely, a neighbor and constituent,

Michelle Shortsleeve