

Hello,

My name is John Yurewicz. I am a 53 year resident of the town, 45 of those years in East Arlington, and 36 of those years as residing property owner at the corner of Mott and Littlejohn Streets. I love my neighborhood and I love Arlington.

It was mentioned recently by a prominent, local political figure that he has never seen such concentrated, fervent opposition to such a development as Thorndike Place. That speaks volumes for the community and all of its residents and what we hold dear. The residents of the Lake Street corridor and a large portion of East Arlington do oppose the development of Thorndike Place for a wide variety of good, logical reasons, all of which have been brought forward over the past many months and years.

All that said, presence at the last couple of ZBA meetings I witnessed discussions about the trash chutes from the floors down to the trash bins, the number of bicycle parking spaces, the building signage at the main entrance, and sun/shade angles of the building on to Dorothy Road, and so many more 'design' criteria. These type of conversations are more like what one would hear if the development had already been approved! It sounds that way!

I was informed recently of some sort of payment to the town by (?) if the town does give a final approval for the buildings and grounds to be built. To me, that says all of us opponents in the Lake Street corridor would be sold out to raise some funds! Our quiet, tranquil neighborhood was not important enough to town officials? I was appalled to learn that there is a dollar value on our lifestyle. Hopefully, I am wrong as I find that to be deplorable, especially when one considers all the very public negativity regarding this development generated by so many residents over so many years!

Next: At the last ZBA 'Zoom' meeting it was announced that the owner was going to contribute \$350,000 to the town over ten years to maintain the property surrounding the proposed development. WHERE has all this civic neighborhood duty or pride on the part of the owner been for the last several decades? Any 'good neighbor' would voluntarily take some pride in their property and provide maintenance and policing. Why try to use that as a bargaining chip now and offer money to the town for THE TOWN to then do that maintenance?

We already know that the **Select Board** is opposed to the Thorndike Place development. At this point I'm more that a little suspect of the ZBA position in all this development given the tac of all the discussions at the zoom meetings. And I would really like to learn where the **Conservation Commission** stands in all this. Our neighborhood being so close to the Mugar wetlands and green space it would be a very tough loss both to the neighborhood and the town if it were to get mowed down and trucked away to make room for more (Kendall Square and Seaport District style) brick and mortar walls! I hope the Conservation Commission flexes its muscles and weighs the proposed losses we would all suffer to see the wealthy get more wealthy at the cost of ruining a neighborhood and green space!

I would also be interested to learn where the **Town Meeting Members** stand on this development.

At the last ZBA zoom meeting, I believe it was Mr. Ford who pointed out (a few times!) the probable parking dilemma that would be created by the many residents who would park in Dorothy Road and Littlejohn Street as a convenience rather than do the 'in and out' of their parking garage a few times daily. Combine that with the probable number of visitors who would also take advantage of the easy parking in the street rather than the distant spaces provided for said visitors. This recognizable number of cars every day would clog the narrow streets and become a nuisance! Think emergency vehicles and space needed to drive through.

What Mr. Ford did not mention was the influx of many dozens of contractor employee cars, vans, and pick-up trucks clogging Dorothy Road and Littlejohn street during the long construction period. And we all know that these people arrive for work early in the morning and will generate enormous noise affecting all the neighbors.

At the last ZBA zoom meeting, Ms. Noyes (Oak Tree Dev.) pointed out that they are planning to use 'Aggregate Piles' for the building foundation instead of driven piles. I would like to have that point be made CERTAIN. We all know that driven piles would do considerable damage to all the houses so close to construction causing those home owners considerable financial pain!

With so much opposition from local residents, the Select Board, and hopefully the Conservation Commission, toward this proposed development I would hope that **OUR TOWN** would stand beside **HER RESIDENTS** and finally deny this development once and for all. The residents will suffer. The wealthy will get wealthier. And the town will get, what? More headaches?

Thank you for reading.

Respectfully submitted,

John C. Yurewicz

PS: I use the emails found attached to several Mugar Wetland communications. If any of you would like me to delete your email from my listing please let me know. I respect your privacy and will accommodate your request.