

From: Olivier Aries

Sent: Tuesday, November 26, 2024 9:40 AM

To: Rachel Zsebery; Stephen Revilak; Kin Lau; Shaina Korman-Houston; Eugene Benson; Claire Ricker

Subject: For ARB 12/2 hearing - Environment impact of 149 Pleasant St.

Dear members of the ARB,

You will review the development plan at 149 Pleasant on December 2.

May I please suggest you consider the negative environmental impact of this project?

Some might believe that this project will be beneficial because the new apartments will use all-electrical appliances.

However this thinking is flawed for the following reasons:

1) the benefits of appliance transition are negligible in Massachusetts due to the mix of electricity sources.

2) the new building is designed to accommodate 6 cars vs. a single one in the old house - thereby generating 6x times more carbon dioxide emissions than before.

We all need to appreciate how much additional greenhouse gases (GHG) this will bring to Arlington.

According to the EPA, the average car emits 4.6 tons of carbon dioxide per year. So the new building at 149 Pleasant will bring to our town an extra $4.6 \times 5 = 23$ tons of carbon dioxide (51,000 pounds) to Arlington's air (your lungs and mine) every year.

A mature tree absorbs 10 to 48 pounds of carbon dioxide per year, let's say an average of 25 pounds.

So it would take planting $51,000 / 25 = 2,040$ new trees in Arlington to absorb the extra CO₂ that 149 Pleasant will generate every year.

In addition, the developer wants to cut at least nearly all of the magnificent, mature, pine trees on the lot, which absorb some of Arlington's GHG.

These trees are critical:

- To maintain and protect our neighborhood's ecosystem
- To protect against air pollution and GHG
- To preserve Arlington's beautiful tree canopy.

Every city in the United States is taking steps to reduce their emissions to protect our health and our climate. Why would Arlington do the opposite?

You can make the right decision to protect the air that you and fellow Arlington citizens and their children will breathe in the years to come.

We urge you to require from the developer that:

- **The plan includes only room for three cars instead of six (which will also eliminate the need for two different and dangerous driveways on Pleasant St. and on Gray St.)**
- **He preserves all the large, mature pine trees that are critical for the local ecosystem and for absorbing carbon dioxide, except for the one closest to Pleasant at the corner of the building.**

Thank you for your consideration. I am a long-time citizen of Arlington and I am at your disposal for any further discussion.

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