

Docket #3880 307 Washington Street

From Danielle Brody <dwbrody@gmail.com>

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To ZBA <ZBA@town.arlington.ma.us>

Cc Kristina Konnath <kkonnath@comcast.net>

 2 attachments (18 KB)

307_Washington_petition_2026_01_12_signers.csv; 307_Washington_petition_comments.txt;

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Dear Members of the Arlington Zoning Board of Appeals,

We are writing on behalf of a group of Arlington residents—over 160 neighbors and continuing to grow—who have signed a petition expressing serious concerns regarding the proposed development plan by Boston Gas Company at 307 Washington Street. We appreciate the opportunity to engage in a thoughtful dialogue and thank the Board for its careful consideration of this matter.

The wooded parcel and walking paths at this location are a critical and valued resource to our neighborhood. This land embodies many of the priorities Arlington residents have consistently and clearly articulated, including preservation of tree canopy, protection of natural habitats, and the promotion of walkability and accessible green space. For many residents, this area serves as an important connection point for walking, recreation, and engagement with the natural environment.

Given the significance of this parcel, we respectfully request clarification and additional information regarding several aspects of the current proposal:

1. Exploration of Alternatives to the Existing Facility

Were options to update, modernize, or expand the footprint of the existing station exhaustively explored before proposing a new facility within the wooded parcel?

2. Future of the Existing Stations

What is the long-term plan for the existing stations once they are no longer in use? Will they be decommissioned, removed, or repurposed, and on what timeline?

3. Site Placement and Impact Minimization

Were alternative placements for the proposed new facility evaluated that would be less disruptive to tree coverage, established paths, and the natural habitat? Specifically, was locating the facility closer to Washington Street or nearer to existing buildings considered in order to minimize tree removal and intrusion into the wooded area? The current proposal appears to be centered within the woods parcel, which raises significant concerns.

4. Evaluation of Non-Residential Locations

Were other locations along the pipeline evaluated as potential sites for a Take Station, particularly

locations outside of residentially zoned parcels?

Our community strongly values responsible development that balances infrastructure needs with environmental stewardship and neighborhood character. We respectfully ask that the proposal not be approved in its current form until these questions are fully addressed and less disruptive alternatives are thoroughly considered.

Attached please find a list of residents that have signed a petition opposing the current proposal for this site along with a list of comments that some residents included. Additional details, such as signer addresses can be provided if needed.

Thank you for your time, attention, and willingness to engage in a thoughtful and transparent conversation. We look forward to your responses and continued dialogue.

Sincerely,

Danielle Dean and Kristina Konnath

On behalf of concerned Arlington residents

307_Washington_petition_2026_01_12_signers

Number	Name
1	STEPHANIE Levinson
2	Frank Powers
3	Heather Leet
4	Aaron Robbins
5	Luchy Roa
6	Linda Cundiff
7	Tamara Chenoweth-Jones
8	Laure Porter
9	Blossom Pinheiro
10	Christina Chalapatras
11	James Chalapatras
12	Michael Bui
13	Mark MacDonald
14	Elizabeth Singer
15	Steven Wujciak
16	Jyothsna Visweswaraiah
17	Megan Sanchez
18	Erica Kemmerling
19	Nicole Degnan
20	Brian Degnan
21	Ruth Jacob
22	Heather Sullivan
23	Rheal Robichaud
24	Lori Schwartz
25	Colleen Olphert
26	Robin Burrage
27	Pavankumar Anne
28	Xiang Ding
29	Anastasia Magnitskaia
30	Amy Mongeau
31	Frank Minniti
32	Elaine Minniti
33	Linda Croteau
34	Laura Kiesel
35	Lynda Robichaud
36	Pam Noiles
37	Kathleen Coughlin
38	Sweta Vallejo
39	Shilpa Kaul
40	Georgia Critsley
41	Jeffrey Alexander
42	Drew Drabrck
43	Kathryn Dodgson

Number	Name
44	Jeff Sugarman
45	Michele Lee DeFilippo
46	Dorien Keusseyan
47	Adriana Rojas
48	Amy Duke
49	William Guss
50	Kim Van Winkle
51	Andrea Drufke
52	Lisa Roderick
53	Jenifer Tidwell
54	Hilary Clay
55	Liz
56	Michelle Meagher
57	Christine Bell
58	Suzanne Buell
59	Elaine McLaughlin
60	Laure Porter
61	Meg Cook
62	Deborah Richard
63	Kim Bowie Sterrett
64	Ruth Schmidt
65	Lauren Colbert
66	Jeannine McAuliffe
67	Maria Kulikiva
68	JoAnn Sequeira
69	Manuel Sequeira
70	Sasha brodsky
71	Andrea Taylor
72	Sasha Simone
73	Julie Kahn - Schaye
74	David Good
75	Cindy Floyd
76	Emily Kathan
77	Kayla Celani
78	Jen Wight
79	Jeffrey Klein
80	Danny Gromfin
81	Karen Fanale
82	John Baynard
83	Niels
84	Ruth Faas
85	Laureen Kessloff
86	Amelia Turner

Petition Comments

- There is very little green space in this area and when the spring comes the woods look beautiful. I live on Tower Road and having this green space is a huge asset to the neighborhood. Children play there collecting all kinds of little bugs, worms, they sled in the winter, we have the opportunity to see owls, and all the wildlife that a small forest offers. Besides the gas building, I have heard some want to use the space for affordable housing. My suggestion for this, is before you destroy green space in Arlington, require all the luxury apartments going up have to have 30% of the units saved for affordable housing.
- This is my petition to protect trees. Please don't cut them for any reason... we need trees!!
- Save the trees! Especially from a fossil fuel company.
- Please DO NOT allow Boston Gas to destroy the 1600 square feet of woods and paths at 307 Washington Street. If you care about Arlington, VOTE NO!
- See previous comments
- Please do not cut down the trees, we don't have much green cover and it's getting worse. We love having the wooded areas
- Please do not grant a permit to Boston Gas Company to cut trees down on its Washington Street Arlington MA property. Please protect wildlife and neighborhoods!
- Please do not grant permit to Boston Gas Company to cut trees on Washington Street Arlington MA property. Please protect town trees, wildlife, neighborhoods and people.
- We need to protect as much natural environments as possible as it has such a benefit on our well being.
- Please save our woods.
- These woods provide a beautiful space between neighborhoods, connecting the community and should be protected & preserved

- Save the trees!
- Please save the trees and nature in Arlington!
- enough with destroying our neighborhoods
- We like the woods. Kids have a lot of fun there.
- The tree area is popular for walkers and provides additional greenery. There is no current zoning for this work so not sure why we would need to give exceptions. Why not repair existing one?
- Please don't destroy this natural space in our neighborhood! Kids play here and then paths are used regularly. It would be so sad for it to disappear and be replaced with a building.
- I oppose this proposal that will eliminate natural habitat and wildlife area. This proposal is not in the best interest of our neighborhood.
- I oppose this proposal that will eliminate natural habitat and wildlife area. This proposal is not in the best interest of our neighborhood.
- We need to preserve mature trees that serve as critical wildlife habitat and bolster climate resilience.
- Save this path!
- Our town has a very limited of green space. Why would we want LESS of it for natural gas purposes? This is backwards thinking, not forwards. I oppose this.
- We walk through these woods daily whether it is walking our daughter to Stratton Elementary School or taking the dog out. The woods may be small, but they're a breath of fresh air we do not want to lose and, especially when the kids were small, a land of great adventures.

- Save the woods from development!
- Arlington needs to stop destroying wildlife habitats like it did by creating the Hills Hill mountain bike park. There is shamefully little green space left for wildlife.
- I support saving these natural woods
- Please preserve these woods. Please deny commercial use of this land. Thank you. William (Bill) Guss
- I am opposed to this request.
- Do not remove these woods! Arlington is building everywhere, and the last thing we need is this facility in my neighborhood!
- Please maintain our important habitats!
- Animals are our neighbors.
- Save the forest habitat and the wildlife it supports. I vehemently oppose National Grid wiping out the trees and compromising the ecology and continuing the assault on our planet and increasing the speed of climate change.
- Save 307 Washington St woods and path! We don't need more deforestation in Arlington.
- Do not disturb this conservation area
- Save the trees for our wildlife so they can stay away from our back yards
- Screech owls are just one of many species that rely on mature trees and their hollows for their nesting habitat. It can take years or decades for a tree to acquire the required holes and hollows to accommodate the various species that rely on them as homes. Consider that when there is a development project that takes down trees and the compromise offered is that new trees will be planted-

- that it will take quite a long time till those new trees can really replace the old trees in terms of adequate wildlife habitat.

- I request the Arlington Zoning Board of Appeals to NOT grant permission to cut the trees and eliminate this natural area.
- Please do not allow these trees to be cut down. As someone who lives in a neighborhood that has dealt with flooding because of overbuilding in our neighborhoods, the damage is irreversible and also affects the ecosystem. Thank you.
- This is a lovely wildlife area & buffer zone that I walk thru frequently with my dog. Please do not allow it to be eliminated!
- There are plenty of nature paths in the area. We need to stop destroying the homes of our wildlife. It's our job as humans to protect them and their space. Ecologically speaking this is a horrible idea. Continue hill or any of the feelaeay paths. I'm really disappointed in the ecological damage our town reps have been causing as of late.
- no more tree destruction. we need our trees and what little natural habitat this town has left. Absolutely not!!!!
- We enjoy walking through that wooded area. Let it be!!!! No more tree cutting.
- Do not take down these trees. This path is a respite for humans and habitat for wildlife which is under assault right now and they need space to exist without poison and loss of home.
- Stop cutting down trees!
- Mature woods are of crucial importance for the health of our ecosystem, which includes all of us. As one example, mature woods shelter raptors, which naturally keep the rat population in check. Aside from that, our town should not be promoting expansion of gas energies and instead focus on alternative energy sources. Please say no th Boston Gas' request for expansion.

- We should not be allowing larger commercial structures in a strictly residential neighborhood. The gas company can afford to build in an area that supports commercial zoning.
- Please do not allow the gas company to cut down any more trees in Arlington. Thank you
- Please do the right thing and protect this land from development.
- Leave nature alone and use what current infrastructure we already have in this town.
- We really hope this is not necessary. We love those woods in all seasons and enjoy the path daily.
- I oppose the expansion and cutting down more mature trees! Trees are important for wildlife, give us oxygen and provide well-being. Given the climate crisis, it is irresponsible. A wooded area near me, including a 70 ft tree, was felled for million dollar condos. I lost my green space and peace. NO to development of land that will cut down more trees in town! This is one of the last remaining habitats in Arlington. For shame!
- save the wildlife!
- This would be devastating for Arlington's goal to zero out on climate impact. Why in the world would this be a good thing for Arlington?
- I love this community and all it's inhabitants. Please preserve and not destroy. We will have nothing left.
- Please don't let the Gas Company destroy the trees and land in this area. Homes back up to this site. Bus stop in front of it. Need to know more about what would be built and its safety for the area.
- People caring about the trees and wildlife is what makes Arlington special. Thank you!

- Too many animals being poisoned and displaced already in this world. If we have a chance to spare these beautiful owls then we must!!
- We need our open spaces.
- Please don't cut these trees down. As someone who has been impacted by flooding due to tree removal in the past, mature trees are important to keep the soil intact and to prevent flooding. They also provide habitat for owls and other birds of prey that we need to control the rodent problem around town. They also mean surrounding houses have a more temperate climate. Removing the trees might seem like a short-term solution to make more money with a contracted company, but removing them can ultimately result in increased problems and higher cost for residents and the town due to these different issues.
- Protecting mature trees in Arlington should be our top priority. These trees and their many benefits cannot be replaced by replanted saplings. Please do not allow these woods to be developed.
- Please do not allow this expansion.
- I oppose this Boston Gas project. There has to be an industrial areal in town that is available for Boston Gas to build this project as opposed to cutting down a valuable mature tree habitat. We need to preserve the prescious little natural areas we have remaining in the town of Arlington.
- Please don't allow Boston Gas to cut down the 1600 SF of mature trees at 307 Washington Street. The number of mature trees that Arlington allows to be cut down continues to increase at an alarming rate. The Town claims to care about the environment, its trees and wildlife yet it continues to act with no regard for them, prioritizing development over trees and wildlife. Please act to save these precious natural resources before there's nothing left to protect.
- This is a concern. We need to better understand the need for expansion so close to residences, and the potential alternatives.
- Save Turkey Hill

- Please don't cut down mature trees at Washington St and anywhere else in town: for example, old trees were recently cut behind Robbins Library, near AHS, and in many other places, and the stump looked completely healthy. This is painful to see.
- Save the woods!!!!
- This is one of the few green spaces in this neighborhood. Children use the path through the woods as a safe shortcut on their walk to Stratton school.
- Please do not destroy this natural area!!!
- Save the woods. The community uses these paths and it helps kids walk safely from neighborhood to neighborhood without walking on Washington street.
- Join petition to prevent cutdown
- I strongly do not support granting permission to cut the trees or eliminate the nature area for expansion of the gas facilities.
- It does not make sense to grant this petition. Leave the current zoning in place.
- Protect every green area in Arlington! That's what makes it nice to live in our town!
- Leave the woods alone you will destroy the wildlife that was there first it's there home.
- I do not want this grant permitted
- Please do NOT allow Boston Gas Company to expand in the Turkey Hill area.
- Our town has given so g d mucg to the utilities so we can get slammed with increasing fees. No more of this. They're not on hard times at Boston gas and can spend some of their own absurd profits

to find a solution that doesn't disrupt our natural spaces. We should be banning gas anyway.

- Protect green space in Arlington!
- Please do not grant permission to cut trees and expand the gas facilities
- Protect Arlington's remaining wild spaces!
- I walk my dog in these woods every day. We have so little green space / wooded areas in town, it must be preserved!
- Keep the trees! Keep Arlington beautiful
- We should keep this and existing green space and tree canopy - not allow it to be developed, clear cut -- or turned into large structures! Thank you for protecting Arlington's vanishing trees and green space. We are the 2nd densest town and would be 12th densest city in MA. We need our spaces protected better.
- Leave the trees and the mini woods alone.
- Please vote NO to the proposed Boston Gas plan that will destroy one of the very few remaining natural habitats left in Arlington. There are other options for Boston Gas, but the residents of Arlington will be losing yet another natural area that cannot be replaced. Please vote NO. Thank you.
- We need to reduce our reliance on natural gas, not expand it.
- Please leave 307 Washington Str woods alone.
- We are unequivocally opposed to allowing Boston Gas to cut down this lovely wooded area in the Stratton district or to use it for their purposes. This is one of the very few remaining wooded areas in Arlington and we should preserve it for the people of this neighborhood and town and for the wildlife that calls it their home. We do not want to turn Arlington into Somerville!

- There is no future for anyone without trees, that literally save our neighborhoods, town and planet. There definitely is future without gas! Please prioritize what is a true benefit to neighbors, Arlington and humanity!
- No gas place
- I am absolutely opposed to the plan to remove 1600 square feet of mature canopy trees from this site for this project. There already is a paved area. Why not build in that space instead? Or site this differently so as to not disrupt native species. Removing these trees is directly at odds with the towns stated goals of climate resiliency and expanding the capacity of this facility is at odds with the towns goal to shift AWAY from natural gas. The applicant claims this development will have no negative effects on neighboring properties but we all know that runoff increases when you disturb soil and remove the established roots of trees that help to hold soil in. I urge you to not authorize this plan as submitted.
- This beautiful wooded area is regularly visited on our neighborhood walks in a safe way to admire nature, in an area with so little sidewalks. We frequently walk our dog through as our kids pick up sticks, admire the change of leaves, and pop into the stick compilation turned teepee. We even used this pathway with our stroller as the kids have grown, to admire the beauty and avoid the dangerous main road/steep hill! Please keep it for the neighbors to enjoy as we always have. Thank you!