

Zoning changes – Mass Ave from Harvard Square to Porter Square

I live on Upland Rd, and have been active in PSNA and in the Mass Ave Improvement Committee, which worked with the city to develop the new Streetscape Master Plan for Mass. Ave -- Harvard to Porter. I am also Co-Chair of the Art Committee for The Avenue, which has worked with the city and local merchants to place interesting planters/seating arrangements, "Play Me, I Am Yours" pianos on the sidewalks and a mural on Shepard St. All of us want to improve our neighborhood, by improving our community center – that part of Mass Ave (Harvard to Porter) we call "The Avenue".

We recognize that this section of Mass Ave will be developed, and believe that most of the folks on either side (Agassiz and N9) want to see it done responsibly, in a way that will enhance the look/life of the street and neighborhood, will provide space for local merchants and restaurants, and will be respectful of the heights and styles of some of the best of our city's architecture, from St. James Church to Lesley's new School of Art and Design, as well as stately old apartment buildings along the way.

I support zoning changes that would provide for new and more "affordable" housing development, with adequate space on the first floor for local small businesses and services (not big banks, cell phone dealers or gyms or fast food shops).

I also think we need to have an honest discussion about parking. This area lacks any public parking to support those small shops and restaurants. Most of them need more than walk-in traffic to thrive. The neighbors fear they will find their side streets full of out of town diners and new apartment dwellers. It is important that we look at some creative and realistic parking solutions.

In short, we look forward to participating with our neighbors in a public discussion of potential zoning changes for the development and improvement of The Avenue.

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Proposed zoning change for the portion of Mass Ave between Chauncy/Everett and Upland/Roseland Streets.

I have lived on Shepard Street for over forty years, lead the effort to develop a Streetscape Master Plan and infrastructure standards for Mass. Ave- Harvard to Porter, and have been active in neighborhood developments. Mass. Ave., what we call "The Avenue". I am concerned about maintaining and improving the living quality of our area.

We consider that our portion of Mass Ave serves as a community center for most of the adjacent residents on both sides of The Avenue. Over the last 3 years I have participated in the development of a Master Plan for our portion of the Avenue and in producing a Demonstration Block between Shepard and Garfield streets as a prototype of how some improvements may be made.

I support the general intent of the proposed zoning change to provide for new housing development in harmony with the adjacent residential neighborhoods, with active first floors on the Avenue of local businesses and services. In detail, there needs to be more community involvement and study of the implications and impact of each of the proposed new provisions.

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Statement by Stephen Diamond on the proposed zoning change for the portion of Mass Ave between the Common and Porter Square.

As a long term resident and home owner in the Agassiz Neighborhood, since the 1950s, I have been concerned about maintaining and improving the living quality of our area. I am now an elected member of the Board of Directors of the Agassiz Baldwin Community organization. We consider that our portion of Mass Ave serves as a community center for most of the adjacent residents on both of its sides. During the last 3 years I have participated in the development of a Master Plan for our portion of the Avenue and in producing a Demonstration Block as a prototype of how some improvements may be made.

I support the general intent of the proposed zoning change to provide for new housing development in harmony with the adjacent residential neighborhoods, with active first floors on the Avenue of local businesses and services. In detail, there needs to be more community involvement and study of the implications and impact of each of the proposed new provisions.

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