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**Lopez, Donna**

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**From:** Margaret [dejaveux@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 02, 2013 3:43 PM  
**To:** City Council; Lopez, Donna  
**Subject:** pitched roof vs flat roof

To the Cambridge Planning Board, Ordinance Committee, and City Council;

I am writing to support Nicolai Cauchy's request to add a pitched roof to his triple-decker house at 387 Huron Avenue.

I have often wondered why any house in Cambridge, or in New England for that matter, would have a flat roof. In fact, all the photos, postcards, and paintings of New England show quaint homes with steep roofs for rain and snow runoff. Not only does this LOOK nicer, but on a flat roof, especially if one is environmentally conscientious and put insulation in the roof, the snow and ice just build up, getting heavier and heavier to the point of failure, as happened to Nicolai in the winter of 2008-09. It's also scary and dangerous to have to get out on the icy surface trying to shovel snow or break up ice dams to clear the drain.

Furthermore, having snow and ice melt go into the sewage system rather than run off the roof and go into the storm drains, causes unnecessary addition of clean water to our sewers which increases Residents' tax burden, and can add to the risk of over-capacity for our treatment plants.

So, not only do I think a pitched roof would be aesthetically more pleasing than a flat roof (I have seen Nicola's design which includes a walkway with planters which looks beautiful), I think it would be safer for the homeowner who has to actually clear the roof, structurally safer for the house itself which would not have to support such heavy snow/ice loads (especially with global warming increasing), less stress on the sewage system, and more environmentally friendly.

As far as height issues - Although a partial 4th floor would exceed the 35 foot City Zoning Ordinance limit, Nicolai's roof is currently below his neighbours' roofs.

As a neighbor familiar with the problems Nicolai has had since insulating his flat roof, I am in support of what seems to be a good idea for safety, economic, aesthetic, and environmental reasons.

Many thanks,

Margaret Desjardins Weyerhaeuser  
261 Lakeview Ave Cambridge