My name is Elizabeth Feigenbaum. I moved to Cambridge when I was ten years old. I am a home-owner and have lived at 82 Normandy Ave for the past twenty-two years. I raised my children here. I am a small business owner as well as a maternal-child health nurse. I work in early parenting support services. I support the Flaherty petition to extend the Medical Marijuana Overlay District, MMD-1 to include 61 Mooney St. My home is next to the woods that abut the Blair Pond Park and Mooney St.

Cambridge residents voted overwhelmingly in favor of medical marijuana. If memory serves me correctly, few or none of the opponents of the Flaherty petition who spoke at the Ordinance Meeting on July 2nd, were against medical marijuana. Opponents expressed a fear of crime, increased traffic, and an overall change in the character of the neighborhood, related to the proposed dispensary.

Statistics from states with marijuana dispensaries, even those with regulations much more lenient than those in MA, including those that sell marijuana to recreational users, do not show an increase in crime.

I think it unlikely that we will experience a change in the character of our safe and quiet neighborhood. The proposed dispensary will serve medical patients suffering from chronic and wasting diseases. There is no direct access from Mooney St to the residential part of the neighborhood. The road and sidewalks (where there are any) go to Concord Ave. One would have to walk through the park and neglected, overgrown woods to reach the residential part of the neighborhood.

Those of us who in live in the area know that increased traffic is an issue. However, the volume of traffic related to the proposed dispensary is a negligible factor in a much bigger problem. Recent community efforts have brought to the forefront the development pressures and lack of planning, which negatively impact the Alewife area. I fully support efforts that address flooding, preserve open space and promote sustainable development and livable communities.

I believe Greeneway would be a terrific neighbor. They have pledged their support to help with beautifying the park at Blair Pond. John Greene has an inspired vision for his business. We ought to be doing all we can to make sure he ends up in Cambridge.