

9

Drury, Margaret

From: julia.bishop@comcast.net
Sent: Saturday, February 25, 2012 9:43 PM
To: Drury, Margaret
Subject: Fwd: Bishop Petition

From: "julia bishop" <julia.bishop@comcast.net>
To: council@cambridgema.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 25, 2012 9:41:59 PM
Subject: Bishop Petition

Honorable Councilors,

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Mayor Davis and Vice-Mayor Simmons on their appointments to lead the city council.

I would also like to thank all of the councilors for their attention to the Bishop Petition and the neighborhood's concerns around overdevelopment of the north Massachusetts Avenue district, and the parcels currently zoned as SD-2 (Fawcett Oil and Cambridge Lumber.)

Although the Bishop Petition is on the agenda for the meeting this coming Monday, February 27th, given the recent decision to elect a mayor, it is my hope that the petition will not come up for a vote at this meeting.

I believe it is important that there be a comprehensive look at the development concerns that the Bishop Petition addresses. It is possible to develop the area in a responsible, attractive way that will meet the needs of the neighborhood and the developer.

At the last City Council meeting property owners from 91-93 Harvey Street shared their lack of support for the petition as they were concerned it would restrict the current options they have for their property. The purpose of the Bishop Petition was to restrict commercial uses on the proposed Cambridge Lumber and Fawcett properties because of our concern around traffic. It is my hope that there will be a reasonable solution to address these property owners' concerns without completely throwing out the neighborhood's larger concern of limiting commercial use, hence limiting excessive traffic.

As a resident of Cottage Park Avenue, my street is already going to absorb traffic from the 18 units generated by the Emerson properties (23 total parking spaces will be created). The last Fawcett residential proposal had 36 units on the Cottage Park Avenue end of the property creating a total of 54 units that could use Cottage Park Avenue as their access. There are 11 units currently on Cottage Park Avenue, so a five-fold increase could be what we absorb, that's without commercial use.

As we come closer to a vote on this petition, I would ask that the time is spent coming up with the most comprehensive plan that looks at form and density that fits in our neighborhood, as well as the very real impact of traffic; which I do not believe is reflected in the the traffic study to date.

Thank you,
Julia Bishop