



Wellesley Historical Commission

Town Hall • 525 Washington Street • Wellesley, MA 02482-5992

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January 16, 2015

VIA EMAIL

Ms. Sara Preston, Chair, Planning Board

RE: Standish Road Neighborhood Conservation District Petition

Dear Ms. Preston and Members of the Planning Board:

On behalf of the Wellesley Historical Commission (WHC), I write to inform you that at the WHC's upcoming meeting scheduled for January 20, 2015, the WHC expects to receive a petition from residents in the Standish Road neighborhood, seeking to establish a new Neighborhood Conservation District (NCD) pursuant to Article 46A of the Town Bylaws.

As you are aware, Town Meeting authorized the establishment of NCDs in order to "provide residents and property owners with the opportunity to participate in planning the future of their neighborhoods," so as to enable neighborhoods to "grow and change to meet the needs of current and future owners, while conserving the neighborhood's distinctive qualities."

While Article 46A requires that NCD petitions be submitted first to the WHC, Article 46A also expressly (and properly) includes the Planning Board in the NCD process, in two specific ways. I have taken the liberty to summarize each of these items below:

- First, under Article 46A(3)(c), the Planning Board is required to select a designee to the NCD "Study Committee," which is tasked with developing a report on the appropriateness of such a designated. I am writing to request that the Planning Board make such a designation at its upcoming meeting on January 21, 2015.
- Second, under Article 46A(3)(e), the Planning Board is required to convene a public hearing, to be conducted jointly with the WHC, to discuss the report of the Study Committee, after which a joint vote is taken. While the date of such joint hearing is obviously contingent upon the receipt of the report, my understanding is that the proponents are seeking to obtain the requisite joint approval in time for the NCD to be considered at the Annual Town Meeting.

The WHC looks forward to working with its colleagues on the Planning Board in advancing the NCD process for Standish Road in a timely manner, and stands ready to provide any assistance or other materials that would assist the Planning Board in this regard.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me directly if I can provide any clarification or additional information that would be of value.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tad Heuer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Tad Heuer, Chair