

**The Chestnut Hill Association
170 Suffolk Road
Chestnut Hill, MA 02467**

By Hand and Email

November 15, 2016

Conservation Commission City of Newton
Ira Wallach, Chair and Susan Lunin, Vice Chair

Re: The STREET Redevelopment

Dear Attorney Wallach and Ms. Lunin,

Representatives of the Chestnut Hill Association have previously written the Committee and appeared during discussions of the Committee.

We write now to identify issues that remain unaddressed after our previous communication:

The Developers have provided a color-coded two-dimensional diagram of their proposal. These plans require a degree of insight beyond that available to the citizens of Newton. We respectfully request a three-dimensional plan, including an 'eye-level' view, and a site tour. These will inform discussions of the views of the POND, the pedestrian access to the POND and the quality of the lands adjacent to the POND.

The issue of *adverse impact* on the POND remains within the mandate of your Committee. It is imperative, as discussed at your last meeting, that an independent consultant be engaged by your committee to provide data on the impact of construction upon the POND, the wildlife of the POND and the water quality of the POND. Metrics should be established to monitor the future progress in quality **improvement** as construction should be to the benefit of the citizens of Newton. The Chestnut Hill Garden Club joins us in supporting the aim of benefit and remediation.

There remains a general issue which should be your concern. The STREET developers view the POND as a major asset which should be exploited for their tenants. This asset includes POND access and POND view from the commercial establishments. We foresee a day when this goal is expanded by the request for exterior dining, public amusement structured by commercial establishments and a variety of interactions between the buildings and the POND. The developers should be engaged now to take a farsighted approach which maximizes public access and view, maximizes pedestrian access and safety and increases the interaction between Newton citizens and the POND. We are of the same opinion. The Conservation Commission might catalyze this process. The specific interactions should be between your Committee and the developers but we have concrete ideas in this respect and would appreciate the opportunity to present these.

For the Chestnut Hill Community,

Fred H. Hochberg

Marquerite D'Aunolfo

John Grandin

David Lawrence

Michelle Hauss

Susan Lawrence

Peter Vieira

Richard Tucker

Elizabeth Hammond Pyle

Gloria Gavis

Liane Clamen

Elaine Pierce

Kenneth P. Lyons