

John Long

From: Justin Rank <justinrank@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 10, 2018 11:12 AM
To: Board of Aldermen
Cc: City Clerk Contact
Subject: Demo Review

I am writing you in support of the changes to the demolition review ordinance. The current ordinance is too broad and unclear. The proposed changes are in line with what surrounding communities like Cambridge are already doing (and developers are still developing there). I am personally for development, but I think this ordinance will create more dialog and input for the community on these projects that matter in their neighborhood (and help retain character).

Two changes I do think need to be made.

1. Include lot line adjustments and lot splits to also be reviewed in the proposed ordinance. Part of what makes some of these historic properties so special is the land they sit on. Unfortunately, some of these lots are oversized and ripe for developers to split and create an additional building(s) taking away greenspace and part of the heart of what makes these historic properties so special.
2. Require the HPC to determine that a building is not significant in the case of small outbuildings. Currently the proposed draft allows planning to make this determination, and takes away input from the community. I have a historic property across from me on a 10,000 sf lot with a beautiful old barn behind it. I would hate to see a developer buy this and get permission to tear down the barn without any input from the community.

Justin Rank
Walnut St