

ESNA - September 11, 2018 - Meeting Notes

194-200 Shawmut Avenue

- Mr. David Gottlieb, counsel to Stanhope Garage Inc., presented an overview of 194-200 Shawmut Avenue and the application to extend its current use as an open air public parking lot beyond December 2018 until December 2021.
- Mr. Gottlieb detailed a number of suggestions that he has received from neighborhood associations, as well as from the Abutter's meeting organized by the Mayor's Office on September 5, 2018. These suggestions included: extending the hours of operation during which attendants are on duty, improving payment options to include credit card readers, more tree planting and flower boxes, regular maintenance of the gravel surface, better numbering of the parking spaces, and the installation of Landmarks-approved fences.
- Many members voiced concerns as to the cost of these improvements and the likelihood that such costs would then be passed on to customers. Other members also raised concerns as to the longevity of such improvements given that the lot is owned by The Druker Company which has already made planning applications to the BPDA.
- A motion of non-opposition was passed to extend the current use through December 2021 so long as the lot is well maintained. Enhancements to attendant hours and payment options would be welcomed if those costs are not passed on to customers.

36 Dwight Street

- Mr. Lewis Legon of Renaissance Real Estate Investments and owner of 36 Dwight Street presented his architectural plans for the construction of two rear decks projecting 6' supported by brackets, and for the installation of one roof top condenser.
- Mr. Legon handed out copies of 60 letters of support from neighbors. He drew our attention to the recent Abutters meeting organized by the Mayor's Office on July 16th, 2018 at which neighbors raised concerns over the dimensions of the rear decks from the property lines. A request was made to set the rear decks back by 1' consistent with the dimensions of the decks at 34 Dwight Street. Subsequent to this meeting, Mr. Legon agreed in writing to accommodate this set back to meet neighbors concerns. He also forward detailed design plans for the decks.
- A number of suggestions were also made on a proposed groundwater recharge system since incorrect installation can lead to flooding of neighborhood properties.
- Since no other issues were raised regarding the rear decks and the condenser at the Eight Streets meeting, a motion of non-opposition was passed.

South End Business Alliance

- Mrs. Eve Ward (President of SEBA) presented her plans to make SEBA a more effective voice in the community. She has been liaising with South End Forum and Washington Gateway to stimulate membership, organize Monday morning coffee gatherings, get large developers to sponsor events, become a central source of funding for small businesses, organize sidewalk sales, restaurants weeks, roll out the UPNA card across the South End, advertise for events.
- Current annual membership is \$275.

Other Neighborhood Updates (Michael Almond)

- Watson Park: Linda Reisert detailed many of the challenges of maintaining the park.
- Chilacates Mexican Restaurant 275 Shawmut Avenue: Abutters meeting was uneventful. They are looking to have take-out license restriction removed. They will present at our October meeting.
- Union Park Neighborhood Association collaboration - September 23 is the final summer concert. Volunteers are needed
- More Than Words: new store has opened at 242 East Berkeley
- Rat Sightings: everyone was encouraged to call Inspectional Services on 617-635-5300.

Next ESNA meeting is October 9, 2018 at Project Place.

Speakers: Councillor Ed Flynn and Socrates Abreu from Chilacates