

April 26, 2022

Members, Harvard Planning Board
13 Ayer Road
Harvard, Massachusetts. 01451

Re: Ayer Road Village Special Permit (ARV-SP) & Site Plan Review Application
203 Ayer Road

Dear Board Members

We are writing to express our concern about the on-going review of our applications.

As you know, the Special Permit process includes an independent review by the Design Review Board and by an outside consultant in a peer review process. In order for these reviews to be fair, impartial, and of value to the Planning Board, the reviewers should have the opportunity to review the applications and form their own conclusions.

We believe that the fairness and value of the Design Review is compromised by opinions and scoring included in the Economic Development Director's Memorandum that was provided to the Design Review Board prior to the first hearing. This is particularly concerning because the Design Review Board is new and may be looking to the Director for guidance on the process.

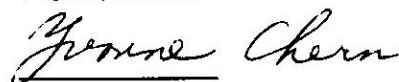
As expressed at last night's hearing, we believe that the Director's Update Documents contain both inaccuracies and unsupported opinions. We are concerned that the Memorandum prepared for the Design Review Board, and/or the Update Documents prepared for the Planning Board, might be provided to the Peer Review consultant. If that were to occur, it would taint the peer review process by implying that the Planning Board is seeking to have the conclusions contained therein verified by the consultant.

We request that you to take action to ensure the independence of the conclusions of the Design Review Board and to make certain that the Director's documents referenced above, or any other communications that might prejudice the peer review, are not provided to the consultant.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

Yvonne Chern



Wheeler Realty Trust

