



Tom Evans <tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org>

325 Main St design comments

1 message

Lawrence Bluestone <lbluestone@verizon.net>

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To: tevans@cambridgeredevelopment.org

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Good Morning Mr. Evans -

As a Cambridge resident, I'd like to offer some design comments on the current proposal for 325 Main St. Unfortunately, I won't be able to attend your September 12th Design Review Meeting; nevertheless, I do want to pass on my comments.

First, let me say that I'm fully supportive of the redevelopment of the 325 Main Street site and have no objections to greater height. And, I support certain design elements such as the proposed terraced access to the park atop the adjacent garage. **Nevertheless, I must say I'm absolutely appalled by the current design proposal for this property.** The design and massing are scaleless, proportionally inelegant, squat, bulky and overbearing. Clearly, the floor footprint sizes are larger than the site can accommodate, and the building stretches way over the parcels boundaries. This is a classic case of ten pounds of potatoes trying to squeeze into a five pound sack. The result is that the building, if built, is overbearing for the site and will surely become nicknamed 'The Hulk'.

I do not like being so negative, but this building's bulkiness clearly goes beyond reasonableness. If the developer insists that the building's floorplate sizes, due to what the market demands, cannot be scaled back, then clearly this building should not be built at this restricted site.

I look forward to the CRA's design review and am confident that a more elegant and better-proportioned design can be prepared by the excellent architectural firm now preparing the design. If greater heights are needed to attain required square footages, I would support that. But the currently proposed large floor plate sizes clearly do not belong at this property.

Thank you for letting me vent,

Lawrence Bluestone