



ANNUAL REPORT 2009-2010

Dear NABB Members:

I write after NABB's well-attended Annual Meeting at the Algonquin Club. It was great to see new faces among familiar ones. For those of you unable to attend, I am happy to report that our neighborhood continues to be blessed with many individuals dedicated to preserving its quality of life. Some participate actively in NABB and others quietly provide support in a myriad of other ways.



The breadth of endeavors assumed by NABB continues to impress me. These efforts have evolved and expanded since I joined the Architecture Committee 30 years ago and have been fueled by the attentiveness of members to NABB's mission. If you have an interest you would like to share with like-minded neighbors, a venue is likely to exist under NABB's umbrella. Perhaps it is one of the Standing Committees which meets on a regular basis. It could be a Friends and Neighbors group reflecting a broad diversity of interests. Then there are activities such as the Street Sale and Alley Rally, as well as events such as NABB's annual Taste of the Back Bay. The Clarendon Street Playground is an active focus for young neighbors and their families and is often an introduction for them to NABB and the many options for staying connected as their families grow. The annual Easter Egg Hunt and Halloween Trick 'n' Treat are highlights. There is something for everyone, including the opportunity to make good friends.



My tenure has certainly benefited through the tireless help of others. I could not have done it without their support and their commitment to preserving the balance that makes the Back Bay an exceptional neighborhood! I was pleased to be joined by the dynamic Linda Zukowski as President last year. She capably worked with all of the committees, yielding a few of her responsibilities as Friends & Neighbors co-chair to Anne Drazen, a new member to the Board. Linda will continue for a second year with Jim Hill, my successor. Many of you know Jim through his able chairmanship of the Licensing & Building Use Committee. Those who have not had the pleasure, will find Jim an energetic Chair with a good sense of humor and fully aware of NABB's challenges and mission. I would like to thank in particular Jackie Yessian, my predecessor, who is stepping down as Chair of the Development Committee. She possessed the perseverance, vision, discipline and tireless fortitude to guide this committee for over twelve years. Her expertise and foresight to work with associated constituencies on the myriad of difficult development and transportation proposals has informed and guided NABB in ways which cannot always be measured. She is a stellar neighborhood volunteer. Thank you, Jackie!



Looking forward, I expect to gravitate toward continued involvement on behalf of NABB on a number of fronts primarily related to preservation, master planning and urban design. Implementation of the Back Bay's portion of the Boston Bike Network needs to be guided and informed such that it balances all modes of transportation and enhances the primarily pedestrian nature of the Back Bay. Our parks, greenways and open spaces require continued vigilance and protection to benefit the public. Development projects will continue to require a multidisciplinary response to yield a result that is sustainable, not only by the definition of the City or project proponents, but by the definition of all who partake of the resources of the Back Bay as visitors, businesses and residents.

Best wishes to Jim and Linda for the coming year!

Ann Gleason

Ann Gleason, Chair, 2008-2010



LINDA ZUKOWSKI AND ANN GLEASON

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

PAGE 2

Architecture · City Services · Crime · Membership

PAGE 3

Development & Transportation · Friends & Neighbors

PAGE 4

Young Friends & Neighbors · Licensing & Building Use · Friends of the Clarendon Street Playground

This has been a very eventful year for the Mall. We tried some new things and are planning to try more. Once again we have been the recipients of the largesse of our neighbors and a wet spring, both of which made for a more beautiful Mall this summer.

We have completed the reinstallation of the plaques that were stolen last year. Thanks to NABB's very generous contribution of \$1,000, we were able to offset part of the cost of the Sarmiento plaque (\$3,000) and many sponsors of the other plaques dug deep to help us out. Contributions toward this unexpected expense would still be gratefully accepted.

Commonwealth Avenue Mall

MARGARET POKORNY, CHAIR

The Mall trees survived the macroburst windstorm better than those in any other park in its path. We think this is due largely to the intensive pruning program we have conducted over the last 10 years, leaving very little dead or weak wood in any of the trees. We did lose one small tree at the corner of Charlesgate East and Commonwealth and another new elm that split down the middle in the Dartmouth-Clarendon block. The big trees held firm, for which we are very grateful, and the heavy damage experienced in other nearby historic parks was avoided. We know that maintenance is not a sexy subject, but this was a real object lesson about its importance. The two trees lost will be replanted next spring.

Four dedicated trees were planted. Trees were sponsored by Tracey Campion in honor of her daughter Caroline Mary Greene, by David Gute for his wife Ann, by Rosanne and Peter Meade for their grandchildren, and by the Learning Project Elementary School in celebration of reading.

On the minus side, we lost four elms to Dutch elm

continued on page 3



PHOTO: JACKIE YESSIAN

The NABB Architecture Committee meets monthly to review significant applications appearing before the Back Bay Architectural Commission (BBAC), and make recommendations based on our discussions. All of our meetings are open to the public. Below is a summary of some of the more significant developments we reviewed this year.

RESIDENTIAL APPLICATIONS

Several applicants sought variances from the zoning code this year. The zoning code establishes

standards for the height and size of Back Bay buildings, and the Committee believes that preserving those

standards is critical to retaining the historic integrity of our neighborhood. As a result, we generally oppose applications for exceptions to these standards, and with the guidance of our stalwart Zoning Chair, Vic Castellani, we are usually successful. For example, at

Architecture

SUE PRINDLE & JEROME COOPERKING, CO-CHAIRS



45-47 Commonwealth Avenue façade before (above) and after restoration (left).

231 Marlborough, the owner withdrew an application for a deck on a rear ell, which would have required a rear-yard variance. A revised proposal that conformed to the code was approved. At 63 Commonwealth, we opposed a penthouse expansion on a building that was already well over the allowable zoning limits. The Zoning Board of Appeal agreed with our position.

However, we do not oppose proposals that we believe are appropriate and would not establish a negative precedent. For example, at 282 Beacon, we did not oppose a variance for moving a shed in the rear yard, which was approved. At 512 Beacon, we did not oppose reconfiguration of a rooftop wireless Internet facility. And at 9 Fairfield Street, we did not oppose enlargement of the fourth floor by the addition of a mansard roof that was within zoning.

It is looking more likely that there will be a new building on Commonwealth Avenue. 163 Commonwealth will be renovated into three condo units, and the empty lot at 161 will be a single-family home. Demolition work has already begun. We have seen preliminary drawings, as has the BBAC, and feel they are promising.

COMMERCIAL APPLICATIONS

This year, there were several applications for rear-yard additions on Newbury Street. At 216-218 Newbury, there was a proposal to add two more stories on top of the existing rear ell, which would have required a variance. The variance was denied, the proposal was reduced, and it was approved. At 244 Newbury Street we opposed a variance for a two-story rear-yard addition to house a new restaurant. The addition was

shortened by 6' to comply with the rear-yard setback zoning, and we did not oppose. It should be noted that both these additions were in the Boylston/Newbury alley, where they have less impact on the residential district. We do not support extensions into the Newbury/Commonwealth alley or the residential alleys

The committee welcomed several commercial applications, including plans to renovate the exterior at 144 Newbury, convert a portion of the Danker and Donohue garage at 343 Newbury to retail use, install a new Converse store at 348 Newbury, recycle the old Joe's space at Newbury and Dartmouth as the Met Back Bay, and open a new Max Brenner chocolate restaurant at 745 Boylston.

STREETScape

The importance of public utilities to our streetscape cannot be overstated, and our committee is vigilant in reviewing these proposals. Boston Architectural College plans to resurface its alley with porous pavers, to increase groundwater levels. We support this experiment, although since the City is requiring that the College maintain the area, it may not be appropriate for more public alleys.

On Newbury Street, the City has replaced the light fixtures, trash cans, and trash compactors. NABB supported these changes, although we vehemently, if unsuccessfully, objected to the graphics that will appear on the compactors.

New issues will undoubtedly arise next year, and we welcome new members to help us deal with them. You need not have a background in architecture or preservation, only an appreciation of the architecture of the Back Bay. We meet on the first Wednesday of every month, in the evening. Please call the NABB office or stop in if you are interested in attending.

WHAT IS CITY SERVICES?

City Services' mission is to ensure that the quality of life in the Back Bay is maintained and enhanced. To accomplish this, the City Services Committee is composed of Block Captains who volunteer to serve as neighborhood liaisons for their block. The City Services Team deals with innumerable urban concerns, ranging from neighborhood cleanliness to street and alley concerns, such as lighting and potholes. The team focuses on trash regulation, alley cleanliness, rodent control, street cleaning, and sidewalk and city light repairs.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Secured the option to use clear plastic bags for recycling: The City of Boston recently implemented single-stream recycling throughout the city. This means that residents may mix all recyclable materials together in one container. As part of this program, the City provided 64-gallon wheeled carts for buildings with fewer than six units. For a variety of reasons, including limited storage space and lack of access to the alley for many buildings, the 64-gallon carts were not a desirable option for most buildings in the Back Bay. Working closely with the City, the Committee was able to secure the option for Back Bay residents to use clear plastic bags or recycling carts to place recyclable materials out for pick-up.

Developed Back Bay residential trash and recycling brochure: A new brochure, designed to inform residents about current trash and recycling guidelines, was created jointly with the City of Boston. The brochure was printed and mailed to more than 2,400 Back Bay residents. It was also distributed to area real estate agencies that handle apartment rentals and at NABB events.

Conducted annual Back Bay city services survey: The team conducted a survey identifying all potholes and graffiti in the Back Bay.

Published a dog-fouling brochure: The goal of this brochure is to educate dog owners as to the proper disposal of dog waste. The brochure was mailed to all registered dog owners in Back Bay.

Working with other committees: City Services is currently working with NABB's Membership Committee to share information with new members about trash and recycling guidelines. Also, many of our Block Captains have joined the Graffiti NABbers Adopt a Block program.

To contact City Services, email cwallace201@gmail.com or catherine.youngman@verizon.net.

City Services

CATHY YOUNGMAN & CATHY WALLACE, CO-CHAIRS

The Membership Committee's goal is to increase NABB's membership and volunteers to enable NABB to maintain and continue its mission.

The Committee offered its Annual Holiday Gift Card to members to give to a friend or neighbor as

Membership

NANCY MACCHIA, CHAIR



a complimentary one-year membership to NABB. The Committee again held its Annual New Member Reception in February at Vlora Restaurant. We had a great turnout, giving new members the opportunity to talk with board directors and committee chairs and get involved.

This year the Committee instituted a new program—personally welcoming new neighbors to the Back Bay with a greeting and a New Neighbor Package with valuable information for all new residents. We reached out to the real estate brokerage community, encouraging them to offer memberships to their clients. We will continue to be visible at city events, polling places, and NABB's neighborhood events.

The Crime Committee works with the Boston Police Department (BPD) and the community to help Back Bay residents avoid becoming victims of crime. From our work with the police it is quite clear that if residents had better information about ways to avoid becoming victims of crime, we could reduce the crime rate. Accordingly, a key focus of the committee is on providing crime prevention information to the community. This year,

Crime Committee

DON CARLSON & DIANE STILES, CO-CHAIRS

we circulated information in NABB publications on ways to avoid car break-ins (our most

prevalent crime) and home break-ins and on how residents can get a free home security assessment from the BPD. We also arranged a presentation by the police to the NABB Board on 6-month crime statistics in the Back Bay and tips on crime prevention.

The committee set up the fourth annual RAD

(Rape Aggression Defense) course in April 2010. The BPD Community Service Office sponsored this comprehensive self-defense and safety awareness program. It was offered to the women in the Back Bay in order to increase their chance of surviving an attack. The course began with awareness, prevention, risk reduction and risk avoidance, and progressed to the basics of hands-on defensive training.

The committee also works with the police to provide a monthly forum for residents to bring their crime-related concerns directly to the attention of the police. The police welcome this information and have proven to be quite responsive. If you have a concern that the police should address, join our monthly Public Safety Forum at the Boston Public Library, room 212 of the McKim Building, at 6:00 pm on the last Wednesday of every month. Our committee meets at 7:00 pm following the meeting with the police. Residents with an interest in crime prevention are invited to attend and consider joining our committee. For more information, please write to dgcarlson@earthlink.net.

NABB volunteers spend enormous amounts of time and energy reviewing large-scale development proposals and transportation projects in and near our neighborhood.

NABB representatives on various mayoral-appointed citizen advisory panels consider potential positive and negative impacts of these projects. The members

Development & Transportation

JACKIE YESSIAN, CHAIR

of the panels as well as other committee members endeavor to persuade planners to shape projects to most successfully

complement our neighborhood and adjoining neighborhoods. Issues we address include: maintaining sunlight or maximizing solar access, minimizing the impact of vehicular traffic and maximizing the pedestrian experience, altered surface wind speeds and groundwater levels, air and noise pollution, impacts to pedestrians and the public transportation system, and overall design compatibility. Key projects from September 2009 to September 2010 included:

- **Stuart Street Corridor Study** with Janet Hurwitz, NABB board member and member of the small task force selected to review the work of the BRA and a planning consulting firm. Four neighborhood representatives, including NABB's, drafted an alternative vision to the BRA plan (see winter 2010 NABB News.) The task force met several times after Liberty Mutual announced its project plans and the Liberty Mutual site was removed from the planning area. The final plan for the remainder of the area is still unknown, and the BRA has not reconvened meetings.
- **Liberty Mutual office tower and campus design**, plus

TIFF (tax relief) agreements with the City and Commonwealth. The TIFF and the project design were approved by the BRA and the City. The project includes a private bridge and height that casts new shadow on the Boston Common. NABB did not support approval of the TIFF or the project. Groundbreaking has occurred.

- **Christian Science Center Plan** and efforts to designate the Christian Science Center Plaza a Boston Historic Landmark, with Sybil CooperKing, NABB Board member and co-chair of the plaza revitalization project Civic Advisory Committee. NABB supports the Landmark designation. (See the NABB website for additional detail on these efforts and NABB positions.)
- **Boston Bike Network:** The City painted bicycle lanes on Commonwealth Avenue. NABB is working with the City to integrate Back Bay's bicycle lanes into the citywide network, importantly, along with a program of education and enforcement. NABB is also working to insure that the highly pedestrian character of the district be safe for all modes of transportation. (See spring 2010 NABB News.)
- **Berklee Institutional Master Plan**, with Susan Ashbrook, NABB Board member, co-chair and Ellen Shortell, NABB member, member of the Civic Advisory Committee. Berklee has been implementing localized components of its master plan, such as the renovation of newly acquired buildings on Massachusetts Avenue and Boylston Streets. The corner tower project seems to be on hiatus for the present and the task force has not met in more than a year.
- **MBTA Air Rights Parcel 13.** With the folding of all of the Commonwealth's transportation agencies into

the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, we heard nothing about the solicited RFPs for the air rights parcels at Massachusetts Avenue and Boylston Street until August, when Trinity Financial shared its building proposal with NABB. Trinity proposes ground-floor retail and residential uses above. The main change is to develop part of the site with the Boston Architectural College for dormitory space



and for a library. The building meets zoning, as well as the Civic Vision and NABB's Development Guidelines in terms of massing and building area. If MassDOT selects Trinity to develop the parcel, the project will undergo State and City environmental

reviews as well as BRA and Back Bay Architectural Commission review. NABB supports Trinity's designation for this parcel.

The Development Committee supports NABB's representatives to the various Advisory Committees by attending meetings, consulting on issues, and making recommendations to the Executive Committee and the Board.

We encourage all NABB members to **get involved!** We can influence changes in our built environment if we speak up clearly and objectively and loudly, in numbers. We urge you to participate. Contact the NABB office at info@nabbonline.com.

It's been another busy year for Friends & Neighbors. The following is just a sampling of our many and varied activities and groups.

The **Back Bay Salon** meets to discuss topics of interest to members. During the past year topics have included Civility, Greed, Comparing Boston and New York, and Populism.

The **Chocolate Group's** delicious focus is bringing together chocolate lovers throughout the neighborhood

Friends & Neighbors

ANNE DRAZEN, CHAIR

to indulge in everything chocolate, from tastings to chocolate-making classes to chocolate

cocktail parties. It's a group dedicated to loving and seeking out this wonderful "fruit of the Gods."

French Conversation enthusiasts meet to speak French, attend movies and plays, take French tours, etc. The group consists of both native speakers and those who want to be, even if they are only beginners.

Let's Wine & Dine (LWAD) holds six events each year. There are two annual full group events: the Fall

Cocktail Party and the Holiday Brunch. The other four events are smaller dinner parties hosted by neighbors where LWAD members help prepare the meal. The LWAD Committee plans the meals and assigns the dishes, which are easy to prepare.

Moms' Groups gather for friendship and support. One group meets weekly at Hale House and last April it took on a new dimension by inviting residents of the care facility to join part of each meeting. The multi-generational interaction is enriching the mothers, babies, toddlers, and older people who share time together.

Each month a member of the **Mystery Book Group** selects a mystery for the group to read and discuss. That member then tells the group about the book and author and leads the general discussion. Members have been exposed to writers who are new to them, as well as reintroduced to old favorites from historical to cozy, to suspenseful, to scary, to psychological, to dark and even to light mysteries!

The **Wine Tasting Group** meets to facilitate neighbors meeting neighbors while visiting in each other's homes or in public venues such as galleries and

private clubs. And, of course, they do that while sipping a little wine. Events are generally focused around the wines of a specific region and light hors d'oeuvres are served to complement the wine.

Last year the **Special Events** group organized the first NABB hockey night, a games night, and a night at the movies and helped organize a tour of a Back Bay mansion. Contact the NABB office for more information or to be put in touch with a group.



(Left to right) Ann Hurley, Karen Solomon, Gail Patt, Laurie Noble, and Emily Fayen are proud Buchemeisters at the Let's Wine & Dine holiday luncheon.

■ **COMMONWEALTH AVENUE MALL**, *continued from page 1*
disease in spite of our intensive injection program. These were mostly in an area where a cluster of old elms spread the disease through root grafts. The good news is that these spaces have already been spoken for and we have a waiting list again.

Three blocks of the Mall were seeded again by the Parks Department and we cooperated by thinning the canopy for sunlight in the barest areas. The grass is getting better in those blocks, but it is still struggling. The special attention being paid to the turf in these blocks by Michele Folts, the Parks Department Turf Management person, is much appreciated. Basically, just keep off the grass!

Our dedicated seasonal custodian, Kate Hall, worked all summer and will continue picking up litter far into the fall. The Committee hired Michael Barber to power wash and seal all 59 wooden benches along the Mall. We tried several homemade solutions to cut through the mold and soot but none worked well. Power washing was the only

answer. (Any contributions toward either of these projects would also be appreciated). We are actively trying to find sponsors so we can replace the last ten old and damaged benches in the Mass. Ave-to-Charlesgate block. Susan Juretschke and her loyal band of volunteers worked diligently throughout the summer watering our newly planted trees. This was especially critical during the very hot, dry days of late summer. Our intrepid graffiti buster, Patti Quinn, has continued her graffiti-sanding program with great success. We are seeing less and less graffiti each year.

The fertilization program, which has been underwritten by the Garden Club of the Back Bay, is really showing results. For the last four years, we have fed trees smaller than 10" caliper, working our way down the Mall about three blocks a year. If you notice these smaller trees, you will see how vigorous they look this summer. We will continue to cycle through the Mall with this program and thank the Garden Club for sticking with us.

This year the Sarmiento statue was cleaned and

repatinated, and the ladies at the Women's Memorial received a good scrubbing and waxing. This program, established this year through the Friends of the Public Garden, gives each statue regular washing and protection so that complete (and extremely expensive) restoration will need to be done less frequently. This program for the Common, Garden, and Mall should make a big difference in how the statues fare.

We had the usual spate of car accidents (not the least of them Tom Brady's) taking out fences and light poles. Much of the ornamental fence repairs at Clarendon were finally completed when there were more accidents!

We are exploring the possibility of doing a demonstration turf restoration project in the Hereford-to-Mass. Ave. block using a relatively new technique called airspading. We hope this will be done next spring right after the marathon.

Thanks to all of you who contributed time, money, advice, and support to the Mall Committee.

NABB NEWS

THE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION OF THE BACK BAY
337 NEWBURY STREET
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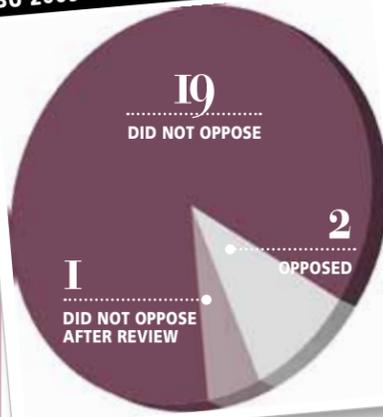
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LBU 2009-10 POSITIONS ON COMMERCIAL PROPOSALS



NABB's Licensing & Building Use Committee had a very successful year working with businesses and residents for the benefit of all who live, work, shop, eat, and visit in the Back Bay. LBU listens to you! Details on page 4.

In the past year, we have continued to organize various social gatherings for the Young Friends & Neighbors group. We have had events at The Corner Tavern, Lucca Back Bay, and the Back Bay Social Club. We have had success with getting these restaurants to donate light appetizers and hors d'oeuvres for our group to enjoy. Our last event drew a crowd of about 60 people

Young Friends & Neighbors

MICHAEL CALABRESE & CONRAD ARMSTRONG, CO-CHAIRS

and increased awareness of the Young Friends & Neighbors as well as NABB.

We have also been busy promoting our committee by utilizing Facebook. We have created a group called "NABB Young Friends & Neighbors" that currently has 258 members. We are also planning a smaller, more intimate gathering as well as a larger social for this fall.

At all our events we try to educate people about NABB and have brochures for distribution. We will continue to host events and gatherings to help young Back Bay people and their friends network and get to know their neighbors and NABB.

In September the playground celebrated back-to-school season by throwing a pizza party to welcome back the families of the neighborhood. In October 2009, the Friends

Friends of the Clarendon Street Playground

SUSAN BAKER & HILARY WATTS, CO-CHAIRS

once again hosted a Halloween party for the children of the Back Bay, complete with a juggling show, a hayride, and treats.

The closing of Marlborough Street during peak trick-or-treating hours ensured safety for all. Many thanks to the City Year volunteers who assisted with the street closings and to the Cashman family, who again provided the hayride and opened their home as the spookiest haunted house!

The warmer weather of April brought the Spring Fun party, complete with the excitement of the annual Egg Hunt and a visit from the Easter Bunny. In May the playground received a much-needed delivery of new wood chips for the playing surfaces from the Parks

Department. The playground was pleased to host Mayor Menino at a Mayor's Coffee Hour later that month. Family Fun Day was held on May 8. While the rainy weather forced the party indoors at the First Church, a great time was had by all, as the children of



the neighborhood were treated to face painters, a balloon artist, and a magic show. New playground toys were donated by local families. In June, the second annual NABBQ was held at the playground and neighbors enjoyed grilled hot dogs and hamburgers, yummy side dishes and freshly scooped ice cream for dessert. Thanks to Steve Wintermeier, who organized the event, KitchenWares by Blackstone's

for sponsoring the event, as well as Cape Cod Potato Chips and Ben & Jerry's for donating food.

New volunteers are always welcome to join the Friends group to help with events and participate in the weekly clean-ups. To get involved, contact the playground email: playground@nabbonline.com or the Co-Chairs: Sue at baker.sue@comcast.net or Hilary at burke_hilary23@hotmail.com.

What we do

NABB's Licensing and Building Use (LBU) Committee meets monthly in a public forum to consider the impact on residents of proposals by restaurants, hotels and others who want to do business in our neighborhood and require licenses or conditional-use building zoning from the City of Boston. Our goal is to promote operating conditions and building use that enable successful businesses to be good neighbors.

After hearing proposals, we seek to reach agreements with proponents on key issues like operating hours, alcohol service, live entertainment, trash handling, noise, traffic, parking, public safety and public need that are appropriate to the location. The concerns of nearby residents, historic

precedents and the business licensing and commercial zoning details are our primary concerns. Occasionally, we choose to oppose an idea because of its overall negative impact or inappropriate location.

What we decided

In the year ending June 2010, the Committee met 11 times and formally considered 22 proposals. We took an opposing position on three of these, two for late patio hours and another for an inappropriate restaurant location. We prevailed on one patio and the restaurant opted for a better location on Newbury St. before requesting zoning.

- Overall, we achieved our desired outcome in all but one case where the Licensing Board granted midnight patio hours to the Rattlesnake instead of the 11pm we were seeking. All other patio proposals we heard were within the customary limits for Boylston and Newbury streets.
- In a departure from considering new applications, the committee provided a forum for the neighbors of the rooming house at 186 Marlborough to bring their concerns to the attention of the new owner/operator of this facility. Subsequent to our meeting, there have been several follow-up meetings, coordinated by Councilor Mike Ross's office, between the neighbors and the owner and the concerns are being addressed.

How we advocate on behalf of NABB and Back Bay residents

After reviewing its decisions with NABB's Executive Committee, the LBU Committee endeavors to reach agreements with proponents. That outcome is communicated to three key government agencies that make the decisions: the Licensing Board, the Mayor's Office of Consumer Affairs and Licensing (MOCAL), and the Zoning Board of Appeal. We regularly request license conditions and zoning provisos that address residents' concerns, hopefully by prior agreement with the applicant. These agreements with NABB are highly regarded as part of the community input behind city agency decisions. When we are unable to reach an agreement, we either oppose the applications or advocate the inclusion of conditions

that we believe are in the residents' interests.

We also work closely with our city councilors, state representatives and the mayor's office to keep them informed of our concerns and positions and to work with them in the interest of our neighborhood and Boston at large. Even though the city agencies don't always agree with us, they are very attentive to the residents' views and seek to ensure that our concerns are heard and addressed.

What is the purpose of this committee?

The LBU Committee has been a Back Bay residents' advocate for a long time. For several decades NABB and the LBU Committee have consistently strived to protect residents' rights to reasonable and quiet enjoyment, safety, and cleanliness. These three qualities of life are why many of us have chosen to live in the Back Bay and enjoy urban life in Boston. We want to work constructively with businesses that provide the kinds of services that residents and visitors need and want, and who agree to operate in a manner that respects their neighbors and the predominantly residential nature of our community in the Back Bay.

Get involved for a better Back Bay

If the goals of the LBU Committee are important to you, and you have an interest in business licensing and local zoning issues, come along to our monthly meetings and contribute to the discussions and decisions. Contact the new committee chair through the NABB office at 617-247-3961.

Licensing & Building Use

JAMES HILL, CHAIR