

Neighborhood
Association of the
Back Bay



Bulletin

May 2017

THE 22ND ANNUAL TASTE OF THE BACK BAY

6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Thursday, May 11, 2017



at the Prudential Skywalk



EVERYONE
WILL BE THERE!

The ***Taste of the Back Bay*** is NABB's annual sampling of the finest food and drink the Back Bay has to offer! Please join us for this special evening of wonderful food, wine and live music. Go to our website, www.nabbonline.com, where you can buy your tickets, check out the current list of participating restaurants and purveyors of fine wine, and find out who our generous sponsors are. You can also contact the NABB office. Tickets are \$125 for NABB members, \$135 for non-members, and \$150 on the day of the event (if still available).

This year a portion of the proceeds will benefit the ***Women's Lunch Place***.

Visit us on the web @ www.nabbonline.com

160 Commonwealth Avenue L8, Boston, MA 02116 Tel: 617.247.3961 Email: info@nabbonline.com

Architecture Committee Report

April 2017

Commercial Applications:

At **370 Commonwealth Avenue (The Eliot Hotel)**, the plan to relocate the bike lane inside the valet parking area along Massachusetts Avenue was approved. The City has agreed that the existing street trees can be replaced, and the hotel has agreed to do so as part of the project.

A pilot repaving project for the Boylston Street sidewalk between Dartmouth and Exeter Streets was approved. The condition of the sidewalks along Boylston Street has been problematical for many years, and we applaud the Public Works Department and the Back Bay Association for their work on this project. We sincerely hope that this pilot project will be the beginning of a concerted attempt to rectify dangerous conditions over the length of Boylston Street. The design of this proposal is based on the recent installation at the Boston Public Library, and includes a groundwater recharge strip along the curb and an ample concrete pedestrian path. Pavement that is on private property will be dealt with by the individual building owners. We understand that there are plans for a Marathon memorial at the finish line, and that part of the sidewalk will not be repaired as part of this project, pending completion of the memorial plans.

At **163 Newbury Street**, the developer returned with a request for a penthouse and a two-story rear yard addition, both within the zoning envelope. We met with him to reiterate the importance of keeping such additions as minimal in depth as possible, and to incorporate trash storage as well as handicapped access, which he agreed to do. He also agreed to pull back the rail of the proposed roof deck back to the building line, to make it less visible from the alley and Dartmouth Street. The commission also requested that the proposed windows in the existing mansard be treated as dormers, rather than inset, and approved the project.

Residential applications:

Two roof deck applications (at **3 Gloucester Street**, which was approved at a reduced size and an advisory review at **13 Hereford Street**, which will be formally heard next month) were heard for cross-street buildings. These buildings are particularly tricky because of their visibility from many angles.

Last month's decision on **237 Marlborough Street** has been appealed by the property's abutter at **235 Marlborough Street**, who was not notified of the hearing.

The Commission approved the installation of a statue at **72 Commonwealth Avenue (ISKON)**, provided that the base of the statue be sunk into the ground to reduce the height so that it remains below the base of the first floor windows. The owners agreed to install a formal garden in front, to maintain it, and to provide a fence within three years of the approval. They will eliminate the existing sign board and replace it with a 2' x 3' notice board at the front of the garden. They also agreed to retain the existing dogwood or replace it if it is damaged by the construction.

If you have comments or questions about any projects before our committee, please contact Sue Prindle or Susan Shafer by emailing us at architecture@nabbonline.com and we will be happy to give you further details.

We encourage all NABB members to receive the Bulletin by email instead of by snail mail. If you do, you will also receive our weekly NABB e-News and other occasional electronic communications that provide you with more information about what is going on in the neighborhood. Simply contact the NABB office (by calling (617) 247-3961 or emailing info@nabbonline.com) and provide our Office Administrator with your email address so that we can add you to our growing list of electronic Bulletin and e-News recipients!

Licensing and Building Use Committee Report April 2017

The Licensing and Building Use (LBU) Committee heard two applications at our April 3, 2017 meeting.

1. **FOMU, 177 Newbury Street:** This is an application for a temporary shop selling plant-based ice cream and possibly some baked goods. It has been defined by the City's Inspectional Services Department (ISD) as an ice cream/baked goods store, an allowable use. There will be no preparation on site, with product delivered several times a week by a refrigerated company van. Hours are 11 AM to 11 PM. Trash is in totes on private property in the alley with pickup three times per week. They have permanent locations in Allston, Jamaica Plain, and the South End and had a pop-up location at 144 Newbury Street last summer. The current lease is for nine months but may become permanent if all works out. It appears that the only requirement is a temporary common victualer (CV) license.

The committee voted not to oppose, and the Executive Committee has ratified the vote.

2. **Dillon's, 955 Boylston Street:** This restaurant, which has been in operation since 2003, would like to add entertainment to their existing license. They are asking for three additions to the license: a dj for indoors to operate as late as the restaurant is open (2 AM license); lightly amplified live music on their outdoor patio, maximum of three pieces, allowed to perform until 11 PM; and 3 outdoor television monitors (they know they need BBAC).

After substantial discussion, the committee voted not to oppose if the outdoor music shuts down at 10 PM. The Executive Committee voted not to oppose the application as long as it conforms to the new City ordinance that restricts music to no later than 10:00 PM with a maximum of five performers and amplification limited to one microphone.

HAPPENING THIS WEEK!

On **Monday, May 1, 2017**, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., NABB's Green Committee, Mothers Out Front/Downtown, and the Ellis South End Neighborhood Association are co-sponsoring a free forum on supporting clean energy and health neighborhoods. The forum, **Clean Energy & Healthy Neighborhoods: Trees, Gas Leaks, Pipelines, Development, and YOU!** will take place in three acts at the Lyric Stage Company of Boston, 140 Clarendon Street. Here is your chance to Act Now at the Lyric Stage and work together to raise awareness and take action. Join us for a lively and unique evening featuring a cash bar, free snacks, and chances to WIN great prizes!

The MBTA is having a public meeting about its **Back Bay Station Ventilation Project** at 6:00 p.m. on **Wednesday, May 3, 2017**, in Conference Rooms 1, 2 & 3 of the State Transportation Building, 10 Park Plaza. At the meeting, the project team will present the 60% design for the pressurization of Back Bay Station Stairs 5 & 6 (which lead to Tracks 1, 2 & 3) as part of the overall project. The project also includes Platform Ventilation Upgrades that will be discussed at future meetings.

Friends & Neighbors Events

NABB's monthly **Meet & Greet**, which usually takes place on the second Monday of the month, will be on hiatus this month because we expect that everyone will be at the **Taste of the Back Bay** on Thursday, May 11th.

Let's Wine & Dine (LWAD) Spring Dinner Parties will take place on Saturday, May 20th, at 7:00 p.m. Please contact Kris Field at lwad@nabbonline.com or (617) 424-9392 to find out what the delicious menu is and to sign up!

MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP - This group of working, semi-working and retired men with diverse backgrounds meets for lunch and discussion at noon on the 3rd Tuesday of this month (May 16th). For more information, contact Grant Schaumburg at mensgroup@nabbonline.com.

Join us on Sunday, June 4th, at 3:00 p.m. for the Lyric Stage Company's production of Lerner & Loewe's classic musical **Camelot**. Please contact the NABB office for more information and to buy your tickets!

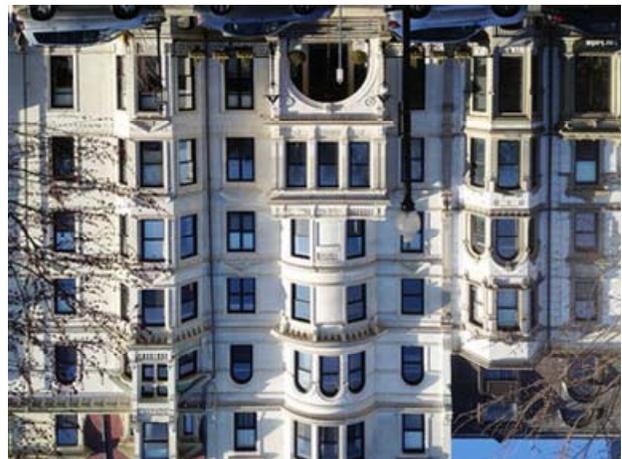
Important Meeting Dates

The **Licensing and Building Use Committee** meets on the first Monday of each month. Next meeting: May 1st at 7:00 pm at the Lenox Hotel. For more information contact Elliott Laffer at lbu@nabbonline.com.

The **Architecture Committee** meets on the first Wednesday of each month. Next meeting: May 3rd at 6:30 pm in the Clausen Room of the New England College of Optometry, 424 Beacon Street.. For more information contact Sue Prindle or Susan Shafer at architecture@nabbonline.com.

The **Green Committee** meets at 5:30 pm on the second Wednesday of each month at the Learning Project, 107 Marlborough Street. Next meeting: May 10th. For more information, please contact Michael McCord at green@nabbonline.com.

The next **Police Panel / Public Safety Forum** will take place at 6:00 pm on Thursday, May 25th, in the Sanctuary of the First Church in Boston, 66 Marlborough Street. For more information, please contact Don Carlson at publicsafety@nabbonline.com.



Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay, Inc.
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