

John N. Tramontozzi

794 Franklin Street, Melrose, MA 02176 (781) 662-6175

JTramontozzi@MandTLaw.com

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Members of the Board
Board of Selectmen
35 Central Street
Stoneham, MA 02180

Subject: The Commons at Weiss Farm;
MassHousing Project #SA-13-006

Dear Members of the Board:

As a resident of Melrose, I am firmly opposed to the application for Site Approval submitted by Weiss Farm, LLC currently under review at MassHousing. The proposed construction of 3 five story buildings 66 feet high with 264 apartments and 456 parking spaces at 170 Franklin Street is totally inappropriate for that location. I urge you to ask MassHousing to reject the application.

Reasons for Project Rejection

Increased Traffic on Franklin Street Corridor and Surrounding Melrose Roadways

Construction of 264 apartments and 456 parking spaces will bring hundreds of additional automobiles entering and exiting Franklin Street on a daily basis. Given that Stoneham has no public transportation on Franklin Street, tenants living at the Commons at Weiss Farm will travel by automobile.

There is no way that Franklin Street can handle additional automobile traffic. Franklin Street is already burdened with excessive traffic because of commuters, schools, existing apartments and condominiums and places of business. The backup on Franklin Street is especially bad on school days.

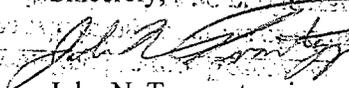
Commuters from Melrose and Stoneham regularly use Franklin Street because it provides a corridor to three major highways, Routes 1, 93, 95. Many of the additional automobiles will be traveling on secondary roads in Melrose increasing our traffic and safety concerns.

Water Drainage Problems

Much of the 26 acres at Weiss Farm is wetlands. Accumulation of water from rainfall on the property at Weiss Farm and subsequent flooding of the surrounding area has been a problem in the past. Weiss Farm becomes a lake when it rains. Water flows downstream into Melrose which is downhill from Stoneham. The massive size of the proposed development will likely worsen water drainage as formerly pervious land becomes impervious after the new construction. Melrose has suffered serious flooding in past storms and the Weiss Farm Project will likely worsen water problems for Melrose.

I believe that the overwhelming number of residents of Melrose believe that this massive apartment project is inappropriate at the proposed location at 170 Franklin Street. The application should be rejected.

Sincerely,



John N. Tramontozzi