



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Community Development Department

To: Board of Zoning Appeal
From: Harvard Square Advisory Committee
Date: September 20, 2023
Re: **1430 Massachusetts Avenue**

IRAM FAROOQ
Assistant City Manager for
Community Development

SANDRA CLARKE
Deputy Director
Chief of Administration

Overview

The Harvard Square Advisory Committee (the “Committee”) met on Wednesday, September 20, 2023 to discuss a special permit application by T-Mobile Northeast LLC to modify an existing wireless communications installation at 1430 Massachusetts Avenue. The meeting was conducted pursuant to the provisions of Section 20.50 of the Cambridge Zoning Ordinance in advance of the applicant’s request for a special permit from the Board of Zoning Appeal (BZA).

Committee members present were Lauren Curry, Jemel Derbali, Alexandra Offiong, Matt Simitis (chair), and Nicola Williams. After discussion, the Committee decided to forward a report to the BZA with a positive recommendation, with 5 members present voting in favor. Member John DiGiovanni was not present, but wrote to express his support. Member Allison Crosbie was also not present for the discussion, but wrote to express her support in light of the fact that the applicant addressed comments from the Cambridge Historical Commission.

Proposal Description

The Petitioner is proposing to modify its facility currently located on the facade of the penthouse on the existing building by replacing the existing five (5) panel antennas and one (1) dish antennas with eight (8) new panel antennas, as well as replacing six (6) existing RRUs with six (6) new like kind RRHs, and replace ancillary radio equipment and cabinets. All of the antennas associated with the Facility will be located in the same locations as the existing antennas, and all antennas will be painted to match the color of the facade of the penthouse of the building. BZA Special Permits within the Harvard Square Overlay District require review by HSAC.

Public Comments

Cambridge resident Suzanne Blier briefly spoke with questions on the proposed framing of the antennas and whether there could be any impact on the potential negative impact on the future revitalization of the Harvard Square Theatre on Church Street. The Chair noted in response that HSAC has no in depth knowledge of any proposed project at the Theatre, but that he could not imagine that it would be any problem given other similar existing uses and buildings around that site.

Recommendations

Members of the Committee were supportive of the applicant’s proposal. Members noted that the proposal seems to create a more organized installation, but that it largely is in keeping with the current arrangement. Members thought that the review from the

Historic Commission was helpful and appreciated that the installation was lowered so that it stays below the cornice line from an angled viewpoint.

Respectfully submitted for the Committee,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mason Wells". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mason Wells
Community Development Department