Case: 1350 Massachusetts Avenue, Bon Me BZA 014585-2017

Applicant: Bon Me Foods LLC – c/o Michael Feeney

Proposal and Zoning Issues: The Board of Zoning Appeal Special Permit application is for a Fast Order Food Establishment (Sections 4.35.o and 11.30) to operate a fast order food establishment.

Harvard Square Advisory Committee: October 23, 2017

Summary: Patrick Lynce from Bon Me presented the application for the special permit. The proposal is for a Bon Me restaurant inside the arcade area. The company policy is to support the $15 wage rate, composting and fresh healthy choices for sandwiches, rice bowls, noodle salads and salads. The cuisine is Asian based, with a $10 price point that includes a drink. The hours of operation are from 7 am to 10 pm, and will utilize the common area seating at the Smith Campus Center.

Trash and composting will be done through the building’s common area in the basement.

HSAC comments: A motion was made and seconded to support the application for the Fast Order Food Establishment, that the proposal meets the guidelines of the Harvard Square Overlay District. There is a need for access to healthy food in Harvard Square. The Committee also discussed how the ground floor of the Smith Campus Center included such uses during the review of that BZA case.

The signage will be part of the overall building signage plan.

There was a discussion about the public seating, which will be 800 seats, a mixture of tables and chairs, hard and soft, both in the arcade and on the Mount Auburn Street Plaza and Mass Avenue Plaza.

All members in attendance supported the Fast Order Food Special Permit and find it in conformance with the Harvard Square Overlay District guidelines.

Committee Members in Attendance: John DiGiovanni, Matt Simitis, Frank Kramer, William Barry and Laruen Curry. Alexandra Offiong abstained from voting as she represents the landlord, President and Fellow of Harvard College.

Respectfully submitted for the Committee,

Liza Paden
Community Development Department