

HIGH STREET HILL ASSOCIATION
EXECUTIVE BOARD

SERVING OUR NEIGHBORHOOD SINCE 1958

July 13, 2004

Dear Board of Selectmen:

**EXECUTIVE BOARD
OF DIRECTORS**

BETSY SHURE GROSS
PRESIDENT
617-731-1448

ROBERT DAVES
VICE PRESIDENT
617-566-7334

JEAN PETEET
TREASURER
617-738-8555

FRAN MCELHENY
SECRETARY
617-232-2975

LUCY APTEKAR
617-731-8005

LYNNE BEASLEY
617-232-9257

ARLENE MATTISON
617-232-6083

NICOLA MOSCUFO
617-734-1964

ELAINE SHANNON
617-738-7533

ROBB SILVA
617-566-1583

PHYLLIS THOMPSON
REID
617-879-0741

As an organization that has been serving our neighborhood for 46 years, we were delighted to hear Selectman Robert Allen's heartfelt commitment to neighborhood inclusion delivered at the last Annual Town Meeting. We, too, believe that the best for Brookline can only be achieved when the Town government and the local residents work together.

Over the years the people in the High Street Hill and The Point neighborhoods have collaborated with the Town to produce some remarkable achievements: the new Lincoln School, the adaptive reuse of the old town garage site, the conversion of the Free Hospital for Women into The Park and the creation of Robinson Park. We also led the restoration initiative for the Emerald Necklace and Olmsted Park which, to date, has secured millions of dollars in funding. Development in one's own backyard always raises complex and difficult issues but when all sides are given a chance to participate and be heard good things can be accomplished. Today, Precinct 5, with its blend of commercial use and mixed residential and affordable housing, is a model of diversity in Brookline.

The recent approval of a zoning change for the 2 Brookline Place parcel offers another such an opportunity for cooperation. Although we on the High Street Hill Association Executive Board could not support the proposal for numerous reasons, now that it has become the will of the Town Meeting, we anticipate full participation in the process that will determine the outcome of this significant component of our neighborhood. There are skilled and knowledgeable Precinct 5 residents who are prepared to serve on a design review team or area development committee and we are ready to nominate our representatives. As past projects have shown, an effective neighborhood liaison will be necessary to build the support of the local people and help ensure the success of any development.

In the interest of full participation, please let us know how many Precinct 5 representatives you will include on each committee and we ask that you notify us of any meetings or discussions that pertain to developments or actions that affect our neighborhood (not just 2 Brookline Place). We want to be in the loop. Please apprise us of the earliest discussions.

Respectfully,

Rob Daves
Vice President HSHA

Cc: Board of Selectmen
Richard Kelliher, Town Administrator