

Weber gives BHIA major update

5 RedlandsRd. Project is changing

Jeff Sullivan

Staff Reporter

The Bellevue Hill Improvement Association (BHIA) met for an irregular meeting on Monday and updated residents on several issues, most notably that at least according to District 6 City Councilor Ben Weber, the development at 5 Redlands Rd. is changing.

Weber said the original developer, who proposed 30 residential housing units with 45 parking spaces in a townhouse format – has sold the development to another company that is looking to rehabilitate the space to its original use.

“We’ve been informed by the City of Boston Planning

Department that the land has been sold to a different developer who wants to rehabilitate the nursing home and return it to a working nursing home,” he said. “I don’t know how everyone here feels about that, but I think there may be more support for that.”

Weber did say that nothing has happened yet. “Nothing has been filed yet, but the CBPD has confirmed that that transaction has taken place,” he said. “I think most of what I heard from residents was they were mostly concerned about traffic on the street and parking, and I don’t think many folks in the nursing facility are driving. It had been a nursing home before and I think there is a need in

the community.”

“But what about visitors and staff?” asked Roslindale resident Laurie Radwin.

“Well I think that may be true, but in terms of people living there full-time and going out to get their groceries and things like that – I mean I think I would encourage people going to the nursing home to visit people, I might end up there one day,” he said. “But I do think that was an overall positive effect.”

In other news, District E-5 of the Boston Police Department (BPD) Community Service Officer Michael Lowen said there have not been too

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many police issues in the Bellevue Hill neighborhood.

“District-wide, we did have an armed robbery where someone was trying to sell their sneakers and two suspects came in and robbed him with a gun,” he said. “They were on a Ring camera and hopefully their arrests will come soon.”

Lowen said residents should keep an eye out as they have had many reports of potential thieves checking the door handles of vehicles to steal any easily-accessible valuables. He stressed that residents need to lock their car doors to prevent this, as these are mostly crimes of opportunity.

Also at the meeting, newly-minted BHIA President Antonina Guarino said the group has a new website, at <https://www.friendsofbellevuehill.org> and a new email at hello@friendsofbellevuehill.org

Guarino also stated that the West Roxbury Civic Association will be having a meeting on Jan. 8 via Zoom. No links

have been created as of the date of publication, but that the BHIA will post a link on its website when it becomes available.

Weber also discussed the tax split situation at City Hall. If you haven’t been following this issue, basically the recent loss of office building value, fueled by the remote working environment, has lowered commercial property values. Now, the city collects taxes based on its levy, which is the allowable amount it can raise from the property tax base each year. Every municipality is allowed to split that tax levy between residential and commercial taxpayers, with an allowable split of no more than 75/25 percent.

Wu proposed a measure that would increase the split on commercial above that for three years to give residents a chance

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to prepare for what is expected to be a big tax increase. The plan failed however, as it required the approval of the Massachusetts State Legislature and State Sen. Nick Collins said he wanted verification of those expected numbers before allowing the bill to move forward in the senate.”

Weber disagreed with this decision, and said the state legislature was dragging its feet on an issue that has been brewing since at least May. “They waited until the last minute and said ‘Nope, this isn’t good enough.’ We had a hearing on Wednesday morning about what that meant, and we basically had two options.”

Those options were to even out the split, which would raise residential rates by a large percentile, or keep the split where it was, at 25/75 and see a 10 percent in-

crease on the residential side and 5 percent decrease on the commercial side.

Weber said they are looking at ways of diversifying Boston’s revenue so it is not so largely dependent – 70 percent of the budget – on property taxes.

Also at the meeting, West Roxbury Historical Society

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President Sandra Serkess gave a brief presentation on the Weld Family, who helped to found West Roxbury and the surrounding area (<https://tinyurl.com/y2yn9nsh>). The West Roxbury Historical Society will be continuing its history of the Brook Farm on Jan. 9 at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom. Go to <https://tinyurl.com/yjhwYdwn> to register.



Miracle Prayer

Dear Sacred Heart of Jesus, I have asked You for many favours. But I plead for this one. (mention favour) Take it place

St. Jude's Novena

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world, now and forever. Sacred