

Cyndie Martel

From: Lauren Barshied <lcbarschied@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 8, 2025 1:43 PM
To: Cyndie Martel
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Town Council Comment

Hi Cyndie,

These are my comments for the town council meeting this Thursday, September 11. This is in regard to the project at 36 Allen Avenue.

Thank you,
Lauren

September 8, 2025

Town Council Members,

Our family lives at 39 Allen Avenue. We share a property line with 36 Allen Ave along with corresponding set-backs, as well as sightlines coming down Allen Ave.

Nature and green space were part of what we liked when selecting Ross as a community and specifically our now shared end of Allen Avenue.

Setbacks also seemed like a reasonable balance between privacy and community building. The front and side setback spaces next to our driveway previously were an enclosed garden with natural separation.

The 460 square foot proposed garage would be our new view from the front of our house. This is five feet away from our fence. A two car garage would also be the first thing you see when driving down Allen Avenue vs. the existing garage which is not currently visible as you come down Allen. The views will be changed. We preferred green space.

We can understand why John and Paulette would like to build a garage in this space. We would have also liked to move our existing garage to this area on the other side of the fence. We did not do this in our current plans, because of the setbacks, and the impact that this would have had on our neighbors.

It matters a lot to us to be good to our new neighbors which makes it difficult to write a letter vs. relying on documented town guidelines - I would support a smaller garage if it were further from our front yard and maintained more of the setbacks. This would also help soften the view down Allen.

However, I do not support a two car garage in the current location. The current proposal encroaches even further into our shared setback than the initial variance requested.

We also understand that our preferences can easily be ignored by suggesting that an ADU footprint has different setback regulations than the proposed garage - we appreciate that ultimately a property owner might choose to do whatever they want within approvable guidelines and precedence.

We would appreciate a compromise and thank you for your consideration.

It is Back to School Night at Ross School or else we would have been present at the meeting.

Kindly,

Lauren Barshied
39 Allen Avenue