

Harvard Square Advisory Committee

c/o Cambridge Community Development Department

344 Broadway

Cambridge, MA 02139

617/349-4647

Case: One Brattle Square – BZA-015715-2018

Applicant: John Burke, Allen and Burke, for Shiru cafe

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: 4/11/18

Summary: John Burke, presented the application for the special permit. The proposal is to convert a portion of the existing Webster Bank into a café serving coffee, tea, fizzy drinks and pastries. The café will have 80 seats and be open between 8:30 am and 10 pm. All deliveries will be made from Mifflin Place through the loading facility that serves the building. The applicant is going to recycle as well as investigate the option of commercial composting. No alcohol will be served.

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 additional activity at this location.

The Committee has the following comments and suggestions:

- The use will be further enhanced if the applicant maintains outdoor seating in front of the café and if possible in front of the Webster Bank. Tables and chairs with umbrellas will activate this plaza area.
- Barriers around an outside seating area are discouraged, since there is no alcohol involved, the Committee thinks that these would create a wall along the public way. This comment is not meant to discourage the use of planters.
- The windows should remain as open as possible above the counter. It is important to see as much activity and light as possible from the outside.
- The Committee also suggests that the evening hours be expanded at least on the weekends and the applicant should match or complement the hours of the businesses in the immediate vicinity.

The signage will be certified after approval by the landlord.

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, Laruen Curry, Alexandra Offiong, Frank Kramer, Max Frank, Allison Crosbie, and Kari Kuelzer.

Respectfully submitted for the Committee,



Liza Paden

Community Development Department