



Helen Donaldson <hcd@portlandmaine.gov>

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## 30 Merrill Street

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To: Helen Donaldson <hcd@portlandmaine.gov>

Fri, Oct 21, 2016 at 11:40 AM

Hi Nell,

I've looked the revised sketches and appreciate the architect's and developer's willingness to work with the community. I'm resigned to the Board's likely approval of this somewhat improved design.

A few points:

### Color Scheme

I'd like the architect to consider reversing the color scheme of dark and light grey (white?) on the front of the building, choosing the darker grey (now used in the cornice and side trim) for the bumpouts and the lighter color for the trim. This will make the stark contrast between the sides (around the larger windows) and the middle area less jarring and more in keeping with the look of the neighborhood.

### Front door that's not a main entrance

Despite cosmetic reconfiguration, the front door still doesn't function as one. We've talked about the good reasons for the long-standing practice of main entrances in front, e.g., resident safety and organic interaction between neighbors. While I haven't seen the interior design, a neighbor has brought up another kind of safety issue: the possibility of police or the fire department automatically assuming that the front door leads to dwelling units, when it does not. Beyond that: the embarrassment for all residents, even those with street-facing units, who will have to instruct every guest to "come around the back". Not nice.

### If approved - an exception, please

If the Board decides to approve the building as is, I hope it will be as an exception. To preserve the character of the neighborhood, I'd like to ask that the faux front door design be prohibited for all future builds on Munjoy Hill.

Thanks for all your help, Nell.

Carolyn

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