

Ann Machado - STATEMENT from the Stroudwater Village Association regarding the Verizon Wireless' proposed conditional use of 1877 Congress Street (back lot of Masons' property), January 2016

From: Stroudwater Village Association Board of Trustees
<stroudwatervillageassociation@gmail.com>
To: Ann Machado <amachado@portlandmaine.gov>
Date: 2/4/2016 12:13 PM
Subject: STATEMENT from the Stroudwater Village Association regarding the Verizon Wireless' proposed conditional use of 1877 Congress Street (back lot of Masons' property), January 2016
CC: Michael Rogers <michael.rogers66@gmail.com>

Hello Ann, please add this to the record for tonight's ZBA hearing. SVA Trustee Michael Rogers (copied) will be in attendance tonight. Thank you.

-Dan

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This statement should be considered in addition to our prior letters to the Zoning Board of Appeals and City Council from December 2015 and January 2016.

The Stroudwater Village Association (SVA) is opposed to Verizon Wireless' proposed conditional use appeal of 1877 Congress Street, and requests the Zoning Board of Appeals deny the application at this time.

As we have done in similar matters, the SVA emphasizes the importance of placing individual zoning change (or conditional use) applications in larger context of the neighborhood as a whole, and we encourage city staff to do the same.

The SVA has heard from many residents that are deeply uncomfortable with the development being proposed, which would place an outsized, incongruous structure right next to existing homes and abutting the Stroudwater Historic District. Area residents (reference January and February letters from Silk, Smith and others) have voiced a variety of legal, environmental and compatibility reasons to deny this application, each of which has merits on a standalone basis, but combined make it obvious this proposal is the wrong choice for this location. Furthermore, there has been no evidence provided that the downsides of this proposal referenced above and in other letters are counterbalanced by a compelling need for this specific proposal.

As such, the Stroudwater Village Association (SVA) is opposed to Verizon Wireless' proposed conditional use appeal of 1877 Congress Street, and requests the Zoning Board of Appeals deny the application at this time.

The Stroudwater Village Association is a Maine Non-Profit corporation. All residents of Stroudwater are members and invited to participate in all of our activities.

Find us on the web at <http://www.stroudwatervillage.org> and <http://www.livinginportland.org/stroudwater.htm>

Find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/StroudwaterVillageAssociation>