

WEST ROXBURY ~ ROSLINDALE BULLETIN

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The Crane Ledge Woods Coalition held a meeting last week to detail and organize residents' concerns around the proposed development on the Hyde Park, Roslindale and Mattapan lines.

COURTESY PHOTO

Getting the Allston Post Office back

Jeff Sullivan
Staff Reporter

Since December of 2019, the U.S. Post Office (USPS) retail location in Allston – 47 Harvard Ave. to be precise – has been closed due to structural deficiencies.

Wayne Yeh, policy director for District 9 City Councilor Liz Breadon, has been following up with the USPS to try to figure out when or if the services are coming back to that section of Allston, which is one of the most densely populated areas in the whole city (18,505 per square mile, and that's just according to the 2010 census).

In the USPS' original press release on the issue, the office stated that it would be a "temporary suspension," and repairs to the structure would be made.

Currently, Yeh has been filing Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests to figure out exactly where in the regulatory process for replacement the USPS is for the Allston office. He said there is a big fear that the USPS may be stalling to allow the location to fall from local memory.

"To formally and permanently close a postal office, there's a 30-step process," he said at a recent Allston Civic Association (ACA) meeting. "It's really arduous and really thorough, and so their go-to has been to not have a formal closure process and keep them in limbo with this suspension process. Most times they've been suspended for five years, in extreme cases they are a

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CLWC organizing for funds to stop development

Jeff Sullivan
Staff Reporter

The Crane Ledge Woods Coalition (CLWC) met in a virtual format with more than 100 of its members on Wednesday, March 30.

The discussion focused on how the coalition can advocate for the City to purchase 14 acres of the Crane Ledge Woods that are currently slated for development by Lincoln Properties. Mass Audubon President David O'Neill said the organization supports the group's efforts and suggested the advocacy route to try to get the City to purchase the property.

"There's significantly more funding flowing right now for the environment, for climate, for natural infrastructure, including the protection of

our natural lands," he said. "Mass Audubon is currently working with a coalition of local organizations to advocate for an increase of \$200 million in the next round of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) relief funds for acquiring and protecting open space. We're also advocating for these funds to be specifically dedicated to land acquisition within environmental justice and communities most impacted by COVID-19. We're also committed to assisting in any way we can to ensure that the city's fiscal year 23 capital budget includes a line item allocation to acquire the Crane Ledge Woods property."

O'Neill said one tack to take might be to remind local leaders that Massachusetts has a shoddy record

when it comes to investing in land protection.

"I don't know if you all know this but Massachusetts is 50th in all states across the country in its investment in the protection of land and nature," he said. "Yes. Dead last. Sadly, historically, investments in land protection and open space across New England go to the wealthiest communities. In fact, the lowest-income communities, regardless of whether they're in rural or urban areas, receive 50 percent of what the wealthiest communities receive, and Black and Brown communities receive 60 percent less than what the wealthiest communities receive across New England."

O'Neill said the Audubon would

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Senior housing approved at Grove Hall

Richard Heath
Staff Reporter

For over two years, as reported by The Boston Bulletin, the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Council (JPNDC) has proposed to remove an old garage and build the first ever senior housing in Grove Hall at Cheney Street, but has met neighborhood resistance; enough so that the Boston Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) deferred a decision for four months at its Dec. 14, 2021 meeting.

On Dec. 14, ZBA member Mark Erlich said it was "a fundamentally good and

JPNDC
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Architect Kendra Halliwell describes her design for the Cheney Street senior building.

COURTESY PHOTO

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continue to volunteer technical expertise and has also volunteered an expert to evaluate the land's natural resources and potential wetlands.

Boston Building Trades Council Secretary-Treasurer Brian Doherty said the issue not only concerns the Crane Ledge Woods property, but the proponent as well. He said that the Boston Building Trades Union has negotiated with Lincoln Properties in the past, but have had a bad taste in their mouths since its interaction with the company for the 254-unit apartments at 1545 and 1555 VFW Pkwy. in West Roxbury.

"These are our neighbor-

hoods and this is where our kids go to school," he said. "We had an experience with this development team, Lincoln Properties Residential. They came into West Roxbury, another part of our city just down the street and they said, 'We're going to do all the stuff that you represent, fair wages, fair benefits, treating people with dignity, helping our neighbors, helping our neighborhoods,' and what we found is they did the exact opposite of that."

Doherty said Lincoln hired contractors who, in his words, exploited their workers and did not provide fair wages or benefits.

Local 7 Ironworkers mem-

ber Marquis Meca said he's been a Roslindale 'Quirky' for about 30 years. He said it's rare for a labor union representative to be against local development.

"It sounds weird, because we're taking away from ourselves. However, I was born and raised in Roslindale and I don't want to see nothing go over there," he said. "That is a beautiful piece of land over there."

CLWC Organizer Lokita Jackson pointed out that the loss of the woods would be a detriment to the surrounding neighborhood. Many residents, including WBUR's Jose Masso, testified to the flooding they all experience in the area and the

loss of those woods would only increase those issues.

"I have two sump pumps since we bought our house 40 years ago because of seeping water," he said. "And when it rains now the water rises faster than it has in the past, and I know that if we were to take away those trees that serve as a canopy and replace them with asphalt, that would precipitate more water and more flooding for all of this area. And if we were to remove those trees that would result in a greater heat island effect that we all experienced last year."

Jackson also pointed out that of all the neighborhoods in Boston, Hyde Park is the only one to have endured a net tree canopy loss.

"And so we can't afford to lose any more," she said.

"Crane Ledge Woods canopy is dense, but the neighborhoods around it, you don't see this level of density. These densities are seen in parklands or woodlands."

Jackson added that she does not want the group to get an "anti-development" label.

"We support development and housing, responsible development and housing," she said. "In particular, the affordable housing we support, especially when we're looking at affordable homeownership opportunities to close the wealth gaps. We support such housing at suitable locations near public transportation and walkable shopping districts. We do not support such housing development where there's a loss of natural areas in environmental justice neighborhoods."

Prayer to the Blessed Virgin *(Never known to fail!)*

Oh, most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this necessity. Oh Star of the Sea, help me and show me herein you are my mother. Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech thee from the bottom of my heart to succor me in my necessity (make request). There are none that can withstand your power. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (three times). Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hands (three times). Say this prayer for three consecutive days and then you must publish and it will be granted to you. —S.G.H.

A Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Holy Spirit, you who made me see everything and showed me the way to reach my ideal. You who gave me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and you who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue want to thank you for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from you no matter how great the material desire may be. I want to be with you and my loved ones in your perpetual glory. Amen. Thank you for your love towards me and my loved ones. Persons must pray the prayer 3 consecutive days without asking your wish. After 3rd day, wish may be granted no matter how difficult it may be. Then promise to publish this dialogue as soon as this favor is granted. —S.G.H.

Novena to St. Clare

Ask St. Clare for three favors, 1 business, 2 impossible. Say nine Hail Marys for nine days, with lighted candle. Pray whether you believe or not. Publish on the ninth day. Powerful novena. Say "May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, adored, glorified, now and forever, throughout the whole world. Amen." *Your request will be granted, no matter how impossible it may seem.* —S.G.H.

Prayer to the Blessed Virgin *(Never known to fail!)*

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Miracle Prayer

Dear Heart of Jesus, in the past I have asked You for many favours. This time, I ask you this very special one (mention favour). Take it, dear Heart of Jesus, and place it within Your own broken heart where Your Father sees it. Then, in His merciful eyes, it will become Your favour, not mine. Amen. *Say for three days, promise publication and favour will be granted.* —V.C.

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