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Date: March 22, 2023 at 9:58:40 PM EDT

To: ZBA <ZBA@grotonma.gov>

Subject: Wed March 22 meeting - feedback

Hello Bruce Easom and board,

Tonight was my first zoning board meeting and overall I thought the meeting was well run and the applicant for the 500 Main Street development gave a thorough review. As someone fairly new to Groton, I was very excited to be a part of local government and share my opinion about the project. I may not have done the best in articulating my suggestions, i.e. traffic, architectural design- colors and height, but i want to thank the Chair **Bruce Easom** for helping me at the microphone, considering my suggestions, and listening.

However, I do want to share that I thought it was very unprofessional when board member, Jay Prager, make two comments in a sarcastic manner that were related to my comments about color and height of the project. Specifically, he said "we shouldn't care about the building color and 4 story buildings don't bother 'me', I am from the Bronx".

I would think board members are supposed to keep the town's feedback and interest in mind and not minimize a comment, because they may feel differently. There are many reasons why people love Groton and want to move here - I hear many people share its because it offers many interesting landscaping elements, (spacious land, conservation land, trails, historic charm, and New England architecture), that you don't get elsewhere.

In summary, these meetings are supposed to be an opportunity for people to come to share their opinion and have their voices heard. I don't appreciate that one of the board members made these comments in that tone and it makes me feel discouraged to want to continue to share opinions. In addition, not many people always feel comfortable to stand up at the microphone to share opinions in front of a room and it should be recognized that it takes courage to do - no Groton taxpayer one should feel discouraged to be involved in town government.

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Thank you for your time and consideration of this issue.

I look forward to future meetings.

Deanna