

## Jeffrey Ribeiro

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**From:** joanelu@comcast.net  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 21, 2015 2:21 PM  
**To:** Jonathon Idman; Jeffrey Ribeiro  
**Subject:** Springhill Suites by Marriott, 556 Main Street, Falmouth, MA

July 21, 2015

The Cape Cod Commission

3225 Main Street

P.O. Box 226

Barnstable, MA 02630

### **RE: Springhill Suites by Marriott, 556 Main Street Falmouth, MA**

Dear Members of the Cape Cod Commission,

I struggle to find words that would add to the vast number of concerned citizens who have written eloquent, heart-felt letters and voiced their valid objections at five meetings in opposition to this offensive project. Their voices not only come from residents of downtown Falmouth, but from all the Falmouth Villages including Woods Hole, West Falmouth, North Falmouth, East Falmouth as well as other towns Cape wide.

We are all citizens of a very unique and special community. **Community Character** is of utmost concern. A great many of us emigrated from other parts of the country, and were drawn to this quaint beautiful town, rich in history, cultural activities, opportunities to participate in the arts, the scientific institutions, the high quality of medical, education and support services, and the “hometown family feeling” that Falmouth exudes. Main Street with its quaint shops and restaurants, owned and operated by local residents, along with the beautiful Village Green, Queen’s Byway, and beaches are reasons that Falmouth has become a destination for tourists from all over the world. Many of us deliberately relocated here in our twenties, bought our homes, and chose it as a town in which we raised our families. We have worked here, paid our taxes, supported our local businesses, served on town boards, and contributed to the town in various ways, making Falmouth a vibrant year round community in which we take great pride.

This proposed structure in no way embodies the **Community Character** intended in our Town Business Redevelopment Plan. Its design and sheer mass is out of context with any architecture seen in this area. Though one could argue that there are massive buildings further east down Main Street. They do not take up the entire footprint of the lots, do not invade and impede private neighborhoods, and do not overwhelm buildings abutting them. Further, this project is a poor and inappropriate design. It looks like an airport hotel, or a structure one might see looming off a super highway. It is NOT a small town building.

This developer, along with many developers across the country, has built chain restaurants, shopping malls, and hotels. We do not want to succumb to the temptation to build large big box projects such as this as a means of generating tax revenue for the town. We are not able to predict the financial success of this project and what it will ultimately generate in revenue. We can be sure that this monstrous and out of context eye sore will be the death knell for the unique and charming town in which we have chosen to live all these years. This will inevitably, set a precedent for other developers for years to come. People may not come to visit and live in

Falmouth as they do now, as it building by building loses its charm. This WILL ultimately have tremendous local and **Regional Impact**, as congestion and homogenized architecture make Falmouth and the Cape look like Long Island and New Jersey.

I thank you for your service to the Commission and know that the responsibility for this important decision is now in your hands. You have the opportunity to deny this proposal based on **Community Character** and **Regional Impact**. Please, help us keep Cape Cod, and our precious town of Falmouth the special place we want it to be.

Sincerely,

Joan M. Edstrom

53 Two Ponds Road

Falmouth, MA 02540