

# Seaport Neighborhood Association

**MA DEP Waterways Regulation Program  
100 Cambridge Street  
Suite 900  
Boston, MA 02114**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and to express the Seaport Neighborhood Association's (SNA) support for the Chapter 91 License Amendment Application for the Commonwealth Pier Revitalization submitted by Commonwealth Pier Trust II. The SNA represents the neighborhood encompassing the project.

We are residents of the South Boston Seaport, and our board of directors is made up of people who live in our neighborhood and are appointed to enhance the livability of the area by facilitating communication across the many stakeholders involved in this exciting area. We love the Seaport and want it to be a welcoming place to live, work, visit and enjoy.

The Seaport neighborhood has undergone an amazing transformation from what it was to what it is today, and the revitalized Commonwealth Pier will play an important role in the further development of the Seaport District. Based on our current understanding of the plans, Pembroke has developed a vision for this Boston waterfront landmark that will make Commonwealth Pier a waterfront destination with attractive public spaces for residents and visitors alike.

We recognize the reclassification of the Facilities of Public Accommodation space to Facilities of Private Tenancy in this area is significant. However given the signaled use of the remaining FPA space, the location of the reclassified space, and the overall FPA allocation vis-a-vis the requirements, we are comfortable with supporting this change.

A recent tour with the project team enabled a better understanding of the large new plaza, the significantly improved Harborwalk and the new retail that will be coming. We believe the space, as currently planned, will complement and enhance our neighborhood.

Our ask to Pembroke is that the project delivers in five areas:

- 1) Provide an attractive space of comfortable, unhindered public access for the Seaport neighborhood and the greater Boston region. The Seaport is not merely a residential and business area; it has become a destination for visitors as well.
- 2) Minimize the var traffic impact of the reopening, which will include a large number of Fidelity employees moving to Commonwealth Pier, with the anticipated parking and ride share issues.
- 3) Incorporate climate issues by including resiliency measures into the site plan.



# Seaport Neighborhood Association

- 4) Provide public accommodation through available restrooms and accommodation for ferry travelers.
- 5) Integrate this private/public space into the Seaport neighborhood by providing much needed civic space for neighborhood activities.

Based on our conversations to date, we believe that Pembroke is pursuing these objectives: The Harborwalk and public space are accessible and attractive; they are actively working with the Seaport TMA to find creative ways to minimize traffic; the plans are cognizant and anticipatory of climate issues; public restrooms and ferry passenger space are in the plans.

For the SNA, the singular outstanding issue is the civic space. We are hopeful that the discussions to date have correctly signaled Pembroke's plans for accommodation on this issue. However, the actual plans remain a bit vague. Our ask is for a medium-sized space with seating and A/V capabilities, which could accommodate 50-60 people for neighborhood meetings, talks, and/or temporary exhibits. We believe this would be highly beneficial for the Seaport neighborhood, which is lacking this type of space.

With the assumption that the civic plans will see fruition, the SNA supports the proposed modification and Pembroke's commitment to using the remaining FPA space in ways that will add to vibrancy of the Seaport neighborhood.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide feedback and do not hesitate to reach out if we can provide additional information.

Very best regards,  
Norm Lind  
President  
Seaport Neighborhood Association  
[www.seaportneighbors.org](http://www.seaportneighbors.org)

