

AGENDA

Please join us virtually for our November 2021 general meeting. Our agenda is as follows:

7:00 p.m. Welcome and Treasurer's report (Matt Mues and board).

7:10 p.m. Survey on resident attitudes toward new housing development in Boston (Justin de Benedictis-Kessner). Justin de Benedictis-Kessner, a South End resident and researcher at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, will talk about an academic study he and a colleague are doing to better understand how Boston residents feel about new housing development in their neighborhood and the city as a whole. To this end, they've developed an online survey which residents of the South End and all city neighborhoods are invited to complete. The survey will show you a number of possible residential developments specific to your neighborhood (the South End, in our case) and ask whether you'd be likely to support or oppose each, and whether that view might be influenced by things like affordability requirements or community benefits. The depicted developments are imaginary but the representative locations are real and familiar. It's an interesting exercise that takes only several minutes to complete, which you can do here: <https://housingboston.com/?uid=159> (Note: The survey involves reacting to project renderings, so you may find it easier to do on a computer or tablet with a larger screen than your phone.)

7:20 p.m. Affinity dispensary update (Daniel Rodriguez). The Affinity medical marijuana dispensary will soon mark its first year anniversary of opening at 591 Albany Street. Manager Daniel Rodriguez will introduce himself and the business and take questions or comments. (And thanks to the Affinity staff for their work this past Thursday to clean up Franklin and Blackstone Squares, their block on Albany and some streets in between.)

7:30 p.m. Development proposal for 595 Albany Street, corner of East Canton (Drew Brassard of ABRE Capital) with member vote. Continuing a topic begun at our September meeting, we will discuss the proposed redevelopment of 595 Albany Street (former home to the B'ahai Center of Boston) as a six-story mixed-use building with 9 residential units over ground floor commercial/retail and parking. A vote will be held on a motion to give BFSNA's support to this proposal, which would require some variances from the Zoning Board of Appeal and demolition and design sign-offs from the South End Landmark Commission.

VOTE: The motion carried on a vote of 12-1.

Drew Brassard of ABRE Capital, LLC will be back to describe the project and take questions and comments.

7:50 p.m. State Rep. Jon Santiago. State Rep. Jon Santiago will join us to speak about some work and issues going on at the State House and hear from residents.

8:15 Adjourn.