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December 16, 2014

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Rita Walsh
VHB
99 High Street, 10th Floor
Boston, MA 02110

RE: The Point, 176-184 Brookline Avenue, 200 Brookline Avenue, 1387 Boylston Street, Boston (Fenway), MA; MHC# RC.53905

Dear Ms. Walsh:

Thank you for submitting information for the project referenced above, which was received at this office on November 17, 2014. The staff of the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) have reviewed the information submitted and have the following comments.

The proposed project has changed from the construction of a 23-story high rise building of approximately 270 feet to the construction of a 30-story high rise building of approximately 340 feet in height.

The project is within the vicinity of Fenway Park (BOS.7709/BOS.ZT) and immediately adjacent to the Emerald Necklace Parks (Olmsted Park System) (BOS.JE) and the Sears, Roebuck and Company Mail Order Store building (BOS.7563), all of which are listed in the State and National Registers of Historic Places.

After review of our files and the information submitted, MHC has determined that the proposed project will have an "adverse effect" (950 CMR 71.05(c) and 950 CMR 71.07(2)(b)(3)) on Fenway Park (BOS.7709/BOS.ZT) through the introduction of a visual element that will alter the setting of the Fenway Park. Fenway Park is individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places at the National Level of Significance. The view studies that you submitted show that the proposed new tower will be highly visible from Fenway Park and this significantly alters the principal sky lines that characterize Fenway Park's historically low profile setting. Pursuant to 950 CMR 71.07(3), the MHC looks forward to consulting with Fenway Ventures point Properties LLC to explore alternatives that would eliminate, minimize, or mitigate the adverse effect of the proposed introduction of a visual element that alters the setting of Fenway Park. The MHC hereby initiates its consultation process.

These comments are offered to assist in compliance with M.G.L. Chapter 9, Section 26-27C, (950 CMR 71.00). Please do not hesitate to contact Elizabeth Sherva of my staff if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Brona Simon
State Historic Preservation Officer
Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

xc: Fenway Ventures Point Properties LLC, a Samuels & Associates entity
MEPA
Patrice Kish, Department of Conservation and Recreation
DEP, NERO
Marianne Connolly, Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA)
Boston Landmarks Commission
Greg Galer, Boston Preservation Alliance
Boston Redevelopment Authority, 220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125

(617) 727-8470 • Fax: (617) 727-5128

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