

TOWN OF WELLESLEY



MASSACHUSETTS

## ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

888 WORCESTER STREET • SUITE 160 • WELLESLEY, MA 02482

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ZBA 2026-03  
Petition of Wellesley College  
629 Washington Street

Pursuant to due notice, the Special Permit Granting Authority held a Remote Public Hearing on Thursday, January 8, 2026 on the petition of Wellesley College requesting a Special Permit pursuant to the provisions of Section 2.1 A. 8. (b) and Section 6.3 of the Zoning Bylaw to allow the premises at 629 Washington Street to continue to be used as a three-family for the purpose of housing faculty, staff and/or employees of an education institution, which is a use not allowed by right in a Single Residence District.

On December 9, 2025, the Petitioner filed a request for a hearing before this Authority, and thereafter, due notice of the hearing was given by mailing and publication.

Present at the Public Hearing was Peter Eastment, Director of Faculty Housing at Wellesley College. He said that Danforth House, located at 629 Washington Street, is a three-family residence for faculty. He said that the property was purchased from the Dana Hall School in 1991, at which time an existing special permit was in effect.

Mr. Eastment said that the six conditions that were subject to the prior approval have worked well. He said that the College owns most of the adjoining properties. He said that there is adequate parking and lighting. He said that it is a good option for faculty who want to be close to campus.

No member of the public wished to speak to the petition.

### Statement of Facts

The subject property is located at 629 Washington Street in a Single Residence District, on a 9,285 square foot lot. The house was constructed around 1900, and was used as a single family dwelling until 1932, when the owner received permission from the Board of Selectmen to convert it to a two-family dwelling.

In 1951, it was purchased by the Helen Temple Cooke Trust as a three-apartment dwelling. From 1970 to 1990, it was owned and used by Dana Hall School as a three-family dwelling. Prior to the sale of the property to Wellesley College in 1991, Dana Hall discovered that the use of the property was in violation

of the Zoning Bylaw. Dana Hall requested and was granted a Special Permit to legalize the use of the property as a three-family dwelling. In 1991, Wellesley College acquired the property and was granted a renewal of the Special Permit, which has been renewed biennially since that time.

### Decision

This Authority has made a careful study of the materials submitted and the information presented at the hearing. It is the opinion of this Authority that the continued use of the premises as a three-family dwelling to house faculty, staff, and/or employees of Wellesley College will not substantially reduce the value of any property within the district, will not be injurious or offensive to the neighborhood, and is a use which is in harmony with the general intent and purpose of the Zoning Bylaw.

Therefore, a Special Permit is granted, as voted unanimously by this Authority at the Public Hearing, pursuant to the provisions of Section 2.1 A. 8. (b) and Section 6.3 of the Zoning Bylaw, to allow said dwelling to continue to be used as a three-family dwelling for educational purposes, subject to the following conditions:

1. Said dwelling shall not be occupied by more than three families at any one time.
2. All vehicles belonging to the tenants shall be parked on the premises.
3. All applicable State and local laws shall be complied with by the Petitioner and all tenants.
4. This Special Permit shall terminate immediately upon sale of the property to other than an educational institution.
5. Occupancy of the house shall be expressly limited to faculty, staff or employees of an educational institution.
6. This Special Permit shall expire three years from the date time-stamped on this decision.

APPEALS FROM THIS DECISION,  
IF ANY, SHALL BE MADE PURSUANT  
TO GENERAL LAWS, CHAPTER 40A,  
SECTION 17, AND SHALL BE FILED  
WITHIN 20 DAYS AFTER THE DATE  
OF FILING OF THIS DECISION IN THE  
OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK.

*Robert W. Levy (wm)*  
Robert W. Levy, Acting Chairman

*Walter B. Adams (wm)*  
Walter B. Adams

*Derek B. Redgate (wm)*  
Derek B. Redgate

ZBA 2026-03  
Applicant Wellesley College  
Address 629 Washington Street

NOT VALID FOR RECORDING UNTIL CERTIFIED BY TOWN CLERK

In accordance with Section 11 of Chapter 40A of the Massachusetts General Laws, I hereby certify that twenty (20) days have elapsed after the within decision was filed in the office of the Town Clerk for the Town of Wellesley, and that no appeal has been filed, or that if such appeal has been filed, that it has been dismissed or denied.

Date:

Attest:

Cathryn Jane Kato  
Town Clerk

cc: Planning Board  
Inspector of Buildings  
lrm