

City of Cambridge

In City Council March 31, 1936

The Joint Special Committee appointed to investigate ~~examine~~ conditions at the Cambridge Tuberculosis Hospital - Health, Public Property and Public Institutions.

Reports, the following:-

Your committee met with His Honor, the Mayor, on two occasions and discussed freely and fully the conditions at the Cambridge Tuberculosis Hospital and the desirability of continuing to maintain the same as a municipal institution.

We are mindful that the people of Cambridge by their votes on November 4, 1935 decided not to enter into the Middlesex Tuberculosis Hospital District, therefore it is incumbent upon us to proceed by correcting conditions in our own hospital.

Your committee, after its first conference with His Honor, the Mayor, visited the Tuberculosis Hospital without previous notice, were escorted through the entire building by Miss Margaret Conlon, R.N. Matron of the institution and were very favorably impressed with the cleanliness, order and morale they found there.

Back in what now appears the dark ages (1907) Cambridge established a Day Camp, one of the first two municipal camps in the state for the treatment of tuberculosis. Very primitive shacks were erected, cases that could

REPORT

Committee on

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not enter Rutland Sanatorium (the only one in our state at that time) were treated at Cambridge and, we are informed, with much success. Progress in the treatment of tuberculosis became so rapid that in 1914 a new brick building was erected at a cost of \$85,000. Some additions have been made since that time and an average of 85 patients are constantly receiving treatment. For a building that was erected in 1914 it is apparently in excellent condition.

There is absolutely no doubt about modern equipment. It is sadly lacking and should be provided immediately. There should be an X Ray machine, heliotherapy equipment, dental equipment, and equipment of other kinds. The present laundry should be abandoned and a more modern one provided. A new kitchen is an absolute necessity.

The minimum requirements of the state for cities of over 100,000 inhabitants prescribe one bed for every Pulmonary death. This requirement is generously complied with. The present hospital has a single room bed capacity of only 10. There should be an addition of about 20 single rooms. At least 30 % of the patients should be in single rooms. The cost involved in correcting the situation that now exists would in our opinion be small in comparison to entering the Middlesex Hospital.

It is apparent therefore, that if we are to continue operating the Cambridge Tuberculosis Hospital, that action should be taken without further delay and your committee would recommend:

1. That His Honor, the Mayor, consider the advisability of immediately appropriating a sum sufficient to erect an addition to the hospital.
2. That provisions be made in said addition for at least thirty single rooms.

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3. That provisions be made for an examining room, operating room, X Ray room, laboratory and recreation room.
4. That whatever requirements may be necessary to obtain the subsidy allowed by the State be complied with immediately.

1937, March MAR 31 1936

Adopted by the affirmative vote

of 15 members.

Frederick W. Burke City Clerk

For the Committee.

John J. Rooney

City of Cambridge

In City Council

The

Committee

to which

Reports,

REPORT

Joint

**Committee on Health - Public Property
and Public Institutions**

*recommending that improvements
be made at Tuberculosis Hospital.*

March 31, 1936