

Ord This is an order for

Committee Rep #6

CR#6

Councillor DAVIS
Councillor DUEHRY

Ordered:

That the City Manager be and hereby is
requested to Direct the Community Development,
Police and the Traffic, Parking and Transportation
Departments to develop appropriate signage to be
installed in HARVARD and CENTRAL SQUARES AS
they relate to ~~the~~ bicycle law~~s~~ enforcement.

Com Rep #6

- 4 -

The Committee heard from Peter Desnoyers, 162 Pleasant Street, Bicycle Committee, who supported enforcement efforts and signage.

The Committee heard from Simon Shapiro, 43 Linnaean Street, Bicycle Committee, who stated that progress has been made with the two committees working together, and that bike lanes and bicycle parking spaces were just a few examples.

The Committee heard from Charles Bahne, 224 Concord Avenue, Pedestrian Advisory Committee, who stated that within the five years that the City Council has taken interest there has been quicker progress. Cooperation with city departments has been achieved.

The Committee heard from Mike Halle, 2 Westcott Court, member Bicycle Committee, who stated that education and enforcement are issues, signage is important but being considerate of other drivers, bicyclists, and pedestrians is foremost. He urged education of the entire community.

Councillor Duehay urged that any specific ideas from the public for the education of the community be given to Ms. Epstein.

The Committee heard from William Peck, 37 Concord Avenue, who urged the distribution of bike and pedestrian education leaflets with the tax bills.

The Committee heard from John Pitkin, 18 Fayette Street, who stated that the Chapter 455 of the Acts of 1961 established the Traffic and Parking Department and established a Board of Traffic and this board can overturn the action of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Committees. He suggested that the members of the Board of Traffic should be included with the Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee. That this Act gives authority to the Traffic, Parking, and Transportation Department for implementation. Councillor Duehay responded that if we have had this policy for twenty years and it has not worked then we should perhaps review it.

The Committee heard from Richard Rossi, Deputy City Manager, who stated that there has been a coordinated effort with the Traffic, Parking, and Transportation, Community Development, Public Works and Police Departments. We are progressing, but we have a long way to go, he said.

Councillor Davis made a motion that the Community Development, Police and Traffic, Parking, and Transportation Departments develop appropriate signage to be installed in Harvard and Central Squares. The motion was seconded by Councillor Duehay and adopted.



City of Cambridge

Committee Report #6

IN CITY COUNCIL

July 29, 1996

COUNCILLOR DAVIS
COUNCILLOR DUEHAY

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to direct the Community Development Department, the Cambridge Police Department and the Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department to develop appropriate signage to be installed in Harvard and Central Squares as they relate to bicycle law enforcement.

In City Council July 29, 1996

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "D. Margaret Drury".

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

The Committee heard from Elizabeth Epstein, Deputy Director of Community Development Department and Director of the Environmental Program, who gave an overview of the work done to date. She stated that the Bicycle and Pedestrian committees are involved in the approach to the issues of safety for pedestrians and cyclists and that the community needs to be educated regarding the benefit of travel on foot or bicycle to improve the quality of life. She noted the need to reduce travel by car. Bike maps of the city were printed. To date 35,000 have been distributed she said. Kids' safety programs are done at the schools where bike bags were distributed. In addition, she stated, Bike Safety Day and Week are promoted by the schools. She stated that educational information was distributed at the RiverFest, Saint Patrick's Day Parade, Transportation Awareness Day and Earth Day. A "carrot and stick program" was instituted by the Police Department.

Ms. Epstein stated that the city was planning a blitz for the fall to train bicyclists on the rules of the road. She said that the city needs to get the message out to the public in a bold way by the use of public service announcements, Cable TV, and even in snow removal efforts. The Public Works Department needs to get the information out to the public that they have to clean their sidewalks. She stated that the city is planning street design improvements and traffic management changes. A special grant was received for 500 spaces for bicycle parking.

The Committee heard from Sergeant Paul Sugrue, Bicycle Patrol and Community Policing Unit, who stated that enforcement of bicycle laws has been increased since April. Sergeant Sugrue stated that he and his officers have given verbal and written warnings. He stated that there were 55 written warnings. In addition there were eight fines issued in Central and Harvard Squares. The fines were for red light violations. Education, he stated, seems to be the biggest problem to the police. He urged public announcements to inform the public of the bicycle laws. Sergeant Sugrue stated that next week he would step up the roll call and training with other police officers to ensure the enforcement of bicycle laws by the Police Department and insure training will be up in September.

Councillor Davis stated that notices that bicycle laws will be strictly enforced should be posted at the entrance of Central and Harvard Squares. Ms. Epstein stated that education needs to be done for both bicyclists and motorists. She stated that Central and Harvard Squares are hot spots and the Fall blitz will concentrate on these locations.

Councillor Duehay stated that he wanted a written plan listing responsibilities for various departments. Councillor Davis agreed and wanted to know who was pulling the education plan together. Beginning enforcement now without the support of the information being out there is not fair she said. Ms. Epstein responded that the Fall is being targeted because the students will

be returning in September and Community Development is both the clearing house and the contact point for the education program.

The Committee heard from Astrid Dodds, 73 Wendell Street, member, Pedestrian Advisory Committee. She stated that one year ago the signs were to be posted and the yellow hang tags were to be used for education. She stated that city departments are running around to catch up for a year of inactivity. She was happy to hear that the yellow hang tags were being used during the last three months. She stated it was not fair to issue fines without the information being distributed to the public. Sergeant Sugrue responded that 55 persons were stopped and only 6 were issued violations and 5 were fines. People who were riding on the sidewalk were issued a written warning.

Vice Mayor Born stated there was an accident involving a pedestrian and a bicyclist in Harvard Square and that an officer at the accident said that the police could not do anything with the person on the bike. Sergeant Sugrue stated that bicycle training will be increased. Vice Mayor Born responded that the Police Department should be aware of the law.

The Committee heard from Doug Willen, 183 Spring Street, member of the Bicycle Committee and a member of the East Cambridge Planning Team, who stated that there is a too few signs indicating where a bicycle can and cannot travel in Harvard and Central Squares.

The Committee heard from Tim Sawyer, 326 Walden Street, member of the Bicycle Committee, who stated that in 1915 the bicycle was the major vehicle used and it will take a while to get back to this practice.

The Committee heard from Robert Winters, 366 Broadway, who stated that there are a lot of signs in Cambridge, but they are about street cleaning and domestic violence, etc. Posting signs, he said, only at the entrance of Harvard and Central Squares will encourage people to violate the bicycle laws when they are outside these areas.

The Committee heard from Fran Wirta, 141 Erie Street, member of the Pedestrian Advisory Committee, who urged the development of a city plan for pedestrians and bicyclists.

The Committee heard from Peter Desnoyers, 162 Pleasant Street, Bicycle Committee, who supported enforcement efforts and signage.

The Committee heard from Simon Shapiro, 43 Linnaean Street, Bicycle Committee, who stated that progress has been made with the two committees working together, and that bike lanes and bicycle parking spaces were just a few examples.

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Councillor Davis made a motion that the Community Development, Police and Traffic, Parking, and Transportation Departments develop appropriate signage to be installed in Harvard and Central Squares. The motion was seconded by Councillor Duehay and adopted.

Vice Mayor Born requested information from Mr. Rossi regarding business district designations and whether these designations could be extended to other areas of the City.

The pedestrian and bicycle issues portion of the hearing adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Councillor Duehay opened the second portion of the meeting regarding the use of pesticides and herbicides in city parks and open spaces. He stated that the meeting was to clarify what the city's policy is going to be with respect to the use of pesticides and herbicides.

The Committee heard from Richard Rossi, Deputy City Manager, who stated that the City Manager has banned herbicides and pesticides in all city parks, playgrounds, totlots and athletic fields pending the adoption of a new policy by the City Council. He presented orally a modification of the Integrated Pest Management policy which was discussed at a June meeting of the full City Council. He said that the new policy he was suggesting would ban all pesticides and herbicides from totlots, playgrounds, and passive, small parks. He said that athletic fields are heavily used and might require occasional use of pesticides in the case of severe infestation, that the city would treat fields with such substances only if absolutely necessary after careful inspection, that licensed personnel would do the treatment, and that advance written notice would be given as well as the area being posted. A copy of the proposed signage that would be used if an area was treated was distributed. **(Attachment A)**. He said that the city would discontinue the use of chemical fertilizer, substituting organic fertilizer and that irrigation systems would be installed in all parks, playgrounds and totlots according to a written park maintenance schedule. Councillor Duehay asked that this new policy be submitted to the committee in written form.

The Committee heard from Elizabeth Epstein who passed out a draft resolution which urged the implementation of an Integrated Pest Management policy in the city. The policy would ban the use of hazardous pesticides and reduce the use of other toxic pesticides. Ms. Epstein stated that the application of chemical compounds would be a last resort. The city is taking a conservative approach. The Environmental Department tries to cover the gamut in reducing the use of pesticides unless it is necessary, and to use it at a controlled level. Mr. Rossi stated that if grubs were to infest a playground, the city would not use herbicides or pesticides, but would dig up the playground and reseed it.

The Committee heard from Ralph Dunphy, Commissioner of Public Works, who stated that the Public Works Department's function is to maintain the parks and to do what is best for the parks we have. A decision needs to be made because the needs of passive parks are different from those of active parks. Increased irrigation systems in parks, he stated, helps the appearance and the durability of the turf. If we plan not to use herbicides in our parks there will be some weeds. If we have clean up days, we can have weed parties as well, he said.

The Committee heard from Harold Cox, Public Health Officer for Cambridge, who stated that there are Environmental and Occupational doctors at the hospital. He read a prepared statement which is attached as **Attachment B**. Mr. Cox stated that we use 70 million pounds of pesticides on our lawns alone and that all chemicals have some toxic aspects. He stated that the long term effects of exposure to pesticides are unknown. Mr. Cox stated that the results of a study of pesticides effects on humans reveals that there is no consistent or conclusive information about long term effects to humans. He stated that any negative effect of herbicides on humans depends on type and exposure and that the down side to the use of compost fertilizer in playgrounds is the odor. He stated that the city would get expert advice on the use of additional chemicals when needed and urged homeowners to reduce the use of pesticides on their land.

Vice Mayor Born questioned the city policy of maintenance on parks, athletic fields, passive parks, tot lots and playgrounds. Mr. Rossi responded that there would be no use of any chemical, herbicide pesticide or insecticide in parks or openspace, that irrigation systems will be installed and if there were turf problems those areas would be replanted. Athletic fields, he stated, would be treated on an analysis-by-need basis. Signs would be posted and the area roped off. Organic fertilizer only would be used on both passive parks and athletic fields.

Councillor Duchay questioned Mr. Rossi regarding an area such as the Cambridge Common which has both a passive park and an athletic field. Mr. Rossi responded that any chemical application will be on the athletic field, and the ban will be in place on the tot lot.

The Committee heard from Mike Hanlon, 28 Blakeslee Street, who asked who holds the license to apply the pesticide or herbicides. Is the license posted for public inspection. Mr. Dunphy responded that the two Public Works employees who apply the pesticides have licenses and that contractors hired by the city have licenses to apply pesticide and herbicides.

The committee heard from Anne Spanel, 85 Pemberton Street, who stated that she becomes ill when she comes in contact with pesticides. She raised issued with the two week notification period included in the policy. She stated that pre-notification of application must be given in writing and questioned how the city will arrange for proper notification. She asked who will decide if there is a necessity for the application of herbicide and pesticides. Mr. Rossi responded that notification will be done by signs and posting and that posting in June for a July application would be considered. Ms. Spanel stated that a law is in effect which requires pre-notification. Ms. Epstein responded that the application schedule is as follows:

1st week of April	the initial application
1st week of July	application - if needed
1st week of September	application - if needed.

The two weeks' notification would be given prior to the first week of the above schedule. If additional applications are needed, there will be at least two weeks' notification given also.

The Committee heard from Ellen Aronson, 121 Fayerweather Street, who stated that the treatment of the athletic fields should be banned until the Public Works Department finds the most benign treatment and that insect infestation should be brought to the City Council for a public hearing before application is made. She stated that she felt having strong turf was not a good reason to make a chemical application and that the term for the use of pesticides "as needed" she did not like.

The Committee heard from John O'Connell, 596 Franklin Street, owner of Greenwork, an Environmental Company, who stated that the city had good responsible public officials. He questioned the usefulness of the pesticides. He stated that it was a waste of money because the bugs buildup an immunity to the dosage of the pesticide. He also requested that there be approval from the City Council before the use of chemicals.

The Committee heard from Maria Hanlon, 28 Blakeslee Street, who stated that prenotification was a good idea and stressed the need for checks and balances as well as the need and the benefit of chemical use.

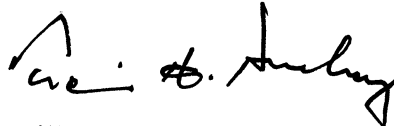
The Committee heard from Bruce Houghton, Cambridge Youth Soccer, 107 Lakeview Avenue, who stated that there was heavy use of the fields in Cambridge. Most fields are used daily from 9:00 a.m. to dusk. Clover and crabgrass fields, he stated, do not hold up with cleats. It is cheaper to maintain the fields than to rehabilitate. He urged that one field be experimented with to try the new policy.

The Committee heard from Peter Cignetti, 5 Theriault Court, who requested that the ingredients of the product and the license number be posted on the application site where chemicals were used.

Councillor Duehay stated that pesticides should not be used if at all possible and that the city does not want dirt fields we want good fields. He asked the Deputy City Manager to submit the new policy, in writing, to the Committee.

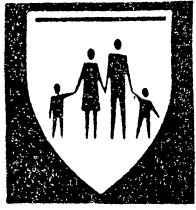
The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

For the Committee



Councillor Francis H. Duehay,
Chair

City of Cambridge, Department of Public Works at 349-4800



The Cambridge Hospital

ATTACHMENT B



1493 Cambridge Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139 (617) 498-1000

To: Cambridge City Council
Environment Committee

From: Harold Cox
Chief Public Health Officer

Date: July 11, 1996

Re: Response to Proposal for Decreasing Chemical Pesticides

Pesticides are used to control pests and weeds that pose a threat to our health and to our food. We put pesticides in our gardens to get rid of weeds; we spray repellents in our houses to get rid of mosquitoes and roaches. And, we use a lot of it. One source estimates that we use 70 million pounds of pesticides each year on our lawns alone.

The central question facing Cambridge is simply: are pesticides safe? This is the question behind the policy proposal you are reviewing. Unfortunately, there is not a simple "yes" or "no" answer.

The most direct response to the question is that all chemicals have some toxic effects. A more complete answer to the question requires you to ask: how much of the pesticide did you use? And, what was the level of exposure to that pesticide?

There have been many studies about what happens when a person has been overexposed to pesticides. From these studies, we know about the acute effects of pesticides, and we know how to treat these effects. What we don't know is about the long term effects of pesticides. Studies have shown the ability of pesticides to cause cancer, damage to the nervous system and adverse reproductive effects in laboratory animals. But, there is no consistent evidence of the effects of pesticides in humans.

Some research reports would have you believe that there are no problems with pesticides. Other reports would have you believe that pesticides are the worst inventions around. The truth is there is no consistent and conclusive evidence about the long term effects of pesticides in humans. We just don't have the answers.

So, where does that leave us? The Environmental Protection Agency helps out some. They conduct toxicologic studies on pesticides and then establish acceptable levels of pesticide residue we can have in our food. The state of MASS Dept of Food and Agriculture agency issues a list of active ingredients that are potential groundwater contaminants. And, an increasing number of cities are evaluating what to do about pesticide usages in their cities.

From what I've been able to gleam from various reports and discussions with experts, herbicides used in our public grounds kill the intended pests and weeds and MAY possibly have unintended effects on humans. I cannot specifically say that harm will be done. Any negative effects depend on the types and amounts of pesticides used and on the amount of exposure to the pesticides. So, it is a good idea to understand exactly what we are using. And, in general, it is also a good idea to reduce

the kinds of chemicals in which we come in contact. This step makes us environmentally conscious and it helps us to take the necessary measures to protect ourselves.

I believe that the proposal to use composted fertilizers in totos lots and passive parks is good. The major downside to these substances is odor. The second proposal to use chemicals in the athletic fields is a little more difficult to answer, however. The real question is how much risk are we willing to take to protect the grounds of the athletic fields. On the one hand, if we treat the athletic fields with the composted fertilizers, like the other parks, the maintenance level could be very high. There are different kinds of maintenance required for different kinds of turfs. Heavy use parks, like the athletic fields, require more maintenance work. It is likely that the composted fertilizers will not do a proper job and we could get bald spots which are not safe places to play. On the other hand, use of chemicals may maintain the grounds and reduce costs. The question of risks relates to whether you prefer to pay a little more for maintenance or have possible exposures to pesticides.

From a different angle, I think the proposal to continue using chemicals in the athletic fields is adequate. First, there is a plan to reduce the amount of chemicals and to limit the kinds of chemicals used. Plus, the idea of closing the fields for two weeks out of the year to apply the chemical is good, too. Further, the Public Works Dept intends to get input from other experts when chemicals are needed.

Overall, I like the proposal. I think that it moves Cambridge in a positive direction in reducing pesticides in our community. Future consideration should be given to what type of ground cover we use. Is there another mixture of grass that can be better maintained with less chemicals and overall maintenance? Another important step is to teach and encourage homeowners to reduce pesticides on their home lawns. The chemicals used by the city are the same ones that home owners are able to buy over the counter. We must take measure to reduce the overall usage.

City of Cambridge

The Environment Committee held a public meeting on Thursday, July 11, 1996 at 4:45 p.m. in the Sullivan Chamber.

Present at the meeting were:

Councillor Francis Duehay, Chair of the Committee;
Councillor Henrietta Davis;
Vice Mayor Kathleen Born;
Councillor Katherine Triantafillou;
Richard Rossi, Deputy City Manager;
Elizabeth Epstein, Deputy Director of Community Development and
Director of the Environmental Program;
Cara Seiderman, Environmental and Transportation Planning, Community
Development Department;
Sue Clippinger, Director of Traffic, Parking and Transportation;
Lauren Preston, Deputy Director, Traffic, Parking and Transportation;
Ralph Dunphy, Commissioner of Public Works;
Paul Ryder, Recreation Director; and
Donna P. Lopez, Deputy City Clerk.

Councillor Duehay opened the meeting with an outline of the business before the committee. He stated that the committee would first discuss the report from the City Manager on the progress of bicycle and pedestrian safety issues and then proceed to the use of pesticides and herbicides in city parks and open spaces.

Councillor Davis made a motion that a noise task force be formed which would include members of the public to review the existing noise ordinance. She explained that she decided to introduce such a motion after her attendance at a Community Oriented Policing conference. Councillor Duehay seconded the motion and further requested that Councillor Davis form this task force. Councillor Davis stated that the police do not have the enforcement tools to enforce the noise ordinance. The motion was adopted.

Councillor Duehay stated that the report on the bicycle and pedestrian issues is filled with promises, and that the city needs to move faster in developing bicycle routes, and designating what sidewalks bicycles can and cannot travel on.

Councillor Davis said that this is a Traffic and Transportation Committee issue as well as an Environmental Committee issue in view of the Vehicle Trip Reduction Ordinance enacted by the City. She added that there are issues with the MDC as well. The MDC has plans for the lower basin area and there is a lack of bicycle coordination in this area.

Committee Report #6

S-381

A report from Councillor Duehay
Chair, Environment Committee, for a
meeting held on July 11, 1996 for
the purpose of discussing the
report on the progress of bicycle
and pedestrian safety issues and
use of pesticides and herbicides in
City Parks and open spaces.

In City Council July 29, 1996

Report accepted, Order
Adopted