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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Metropolitan Conservation Commission
CAMBRIDGE, MASS.
25 Somerset Street, Boston 02108

WILLIAM J. GEARY
COMMISSIONER

July 9, 1984

Ms. Dorothy Altman, Chairman
Cambridge Conservation Commission
57 Inman Street
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Dear Ms. Altman:

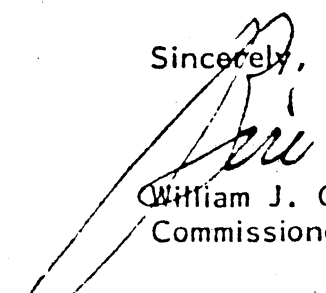
To plagiarize a portion of your letter, I was "surprised and disappointed" to receive your letter of June 21st wherein you suggested that I have concocted a plan to arbitrarily dispose of Metropolitan parkland in the Alewife Reservation. Until I received your letter, I had the impression that during my period as Commissioner of this agency I had proven to the citizens of this region, and the citizens of Cambridge particularly, that I am committed passionately to the mission of this agency to preserve and expand parkland and open space in the metropolitan area. At the very least, I thought I had earned the right to receive the "benefit of the doubt" from your Commission.

Furthermore, my approach to each major controversy has been to include every segment of the community in the decisional process. Indeed, that has been my tact with respect to the Alewife Reservation.

At this point, our discussions with Arthur D. Little Co. are exploratory in nature and do not directly affect the development proposal that is currently before MEPA and DEQE.

Any changes in the publicly owned land must result in a net public improvement - equal to or greater than the existing conditions. I hope to continue to work closely with you and the other concerned Commissions and interest groups in the area to assure that any plan for the Alewife Reservation is in the best public interest.

Sincerely,


William J. Geary
Commissioner

WJG:kc

cc: Senator George Bachrach
Representative Charles Flaherty
Robert Healy
Kathy Spiegelman
Charles Eliot
Arlington Conservation Commission
Belmont Conservation Commission

*I look forward
to meeting with
you soon.*

5-478

Comm. from William J. Geary, Commissioner,
Metropolitan District Commission, transmitting a copy of a comm. sent to the Cambridge Conservation Commission Re: Metropolitan park land in the Alewife Reservation.

In City Council,

August 15, 1984

Placed on file