

City of Cambridge

MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council June 22, 1987

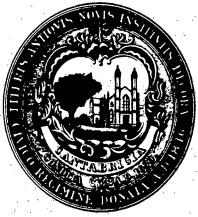
AGENDA ITEM NO. 29

RE: ACCEPTANCE OF A REPORT FROM THE HALF CROWN NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSION, HISTORICAL COMMISSION & PLANNING BOARD ON ACTIVITIES OF THE HALF CROWN NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION DISTRICT IN THE THREE YEARS SINCE ITS ADOPTION

	YEA	NAY	ABSENT	PRESENT
Mr. Thomas W. Danehy	✓			
Mr. Francis H. Duehay	✓			
Ms. Saundra Graham	✓			
Mrs. Sheila T. Russell	✓			
Mr. David E. Sullivan	✓			
Mr. Alfred Vellucci	✓			
Mr. William H. Walsh	✓			
Ms. Alice K. Wolf	✓			
Mayor Walter J. Sullivan	✓			

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HALF CROWN NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSION

Cambridge Historical Commission, City Hall Annex; 57 Inman Street; Cambridge, Massachusetts, 02139. 617/498-9040.

Anna Strobel, *Chairman*; Nan Stone, *Vice Chairman*; Charles M. Sullivan, *Secretary*.
Dwight H. Andrews, Kenneth J. Cleary, A. Curtiss Pollari, *Commission Members*.
Petra H. Beer, Esther Pullman, Elizabeth G. Zagaroff, *Alternates*.

May 12, 1987

The Half Crown Neighborhood Conservation District was established under the provisions of paragraph (4), Section 2.147(k) of Article XVI of Chapter Two of the General Ordinances of the City of Cambridge and adopted by order of the City Council in April, 1984. The conservation district has been in effect since September 30, 1984, when the membership was appointed and a map of the district accepted at the Middlesex County Registry of Deeds. The order establishing the Conservation District Commission provides for a report to be made to the City Council on the third anniversary of the order, in which any recommendations for amendment to the powers, responsibilities and/or procedures of the Commission may be made. No revote of the City Council on the continuation of the order is required.

Due to the sporadic nature of applications for projects in the district, the Half Crown Neighborhood Conservation District Commission meets on an as-needed basis. Generally, about four to five meetings are held annually. Applicants and affected parties are notified as per provisions of the order. Meetings generally are held at a location in or near the district.

With one exception, all of the original members of the commission are still serving. One member of the original commission resigned and that vacancy was filled from among the alternates to the commission. An appointment to fill the alternate's vacancy was made in April, 1987.

The Commission has reviewed thirteen cases since October, 1984 and has granted Certificates of Appropriateness for all of the cases reviewed. Its major reviews to date have been for the construction of the University Green complex and of three townhouse units at 12 Gerry Street. Other projects reviewed by the Commission have been more routine and minor in nature, such as enlargement of living spaces through the addition of rooms, dormers, greenhouses, decks, and bays, and other alterations such as window replacement and restoration of missing or altered features.

In summary, the Commission was established in the face of several large projects that might have had a significant negative impact on the Half Crown area. Those projects have been successfully reviewed and the pressure for large-scale

projects appears to have lessened since the district's establishment. The Commission's reviews in the recent past have been of a routine nature. The Commission appears to have established a positive presence in the area. It has been effective in insuring that changes to the buildings in Half Crown are consistent with its historic fabric and character and that the potentially harmful effects of alterations, demolition and new construction on the district are minimized.

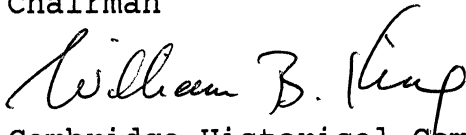
On May 7, 1987, the Cambridge Historical Commission held a Public Hearing to determine the opinion of neighborhood residents on this report. At that time, the Cambridge Historical Commission heard testimony from members of the Half Crown Commission, who spoke in support of the Conservation District order. There were no recommendations to amend the powers, responsibilities and/or procedures of the Half Crown Neighborhood Conservation District Commission.

It is the recommendation of the parties submitting this report that the Half Crown Neighborhood Conservation District Commission proceed in its efforts without amendment to the powers, responsibilities and/or procedures of said commission.

Respectfully submitted,



Half Crown Neighborhood Conservation District Commission,
Chairman



Cambridge Historical Commission, Chairman



Cambridge Planning Board, Chairman



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

TEL. 498-9011

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

ROBERT W. HEALY

City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI

Deputy City Manager

June 22, 1987

To the Honorable, the City Council:

Enclosed for your acceptance please find a report from the Half Crown Neighborhood Conservation District Commission, Cambridge Historical Commission and Cambridge Planning Board on the activities of the Half Crown Neighborhood Conservation District in the three years since its adoption.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mbf

Enc.

Agenda Item No. 29 *S-419*

Re: acceptance of the enclosed report from
the Half Crown Neighborhood Conservation
District Commission, Historical Commission &
Planning Board Re: activities of the Half
Crown Neighborhood Conservation District in
the 3 years since its adoption.

In City Council,

June 22, 1987

*Order Adopted
Roll Call
9-0-0*