

October 21, 1939

Councillor Thomas M. McNamara
President of City Council
271 Windsor Street
Cambridge, Massachusetts

My dear Mr. McNamara:

The residents and neighbors of Sacramento Street, Massachusetts Avenue, Garfield Street, and Sacramento Place earnestly ask you to vote against having the City of Cambridge purchase the reservoir and land in the rear of 9 to 21 Sacramento Street. This land is entirely surrounded and bounded by the homes and back yards of the neighbors, (except at one corner by the entrance driveway from Sacramento Street).

In May, the adjoining owners were notified that Thomas P. Culhane, the owner, had petitioned to be given the right to use the land for a recreational park. At the hearing before the Board of Appeal on Tuesday, May 23, Mr. Culhane said that he planned to have "two tennis courts, a handball court, a swimming pool, locker room and office, all under proper supervision." Despite the strong protest of all the neighbors,-- either in person or by signature,-- Mr. Culhane's petition was granted within a week. At the hearing Mr. Culhane also said that he had 500 signatures on a petition for a playground. The people in the immediate vicinity of the reservoir were not told about that petition, nor were they asked to sign it.

Beginning May 30 and continuing throughout the summer, the days and evenings of the neighbors have been most unhappy. The main attraction has been the reservoir where the boys swim. The boys who have been swimming in this reservoir are not boys of the immediate neighborhood. Many of them come from Somerville, and most of them come distances on their bicycles. The language and actions of many of these boys have been disgusting, and the noise has been unbearable. Because the land is so surrounded, all the noise resounds directly into all these homes. There was no such thing as supervision all summer long. The neighbors had to call for the police many times because of the language and actions of the boys.

If this land were open land, or if there were a street separating the houses from the land, a playground might be satisfactory. However, it has been most unfair and thoughtless to subject the neighbors of this entirely enclosed land to the noise and filthy language of the hoodlums who have been swimming in the reservoir.

October 21, 1939

Sick people in this neighborhood can no longer have the peace and quiet they should be able to have in their own homes. Students find it difficult to study.

The land is not large enough for a ball field. The boys of this district have been playing baseball and football for some time at the Cambridge Common.

Why should the City of Cambridge pay money for a playground used mostly by Somerville boys? People should not be expected to suffer a public playground practically in their own back yards. Not only would the peace and quiet of their homes be shattered, but the real estate values would be lowered.

Please have some consideration for the people who live next to this land.

Very sincerely yours,

(A copy of this letter was sent to Mayor John W. Lyons. The following people personally signed that letter:)

(Mrs.) Margaret M. Lovett	34 Garfield Street
George J. Lovett	34 " "
Catherine E. Lovett	34 Garfield Street
Margaret M. Lovett	34 Garfield Street
George J. Lovett, Jr.	34 Garfield Street
John F. Lovett	34 Garfield Street
Marion T. Lovett	34 Garfield Street
Mary E. Drabble	20 Garfield Street
Mary E. Webster	20 Garfield Street
Gertrude Frost	20 Garfield St.
Josie O. Day	twenty Garfield
Emil Siebert	20 Garfield St.
Mabel S. Grout	19 Garfield St.
Marjorie E. Grout	19 Garfield St.
Edward A. Grout	19 Garfield St.
Faustina B. Adams	27 Garfield St., Camb.
Charles W. Adams	27 Garfield St.
Martha C. Makanna	28 Garfield St.
Annabel L. Wheeler	36 Garfield St.
Clarence E. Wheeler	36 Garfield St.
Jack Wallace	36 Garfield St.
Elvira Wallace	36 Garfield St.
Robert J. Douglas, Jr.	39 Garfield St.
Nora A. Douglas	39 Garfield St.
Mary Walsh	39 Garfield St.

(Copy of Signatures

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Continued)

Thomas A. Walsh
 Carrie E. Harlow
 Leona B. Burnham
 Miriam E. Harlow
 Jessie M. Redding

39 Garfield St.
 44 Garfield St.
 44 Garfield St.
 44 Garfield St.
 44 Garfield St.

Mabelle D. Green
 Edmund H. Green
 Frederick S. Glynn
 Maud L. Glynn
 Florence K. Glynn

54 Garfield St.
 54 Garfield St.
 58 Garfield St.
 58 Garfield St.
 58 Garfield St.

Ernest B. Glynn
 Margaret Twitchell
 Evelyn Twitchell
 Darinda J. Lutz
 Olga M. Laine

58 Garfield St.
 21 Sacramento Pl.
 21 Sacramento Pl.
 19 Sacramento Place
 17 Sacramento Pl.

Carl O. Laine
 John F. Kelleher
 Genevieve Kelleher
 Arthur J. Roulston
 Alice D. Roulston

17 Sacramento Pl.
 11 Sacramento Place
 11 Sacramento Place
 24 Sacramento Pl.
 24 " "

Frederick W. Roulston
 Maude Roulston
 W. J. Allen
 Mrs. W. J. Allen
 Harold R. Allen

" " "
 " " "
 22 " "
 " " "
 " " "

Edward C. Lorenzen
 Margaret A. Lorenzen
 Catherine F. Walsh
 Bill Lorenzen
 Margaret Lorenzen

1 " "
 1 " "
 1 " "
 1 " "
 1 " "

Mrs. Anna J. Arthur
 Mr. John E. McCormack
 R. C. Crocker
 Mrs. S. L. Crocker
 Mrs. C. A. Smith

3 Sacramento Pl.
 3 Sacramento Pl.
 11 Sacramento St.
 11 Sacramento St.
 13 Sacramento St.

George H. Smith
 Mrs. Ruth Smith
 Hilda Gale
 Agnes H. Russell
 Lilian M. Martin

13 Sacramento St.
 13 Sacramento St.
 13 Sacramento St.
 13 Sacramento St.
 15 Sacramento St.

(Copy of Signatures

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Continued)

Miss M. Campbell
Mrs. Jane E. Moran
Phebe R. Boole
Mrs. K. Boole
Grace Boole

15 Sacramento St.
19 Sacramento St.
21 Sacramento St.
"
"

Marie B. Haines
Alexander Spitzer
Katharina Spitzer
Matilda Spitzer
Theresa M. Davies

21 Sacramento St.
23 Sacramento St.
23 Sacramento St.
23 Sacramento St.
23 Sacramento St.

Richard Spitzer
Donald Spitzer
Louise C. Shaw
Gertrude M. Shaw
Margaret R. Flint

23 Sacramento St.
23 Sacramento Street
16 Sacramento St.
" " "
12 Sacramento St.

William J. Moltman
Mrs. John J. Williams
P. A. Harkins
Thomas J. Groden
Albert E. Lynch

10 "
1699 Mass. Ave.
1699 Mass. Ave.
45 Garfield St.
74 Garfield St.

Grace E. Lynch

74 Garfield St.

Communication
from Margaret M. Lovett, 34 Garfield
St. etc. etc. requesting City Council to vote
against the City purchasing the land
and Reservoir in the area of 9 to 21
Sacramento St.

F

P. Property

In City Council OCT 24 1939

Referred to the Committee on

Public Property & Public Institutions

Frederick H. Burke City Clerk

In City Council JUN 11 1940

PLACED ON FILE

Frederick H. Burke City Clerk

City of Cambridge

In City Council June 11, 1940

The

Committee

Public Property &
on Public Institutions

to which was referred a communication from Margaret M. Lovell et als
requesting the City Council to vote against the purchase of land and
reservoir in the rear of 9 - 21 Sacramento Street

Reports,

Recommending that the

communication be placed on file.

For the Committee

William H. Hoggan

REPORT

Committee on

Public Property
and
Public Institutions

Recommending that connection re-land
Sacramento St. be placed on file

A

June 11, 1940.
Report received and
recommendation ADOPTED.

Attest: Frederick H. Bushe
City Clerk

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