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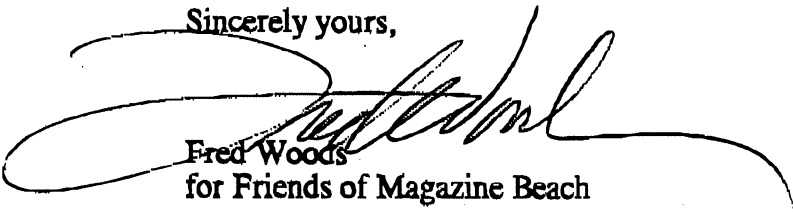
City Council
Cambridge City Hall
795 Mass. Ave.
Cambridge, MA 02139

January 21, 1997

Members of the City Council,

The accompanying letter was sent to the editors of the TAB and Cambridge Chronicle last week, with copies sent to Mr. Fred Schoch and to the MDC. We would like it to appear on the agenda for Monday night, January 27. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,



Fred Woods
for Friends of Magazine Beach

January 15, 1996

To the Editor:

In a recent letter to the TAB (12/24/96), Frederick Schoch, executive director of the Head of the Charles regatta, discussed damage done to Magazine Beach fields during the 1996 regatta, and steps taken to restore those fields. As Cambridge residents concerned about conditions at the park, we hope that these initial steps will be followed by complete restoration of the area.

As Mr. Schoch pointed out in his letter, Magazine Beach is the principal staging area for the regatta. During the weekend of the race more than a hundred vehicles, most of them trucks, and most towing large boat trailers, drive on the fields at Magazine Beach. In addition, other vehicles drive in the park immediately north of the fields, moving tents and other equipment related to the regatta. During the heavy rains that forced cancellation of the regatta the fields and park suffered significant damage from all this traffic. Heavy tire tracks were left criss-crossing the field; areas that had been grass were turned into muddy roads. Subsequently the MDC assessed the condition of the fields and the Regatta, according to the letter, authorized funds "to repair and restore the fields to good working condition." To this end 25 yards of new topsoil were delivered to the field. This is certainly an important first step but there is still a great deal that needs to be done to bring the area back to condition it was in before the regatta.

The greatest damage still evident at the first of the year is in the park area to the north of the playing fields. The area closest to Memorial Drive is still a muddy road; deep tire tracks are evident throughout the park area. Telephone junction boxes installed for exhibitors still stand by a walking path; the path itself has been dug up (probably for phone cables) and the trench covered by a sagging sheet of plywood. On the playing fields tire tracks are still in evidence, particularly near the walking paths. The southeast corner still looks more like a dirt road than a playing field. In short, two and a half months after the event this public park is still in disrepair as the result of the 1996 Head of the Charles Regatta.

The Head of the Charles is a wonderful event, for spectators as well as participants and Mr. Schoch is justifiably proud of the work of his committee. We agree with him when he says that Cambridge takes pride in this event. We also take pride in our parks and look forward to having the MDC and the Regatta complete the timely restoration of Magazine Beach.

Sincerely,

Fred Woods
Andrea Cohen
Robb W. Johnson
Susan Hawley
Ben Lynch
Rick Gosselin

members,
Friends of Magazine Beach

Consent communication #10

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Communication from Fred Woods for Friends of Magazine Beach, transmitting concern about the damage done to Magazine Beach fields during the 1996 Regatta, and steps taken to restore the fields.

In City Council January 27, 1997

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