



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
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Metropolitan District Commission
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20 Somerset Street, Boston 02108
CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

WILLIAM J. GEARY
COMMISSIONER

August 13, 1984.

Herbert M. Meyer, President
Mystic River Watershed Association, Inc.
276 Massachusetts Avenue
Arlington, MA 02174

Dear Dr. Meyer:

In response to your letter of August 4, 1984, please be advised as follows:

A. The Open Space Study:

The MDC has been working closely with the MAPC in the preparation of the conceptual open space study for the Alewife area. We have provided significant base information to the MAPC; we have had numerous informal meetings with MAPC staff; we have participated in the formal TAC meeting and in the Alewife Advisory Committee meetings; we have been diligent in commenting on the inventory, the analysis and the development of alternatives. Some of our comments have resulted in modifications and, we believe improvements, to the planning process. Other comments remain to be acted upon. Our staff will continue to participate in the appropriate reviews and committee meetings.

B. Reservation/Arthur D. Little:

The MDC has met with representatives from ADL to discuss the areas that ADL had leased from the MDC for many years. The MDC has also had discussions with the Cambridge Conservation Commission and others concerning the same parcels. We have stated clearly and unequivocally that there must be a net public gain for open space in the area and that any proposed change in land use must have broad public support. I have, at each opportunity spoken clearly of our mandate to preserve and protect our metropolitan park and parkway system. MDC actions during my tenure have supported this goal - for example our actions concerning Memorial Drive and Kennedy Park.

C. Interim Access and Permanent Loop Concept:

The MDC has always maintained that highway plans must respect the policy of protecting park land and exploring all prudent and feasible alternatives to its use. We will continue to monitor the planning that is under way and will comment fully through the MEPA process.

I am enclosing a copy of my reply to Mr. Bertrand's letter of June 20, 1983. Further you should know that I presented the Alewife issues to the Governor's Advisory Committee on Open Space to elicit more advice and comment from the environmental community. Be assured that the MDC views the Alewife Reservation as a natural area that is unique in the metropolitan region. We share your concern for its future and depend on your continuing assistance and support in our efforts to preserve, protect and enhance its values as part of the park system.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. GEARY
COMMISSIONER

JB0B/RS
Enc.

c.c. Gov. Michael S. Dukakis
Sen. Edward M. Kennedy
Rep. Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr.
Lt. Gov. J.F. Kerry
James S. Hoyte, Sec. EOE
Cong. J.M. Shannon
Sen. George Bachrach
Sen. Richard A. Kraus
Rep. John F. Cusack
Rep. Charles F. Flaherty
Rep. Mary J. Gibson
Cambridge City Council
Arlington Board of Selectmen
Belmont Board of Selectmen
Cambridge Conservation Commission
Arlington Conservation Commission
Belmont Conservation Commission
Charles Eliot
G.A. Bertrand
MACC
Sierra Club

6.

5- 553
Comm. from William J. Geary, Commissioner,
M.D.C. Re: preparation of a conceptual
open space study of the Alewife area &
meetings with representatives of the
Arthur D. Little Company to discuss areas
that ADL has leased from the M.D.C. in this
area.

In City Council,

September 10, 1984

9/10/84

Placed on file -

Copy to the City

Manager -

copy sent to the City Manager
10/13/84 mbr