



City of Cambridge

Consent Comm. #8

IN CITY COUNCIL

May 10, 1999

COUNCILLOR TRIANTAFILLOU

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to submit forthwith a bid, if he has not done so already, to purchase the Squirrel Brand property on Boardman Street.

In City Council May 10, 1999

Adopted by the affirmative vote of seven members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "D. Margaret Drury". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "D" and "M".

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk



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KT

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on Boardman Street

UV 7

6 May 1999

To: The Honorable City Council

1999 MAY -6 A 8:31

The Squirrel Brand properties on Boardman Street are now on the market, with an asking price of \$2.9 million, according to broker ~~©~~ Brendan Noonan. It is urgent that the city act immediately and effectively to retain this valuable resource for our community. Bids are due on May 17, with a decision pending by May 20.

Please do everything possible to support the city's efforts to acquire these properties. Without the land, none of our pressing needs for permanent affordable housing and open space can be met. The housing emergency facing the city is alarming, and especially so in our neighborhood, where displacement occurs weekly if not daily in the wake of soaring real estate values. As one of the, if not the, densest neighborhoods in Cambridge, Area 4 also has a crying need for open space, so that housing here builds community as it also creates infrastructure. And as one of the city's poorest neighborhoods, we can ill afford the loss of jobs and income that sale of the factory itself represents to us. We hope you recall our coalition's March 11 resolution addressing these needs. (Please see our letter of March 31 to the Council).

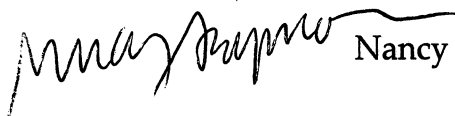
With at least \$4.25 million in the Affordable Housing Trust and about \$2 million in the open space fund, the city has the resources to secure the land. The question is, do you have the will? Now is the time to act, and this is the place to do it.

We in the Area 4 Coalition, with fewer resources but a deep commitment to these issues, are proposing to set aside \$150,000 from our Urban Development Action Grant funds to facilitate this project. (We hope to vote these funds during our next meeting Thursday, May 13, at 7 p.m. at the Fletcher School.)

There should be no need to convince you of our need for permanent affordable housing. One of our members has also been in touch with Sue Walsh of Workforce Development to seek individual assistance for the workers displaced by this sale. And we look forward to continuance of the kind of open space provided by the Squirrel-sponsored, award-winning, twenty-year old community garden at the corner of Boardman and Broadway. We hope you will do everything possible to ensure the success of these three interlinked efforts to strengthen our community.

Squirrel's Boardman Street properties are a sizable chunk of our neighborhood, a prominent piece of Cambridge real estate, and a rare site well suited for both affordable housing and open space. Please be there for us now, when it counts. Preserve this land for its highest and best community use. Opportunities are disappearing every day, and there is none better than this.

For the Squirrel Brand Subcommittee of the Area 4 Neighborhood Coalition,



Nancy Seymour (170 Harvard Street, #2)

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Consnet Communication #8

A communication was received from
Nancy Seymour, regarding the
Squirrel Brand Properties on
Boardman Street.

1999 MAY -6 A 8:31

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council May 10, 1999

ORDER ADOPTED

PLACED ON FILE