

NEIGHBORHOOD NINE ASSOCIATION

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02138

March 19, 1973

Reply to: Roger Marshall
33 Linnaean Street
Cambridge, Mass. 02138

The Editor
Cambridge Chronicle
614 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, Mass. 02139

Gentlemen:

Neighborhood Nine Association is distressed by the lack of interest the City of Cambridge has shown with respect to planning for the development of the Area of the proposed station along the MBTA Red Line in the Alewife area of West Cambridge.

Dr. Herbert M. Meyer's Article on "Planning for Alewife" in the 3/15/73 Cambridge Chronicle finally brings the problems out into the open.

The various routes for the proposed subway extension will directly effect Neighborhood Nine both from being constructed through or under the area and from the possibility of a station in the vicinity of Porter Square.

Obviously the planning for the Alewife station will also effect Neighborhood Nine with respect to:

- a) Its relationship with development of the Dump area in Neighborhood Nine
- b) Future traffic patterns through Neighborhood Nine
- c) The impact on the city tax rate and services in the future.

It would therefore appear that the proposed electrical substation on the Fresh Pond Drive-in site will close out many of the planning options for the Alewife area, not to mention its impact on the present users in the area due to anticipated high noise levels and adverse aesthetic values.

A major consideration should be whether the electrical transmission facility should be in Cambridge at all. We understand that it is part of a major underground high voltage line from Boston to the Northwestern suburbs and not for substantial Cambridge consumption. It appears that this type of transmission facility has as yet not been tried in this State if at all. There are therefore serious questions to be answered before the City permits neighborhood disruption for construction of the right of way detouring into and out of Cambridge.

The Editor
Cambridge Chronicle
614 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, Mass.

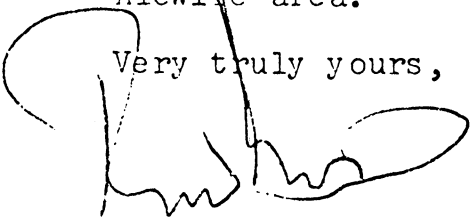
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In any case there should be an Environmental impact Statement prepared on the whole Transmission facility (State land is involved and an Environmental Impact Statement is required by State Law). The public should be then appraised of the full implications of the project with an opportunity to respond and be heard on the substantive issues.

Until such public involvement takes place, the City of Cambridge should refuse any permits and oppose the project until its full impact on the safety and development of the city is known. In the meanwhile, the City's Planning Department should become directly involved with working out complete planning for the Alewife area.

Very truly yours,



Roger Marshall
Past President for the Directors of Neighborhood Nine

PM/rmm

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From Neighborhood Nine Association-
relative to Dev. of Area along the MBTA
Red Line.

In City Council

March 12, 1973