

HARVARD UNIVERSITY
CAMBRIDGE 38
MASSACHUSETTS

GRADUATE SCHOOL
OF DESIGN

October 2, 1986

TO: The Honorable, The City Council

SUBJECT: Status of the Cambridgeport Blue Ribbon
Committee's Work

I am pleased to report to you that progress is being made in the Committee's deliberations regarding the future of the Cambridgeport Revitalization Area. The full Committee is now reviewing a sketch plan and draft recommendations prepared by the Design Subcommittee. A number of the ideas in our current draft will require very careful consideration by the Committee members, and reaching a compromise will take somewhat more time. However, I anticipate that we will have a report ready for your consideration early this fall; and I will keep you informed as to our progress.

Yours sincerely,

Wilhelm Viggo von Moltke
Wilhelm Viggo von Moltke, FAIA, AICP
Professor of Urban Design, Emeritus
Chairman, Blue Ribbon Committee

P.S. Although I am very optimistic about the work we should be able to achieve, I regret that we are a little behind the schedule we wished to follow. Our work was slowed partially by summer vacations, and also by the fact that I am undergoing chemotherapy for the cure of cancer of the liver.

WVVM/RB/jac

MID-CAMBRIDGE Neighborhood Association

P.O. Box 904, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 02138

October 3, 1986

To the Honorable Cambridge City Council
City Hall
Cambridge, Massachusetts

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1986 OCT - 3 PM 4: 27
CAMBRIDGE, MA.

Five months ago the sidewalk on the north side of Harvard Street was torn up and replaced with sand and the curbstones were reset in preparation for laying new bricks. The sidewalk is still in the same condition and the pavement around the curbstones has yet to be replaced. It is an eyesore. It is a hazard at each corner where the sand is bordered by loosened bricks and where the street pavement is missing. It is in danger, when winter arrives, of becoming a source of sandy slush to be tracked into homes up and down Harvard Street.

The Public Works Department has informed us that the contractor, Baker Construction, is in bankruptcy and that it is up to the bonding company to complete the repaving.

On behalf of the residents of Mid Cambridge, we request the City Council to hold a hearing on this matter as soon as possible to ensure that whatever is necessary is done to ensure that this sidewalk and the surrounding street are properly repaved before the snow and ice season.

You should also know that the neighborhood was never consulted about the design of this major project, which includes the completed re-bricking of the sidewalk on the south side of Harvard Street. Many neighbors have been unhappy with the widening of the street and the resulting breaks in the new curb line and/or the root systems of established street trees.

We therefore request that the hearing also include a review of the process by which this project was designed and implemented. We wish to ensure that our neighborhood will be properly consulted on the design and execution of all major public works projects in Mid Cambridge.

Thank you for your consideration.

John R. Pitkin

John R. Pitkin, Chairperson,
for the MCNA Coordinating Committee

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

CAMBRIDGE 38

MASSACHUSETTS

RECEIVED BY
OFFICE OF CITY CLERK

GRADUATE SCHOOL
OF DESIGN

October 2, 1986, OCT 1986 PM 5:35

CAMBRIDGE MA.

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WVVM/RB/jac

S-597

Comm. from Wilhelm Viggo von Moltke, Harvard
University Prof. of Urban Design, Emeritus
& Chair, Cambridgeport Blue Ribbon Committee
Re: status of said Committee's work.

In City Council,

October 6, 1986