



City of Cambridge

CR #2A

IN CITY COUNCIL

March 31, 1997

COUNCILLOR DAVIS
VICE MAYOR BORN

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to provide a report which includes a description of the City's current tree planting policy, its cost and process, and information as to what the cost would be to replace each year all of the public trees that come down due to death or disease.

In City Council March 31, 1997.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of eight members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "D. Margaret Drury".

ATTEST:-

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk



City of Cambridge

CR #2B

IN CITY COUNCIL

March 31, 1997

COUNCILLOR DAVIS

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report on the pros and cons of having signs that identify the landscaper on the traffic island or other site which the landscaper has designed and is maintaining.

In City Council March 31, 1997.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of eight members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "D. Margaret Drury".

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

City of Cambridge

The Public Service Committee held a public meeting on Wednesday March 12, 1997, beginning at 5:45 p.m. in the Sullivan Chamber for the purpose of discussing a City-wide beautification program including plans for City Hall, City Hall Annex and traffic islands as well as the memorial and client tree programs.

Present at the hearing were Vice Mayor Kathleen L. Born, Chair of the Committee, Councillor Henrietta Davis, and City Clerk D. Margaret Drury. Also present were Richard Rossi, Deputy City Manager; Lisa Peterson, Assistant to the City Manager; Sally Zimmerman, Historical Commission; Michael Nicoloro, Managing Director of the Water Department; Larry Acosta, City Arborist; Stuart Dash, Community Development Department; Gerald Boyle and Richard Medeiros, Department of Public Works and Paul Ryder, Recreation Department, Human Services.

Vice Mayor Born convened the meeting and explained the purpose. She noted the excellent job that the Department of Public Works has done to improve the appearance of the City in conjunction with the Sesquicentennial celebration and requested that Deputy City Manager Richard Rossi report on beautification plans at City Hall. Mr. Rossi distributed a draft schedule (Attachment A) for City Hall landscaping, and gave a brief summary of the process which will utilize a committee, with a representative from the Public Planting Committee and the neighborhood, to select the designer and will provide for public review of the plans.

Vice Mayor Born asked if there is a budget figure. Gerry Boyle said that he believes the total is \$250,000, which will be paid for out of existing capital funds. Mr. Rossi said this would include the front and the side yards. The original renovation plans include extensive changes in the back area of City Hall. The back could still be rearranged as part of those renovations, so there are no landscape plans at this time.

Vice Mayor Born noted that two front facades have not yet been repointed. Mr. Boyle said that this will be managed so that the facade work is coordinated with the landscaping work.

Vice Mayor Born asked how the Public Planting Committee representative and neighborhood representative to the design selection committee will be chosen. Mr. Rossi said he will ask the Planting Committee to select a representative. From among those interested in volunteering, a neighbor with knowledge of landscaping design will be chosen to sit on the committee.

Vice Mayor Born moved to the topic of landscaping for 57 Inman Street. Mr. Rossi reported that Rob Steck, landscape architect at Community Development Department, has been working on this matter; \$110,000 has been allocated. Mr. Steck will be talking with the Public Planting Committee. The plans include taking down the fence around the perimeter. Stuart Dash said that the plans call for will creating some additional benches for public seating.

Vice Mayor Born asked Mr. Rossi to describe the role of the Public Planting Committee in this process. Mr. Rossi said that he hopes they will make recommendations regarding the plantings at 57 Inman Street. Vice Mayor Born asked about the timing of the landscaping. Mr. Rossi said that preparation work will take place in July, August and September 1997, and planting will take place in the fall.

Mr. Rossi summarized the budget implications. The plan calls for a recommendation of \$175,000 in the FY98 budget for three areas of beautification: \$110,000 for City Hall Annex; \$25,000 for the significant tree program and \$40,000 for plant material for squares. Mr. Rossi said that the City is divided into thirteen neighborhoods. There is a vision of one significant tree for each neighborhood each year for ten years in addition to the current tree planting program.

Councillor Davis asked how trees are allocated. Mr. Rossi said wherever the City does new streets and sidewalks, trees are always planted. There is a nice blend of new trees throughout the City.

Councillor Davis asked how the client tree program contributes. She said that just replacing what the City takes down is not enough.

Larry Acosta said in a bad year 150 trees are taken down, but the City plants far more trees than that number each year.

Councillor Davis said that the City Council has passed on order to replace trees that are taken down. She wants to make sure that tree-planting is adequately funded to accomplish this.

Mr. Acosta said that he has an inventory of the current vacancies, and tries to use money leftover to fill those vacancies.

Mr. Rossi said that the City has to use its tree planting money in ways that are the most economical and provide the most trees. The City cannot guarantee that every tree that is taken down will be replaced right away.

Councillor Davis said that there are citizens who cannot afford the \$140 for the client tree program. It is very disappointing for people who live near a tree when that tree dies and is taken down and not replaced.

Councillor Davis moved that the City Manager be requested to report on the cost of implementing a program of replacing each tree that is last due to death or disease.

Mr. Rossi said that one problem with this is that there is a waiting list from past years.

Vice Mayor Born said that she believes that there exists confusion among members of the public regarding this issue. It is hard for one neighbor to hear that she has to pay \$140 while another get a tree in front of her house without charge because the street is being resurfaced.

Mr. Rossi said that the client tree program was developed at a time when there was almost no money for the City to pay for planting trees. That program was popular and resulted in a big increase in tree planting. Then the City was able to pay for trees from some street project funding, with the end result that the City has planted and continues to plant many more trees than most cities.

Vice Mayor Born noted that the Public Planting Committee is working on some plans for a tree fund. Vice Mayor Born said she would like to amend Councillor Davis order to add a description of the current tree planting process with the cost of replacing a tree and the cost to replace each year all of the trees that come down due to death and disease.

The amendment was accepted as a friendly amendment, and the following amended motion was passed:

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to provide a report which includes a description of the City's current tree planting policy, its cost and process, and information as to what the cost would be to replace each year all of the public trees that come down due to death or disease.

Phoebe Leighton, 128 Lakeview Avenue, said that often trees die for a good reason, and it may not be appropriate to put a new tree in the same place.

Mr. Acosta said that the priority should be replacement through client trees whenever possible.

Councillor Davis noted all the missing trees on Pearl Street.

Mr. Acosta said that Pearl Street is a through street, so City money is used to replace the trees. But someone has to water these trees so a commitment is needed from the resident. That is value of the client tree program. The commitment for survival of the tree is there, because a resident has made a commitment to the tree and the tree will be watered and cared for.

Vice Mayor Born asked Mr. Acosta to describe his plan for marking memorial trees. Mr. Acosta said that there could be a space in a public building with a bronze tree to which gold and silver leaves are attached with a marking that corresponds to a registry and map of where the people could come to look up where the tree is located in the registry or to sit quietly in a peaceful room to look at a lovely bronze tree.

Vice Mayor Born expressed her enthusiasm for this idea.

Mr. Rossi submitted a list of potential significant trees (Attachment B) and stated that they would be 4-5" diameter trees.

Councillor Davis said she wished it could go faster than ten years. Mr. Rossi said that thirteen new trees per year can come out of the Department of Public Works budget. However, in connection with other construction projects, there will probably be more planted.

David Szlag, 74 Ellery Street, expressed approval for the significant tree program. He asked whether there is a follow up on young trees to see if they are still surviving two years later.

Mr. Acosta said that this is something that the City is attempting to address. He would like to have a "green team" of Cambridge citizens who could focus on young trees. The City must focus its efforts on mature trees for safety reasons.

Mr. Szlag suggested that there be some focus of committees on the overall style of a project.

Vice Mayor Born then moved to the issue of beautification plans in other public areas.

Stuart Dash said that the Community Development Department is working with Jennifer Jones of Carol Johnson Associates on the development of standards for the adopt-a-traffic island program. There will be a provision for a small tasteful sign. There has been some discussion of how to have water available and of provisions for soil testing so that these plantings can actually survive. Mr. Dash noted that the planting season is coming quickly. Carol Johnson will develop the guidelines over the next month. The first year will be a pilot program of a few sites. A list of traffic islands was distributed. (Attachment C).

Lisa Peterson explained that the sites in bold on the list are sites where there will already be some planting this spring.

Councillor Davis said that the list needs to be spread out geographically much more than it is now. Ms. Peterson said that the City is only thinking of having two or three new sites in addition to what is already planted.

Mr. Dash said that Carol Johnson offered to do a project at Putnam Square as a design contest within their firm. That is the kind of thing the City wants to encourage.

Vice Mayor Born asked for an explanation of the timing. Mr. Dash said that there will be a complete draft of the guidelines in a month. Then the City will choose two or three sites.

Michael Nicoloro said that the Water Department is looking at how to connect the sites to the water mains. There are some complications. The water supply has to be protected; there are also issues relating to the need to keep the pipes from freezing in the winter.

Councillor Davis asked about the signs. She said that she would prefer having no signs and giving the landscapers credit some other way. She proposed the following motion:

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report on the pros and cons of having signs that identify the landscaper on the site.

Vice Mayor said that she would like to ask Jennifer James and Carol Johnson respond to the City Council about the pros and cons. The motion was passed.

Lucy Tittmann, 12 Gerry Street, asked whether the idea is that all of the triangles listed on Attachment C have flowers. Mr. Dash said that this is just a list of traffic islands. Ms. Tittman noted that the Mount Auburn Street island is done by a resident. Ms. Peterson said that the City has agreed to work on the island with him.

Denise Stiller, Magazine Street, asked whether the \$40,000 includes those projects. Ms. Peterson responded in the affirmative. Ms. Stiller asked if the City would provide soil. Ms. Peterson said that not clear yet; the guidelines are being developed.

Vice Mayor Born moved to the issue of the Fresh Pond improvements. Mr. Nicoloro distributed a description of the Water Treatment and Supply Improvements Plan (Attachment D). There will be plantings in part of this and there is also a project at Black's Neck, opposite Whittier Street. The master plan includes landscaping, signage posting, pathway upgrade, repair of the riprap and fence repair. There has been a video prepared regarding the Master Plan for the Fresh Pond reservation area.

Ms. Tittman asked whether the poison ivy will be removed. Mr. Nicoloro said that there is removal of poison ivy a couple of times each year.

Councillor Davis asked if there is a plan for graffiti removal at Fresh Pond. Mr. Nicoloro said that the Water Department and Department of Public Works take care of the graffiti. They appreciate help from the public through the public reporting graffiti when they see it.

Vice Mayor Born said that there is tremendous public enthusiasm about these improvements.

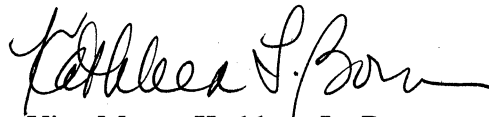
Mr. Nicoloro said that the plan is for bids in July, ground breaking in November, and completion by turn of the century.

Vice Mayor Born noted the Kingsley Park bridge issue. Mr. Nicoloro said that while the bridge is safe, it is deteriorating. His last communication with the MDC was that the repair will happen fairly quickly.

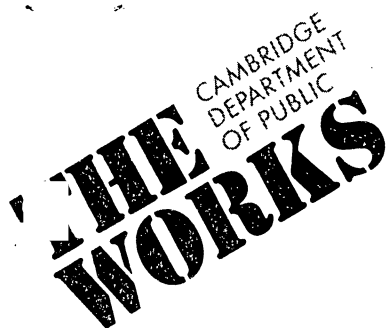
Vice Mayor Born thanked all those present for their attendance. She said that she may schedule another meeting to discuss salt on the roads.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

For the Committee,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathleen L. Born", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Vice Mayor Kathleen L. Born,
Chair



A

Ralph E. Dunphy
Commissioner

To: Ralph E. Dunphy, Commissioner

From: Gerald R. Boyle, Supervisor of Public Construction

B

147 Hampshire Street
Cambridge, MA 02139
617-349-4800
TDD 617-349-4805

Date: March 12, 1997

Subject: City Hall landscaping - draft schedule

Activity

Schedule

1) Designer Selection

a. Select Committee	Week of 3/17/97
b. Develop project criteria ("Program")	" " 3/24/97
c. Committee approves Program	" " 3/31/97
d. Purchasing Agent advertises RFP	" " 4/7/97
e. Pre-submission meeting for committee	" " 4/14/97
f. RFP's due	" " 4/21/97
g. Initial Committee meeting - select semifinalists	" " 4/28/97
h. Conduct interviews - rank finalists	" " 5/5/97
I. Submit rankings to City Manager	" " 5/5/97
j. Select designer	" " 5/12/97
k. Owner/Architect agreement	" " 5/26/97

2) Design Development, internal review, public comment

3) Final bid documents and drawings prepared

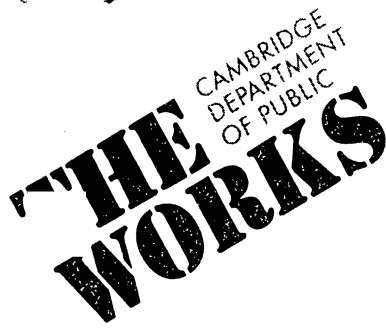
4) Bids advertised and due

5) Owner/contractor agreement

6) Plantings completed

" " 7/14/97
" " 7/21/97
" " 8/11/97
" " 8/25/97
" " 10/15/97





Ralph E. Dunphy
Commissioner

To: Ralph E. Dunphy, Commissioner
From: Gerald R. Boyle, Supervisor of Public Construction

B

147 Hampshire Street
Cambridge, MA 02139
617-349-4800
TDD 617-349-4805

Date: March 12, 1997
Subject: Recommendations for City Hall landscaping designer selection committee

Landscaping designer selection Committee

Richard C. Rossi, Deputy City Manager
Gail Cohen, Purchasing Agent
Lisa Peterson, Asst., to the City Manager
Susan Schlesinger, Community Development
Ralph E. Dunphy, Public Works
Larry Acosta, DPW City Arborist
Charles Sullivan, Historic Commission
Member of Public Planting Committee (landscape architect)
Neighborhood representative

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact me at 349-4823.



A Profile on Large Tree Planting in Cambridge

The following is a list of trees which achieve a height of fifty feet or more:

<u>Species</u>	<u>Height</u>	<u>Spread</u>
Yellow Wood (<i>Cladratis lutea</i>)	50'	40'-50'
Elm Hybrid(<i>Ulmus 'Pioneer'</i>)	60'	40'-50'
Bald Cypress (<i>Taxodium distichum</i>)	70'	20'-30'
Northern Red Oak (<i>Quercus rubra</i>)	70'	50'-65'
American Beech (<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>)	90'	40'-60'
Sugar Maple (<i>Acer saccharum</i>)	75'	40'-50'
Sweetgum (<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>)	60'	30'-40'
Maidenhair (<i>Ginkgo biloba</i>)	70'	30'-40'
Tulip Poplar (<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>)	90'	35'-50'
Cucumber Tree (<i>Magnolia acuminata</i>)	60'	30'-40'
White Willow (<i>Salix alba</i>)	85'	50'-70'
Patmore Ash (<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>)	50'	25'-30'
London Plane (<i>Platanus acerifolia</i>)	70'	50'-60'

Recent plantings of large trees are as follows:

Street trees (Client Tree Program & City Replacement) Fall '96

Sweetgums-15

Red Oaks-9

Maples-39

Ginkgoes-6

Parks Planning (Parks & Playgrounds) Fall '96
Red Oaks-30 at Pacific Street Open Space

Community Development (Quincy Square) Fall '96
Pin Oaks-4

Upcoming Plantings of large trees are as follows:

Street trees Spring '97(The quantity will depend on the number of Client Tree requests)

Sweetgums
Red Oaks
Sugar Maples
Ginkgo
Red Oaks

Community Development (Central Square) Spring '97
London Plane- 86 trees will be planted. Some of those will be London Plane

The planting of large trees in busy city centers exposes them to tremendous stresses, shortening their natural life spans, but we continue to do all we can to ensure they thrive in Cambridge. Irrigation and sufficient rooting space and soils are the key.

Seeking suitable open spaces for the purpose of planting large specimen trees is an excellent idea. Parks, schools, reserves, large plazas and triangles are prime locations. Each site should be assessed for sufficient space if trees are to grow to their potential above and below ground. Soils should be tested for texture, fertility, drainage and P.H. Appropriate additions of organics should be added according to test results. Drainage problems should be resolved prior to planting.

The following are examples of sites in Cambridge where specimen trees could thrive:

Lincoln and Windsor
Columbia and Cambridge
Huron and Fresh Pond Parkway
Front lawn at the Harrington School
The Cambridge Common
The Cambridge Cemetery
Public schools
Parks & Playgrounds
Fresh Pond Reservation
Mid-Cambridge Park

Larry Acosta\City Arborist

TRAFFIC ISLANDS

CRONIN	Western Ave./Pleasant St.
TUBMAN SQUARE	River-Pleasant-Cottage
SULLIVAN SQUARE	Mt. Auburn & Mass. Ave.
BRATTLE SQUARE	Brattle & Elliot Streets
HIGLEY SQUARE	Garden, Concord & Follen
ARSENAL SQUARE	Chauncey, Garden & Concord
LANGDON STREET	Grass Strip
FOUNTAIN TERRACE	Fountain Terr/Huron Ave.
FRESH POND LANE	Grass Strip
SPARKS & HURON	Planting Beds
OLDE DEE ROAD	Center Grass Strip
BRATTLE, CRAIGIE & SPARKS	- New Configuration
MERCER CIRCLE	Brattle to Sparks
BLANCHARD & CONCORD	At Golf Course
BRODETTE ROTARY	Sozio's/Concord Ave.
GRAY GARDENS	East & West - Off Garden Street
MT. AUBURN/HAWTHORN	
HARVARD SQUARE UNDERPASS	
ONE KENDALL/COMELECTRIC	

City of Cambridge

Water Treatment & Supply Improvements Program (WTSIP)

Introduction

To continue providing a safe drinking water supply to the City of Cambridge, the Cambridge Water Department (CWD) is planning to replace the existing water treatment plant (WTP) at the Fresh Pond Reservation. The new WTP will be located at the same site and will have the same output capacity as the existing WTP—24 million gallons per day (mgd). However, it will be contained in a more compact building that occupies less real estate. In addition to the new WTP, improvements to the Fresh Pond shoreline and pathways are planned, as well as inspections and repairs of other related water supply facilities such as gatehouses, reservoirs, and pipelines.

Construction is anticipated to commence during the fall of 1997 with completion planned in 1999.

Need for the Project

A new WTP is needed because the existing treatment facility:

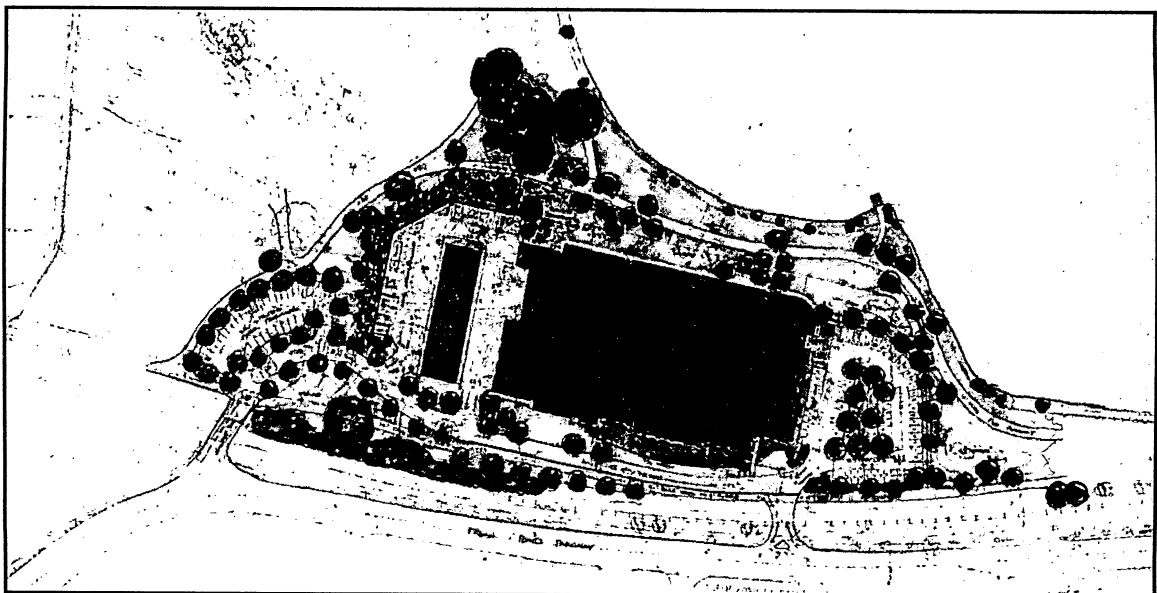
- is over 70 years old and beyond its' life expectancy;
- does not comply with current building codes and Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) water quality regulations;
- has limited ability to monitor, control, and optimize unit processes;
- has a high potential for system upset;
- must be continually updated to meet existing and anticipated safety standards;
- has a limited potential for expansion;
- has limited building environment control; and
- is labor-intensive to maintain.

These serious and largely uncorrectable deficiencies in the existing WTP left the city with the following options to pursue:

Option 1 – Rehabilitate the existing WTP;

Option 2 – Abandon existing water supply and purchase water from the Massachusetts Water Resource Authority (MWRA); or

Option 3 – Construct a new WTP.



Option 1, *Rehabilitate the existing WTP*, was eliminated from consideration because it is cost prohibitive and does not adapt easily to new technologies, as regulations may warrant. Option 2, *Abandon existing water supply and purchase water from MWRA*, was also eliminated from further consideration because water users would be charged higher water rates, and the city would abandon a precious water resource and negate the benefits of past investments in watersheds and reservoir facilities (e.g. Payson Park Reservoir improvements in 1991). Option 3, *Construct a new WTP*, was determined to be the most cost-effective option. This preferred option provides a state-of-the-art WTP.

WTP Siting

In 1989 several baseline objectives were established to determine the most appropriate location for a new WTP:

- any decision about siting shall be made in the context of a comprehensive, overall Fresh Pond Management Plan taking into account protection of the watershed and other natural resources of the Reservation;
- the proposed WTP shall have a design capacity of 24 mgd;
- the proposed WTP shall be based on best management practices and meet current regulations, codes, and standards;
- the selected site shall include provisions for CWD maintenance facilities; and
- the selected site shall reserve space for possible future processing requirements.

Site selection methodology involved developing a list of all potential sites, eliminating sites by applying successively more restrictive criteria, and finally, determining a preferred site. The selection of siting criteria and the order of their application were based on achieving the overall project goal of ensuring a safe drinking water supply while minimizing environmental, technical, and socioeconomic impacts. The siting study concluded that the existing WTP site is the best option, with demolition of the existing WTP and construction of the new facilities in the same location.

Program Components

The program involves the following major components:

- transition to the MWRA's water supply via existing connections for the duration of construction;
- demolish the existing WTP and associated buildings;
- construct a 24-mgd WTP and associated facilities;
- install a new raw water intake in Fresh Pond Reservoir;
- implement new WTP residuals handling practices — either discharge to the MWRA sewer system or dewater and haul off site for disposal;
- implement site access improvements on Fresh Pond Parkway;
- perform maintenance and improvement activities to Fresh Pond Reservation in support of the new WTP, including landscaping, limited clearing of vegetation along the perimeter, riprap repair, signage posting, relocated parking, fence replacement, and pathway upgrade to ensure that public access is maintained during WTP construction and enhanced for future use of the reservation; and
- inspect and repair related water supply system facilities (e.g. gatehouses, reservoirs, and pipelines).

Committee Report #2

S-184

A report was received from the Public Service Committee, for the purpose of discussing a City-wide beautification program including plans for City Hall, City Hall Annex and traffic islands as well as the memorial and client tree programs.

In City Council March 31, 1997

Report Accepted

placed in file

2 Orders adopted.