



OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

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D. MARGARET DRURY
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DONNA P. LOPEZ
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June 21, 2000

TO: ROBERT W. HEALY
CITY MANAGER

DM
FROM: D. MARGARET DRURY
CITY CLERK

SUBJECT: ADDITIONAL REQUESTS FROM THE JUNE 19, 2000
CITY COUNCIL MEETING

At the June 19th City Council meeting the following motions were made requesting a report from the City Manager:

- On Agenda # 5 – Councillor Davis requested a report on the mediation services that the city provides to tenants and landlords
- On Agenda # 11 – Councillor Sullivan requested a report on the enforceability by the city of the conditions outlined by the Conservation Commission on the planting project plans.

I hope this information is beneficial to you.



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

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CONSERVATION COMMISSION

June 15, 2000

To: Bob Healy, Cambridge City Manager

CC: Beth Rubenstein, Community Development Department

From: Julia Bowdoin, Conservation Commission

Re: June 5, 2000 Council Orders
Report on Action Taken Regarding the "Goose Meadow"

Please accept this memo as the Conservation Commission's response to the Council Orders of June 5, 2000 regarding the "Goose Meadow." The Conservation Commission has met with the Metropolitan District Commission and action will be taken to restore a portion of the vegetated habitat in the "Goose Meadow."

Site Description

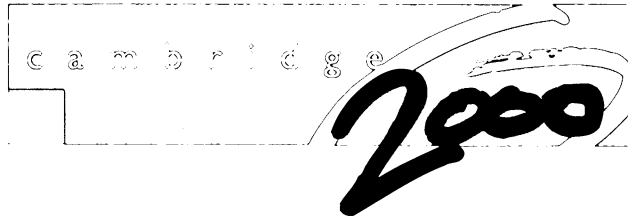
The area referred to as the "Goose Meadow" by certain Cambridge residents is a sloped triangular piece of land owned by the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) as part of the Charles River Basin park system. It is located adjacent to the east side of the Boston University (BU) Bridge on the Charles River in Cambridge. Residents have voiced concern that the habitat of the white geese has been adversely affected by recent landscaping of the area by the MDC and BU.

Site History

The goose meadow area has been heavily vegetated with invasive trees for many years. Over the years, it has consistently been identified by the MDC and Cambridge Police as an area that poses significant threats to public safety, due to difficult pedestrian access, poor visibility through dense vegetation, and close proximity to rapidly moving traffic. In addition, the majority of vegetation growing there has been identified as "tree-of-heaven," an invasive tree species that provides low quality wildlife habitat and discourages the growth of a diverse community of native trees and shrubs. As a result, in October 1999, the MDC requested permission from the Cambridge Conservation Commission to remove the tree-of-heaven, establish native grass and shrubs, and construct a safe pedestrian walkway through the area. The Conservation Commission approved this request for work within the 100-foot buffer zone of the Charles River, with the condition that the MDC leave undisturbed all of the native non-invasive trees on the site and all vegetation within 25 feet of the riverbank in order to protect and preserve the high quality riverfront wildlife habitat and stability of the riverbank.

Recent Action by Conservation Commission and MDC

In response to recent concerns related to the quality of white goose habitat in the area, the Conservation Commission and the MDC conducted a comprehensive site investigation with detailed plans of the area and the approved landscaping design. This investigation showed that slightly more vegetation was removed from the area during the landscaping project than was allowed by the Conservation Commission, as shown on the approved project plans. Specifically, several native shrubs were mistakenly removed along the periphery of the work area by the landscaping contractors hired by BU. The MDC has agreed to work with BU to develop a re-planting plan and list of plant species for review and approval by the Conservation Commission. This planting plan shall be developed over the next several weeks and will aim to restore habitat value in the area for both white geese and native riverfront wildlife.



11.

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE • EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Robert W. Healy, City Manager

Richard C. Rossi, Deputy City Manager

June 19, 2000

To The Honorable, The City Council:

Please find attached a response to Awaiting Report Item No. 00-35, regarding the goose meadow, received from Conservation Commission Director Julia Bowdoin.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert W. Healy".

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mec
Attachment



2000 Things 2 Do in 2000

Consent Agenda #11

1935

Relative to AW Rpt #00-35,
regarding the goose meadows.

In City Council June 19, 2000

PLACED ON FILE