



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

COMMISSION ON HANDICAPPED PERSONS

McCusker Center
57 Inman Street
Cambridge, MA 02139

498-9000, Ext. 9509 (Voice)
492-0235 (TDD)

RECEIVED
89 OCT -4 AM 9:25
OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

MEMO

TO: Catherine Woodbury, Community Development Department
FROM: Gail Enman, Commission on Handicapped Persons
RE: City Council Order # 53 (Revised)
DATE: September 13, 1989

There are several handicap access problems associated with the continued presence of the tree that is the subject of City Council Order # 53 (Revised). As you are aware, state access regulations require that handicap access be provided at all intersections under construction/renovation. Plans that have been developed for the intersection of Sidney and Green Streets provide the required handicap access. However, these plans assume that the tree will be eliminated.

If the tree is not eliminated, as mandated by City Council Order # 53, there are several consequences for handicap access:

1. The proposed location of the curb ramp crossing Green Street would run directly into the trunk of the tree. It is not possible to move that ramp back towards Landsdowne Street because the ramp must be located within the crosswalk, and the stop line for vehicular traffic must be located in front of the crosswalk. Relocating the curb ramp towards Landsdowne Street would move the stop line too far from the intersection to permit adequate and safe sight lines.

2. It is possible to advance the curb ramp crossing Green Street towards the intersection slightly. If that were to happen, both the side slope towards Landsdowne Street and the ramp itself would have to be graded with a 1:12 slope. Construction of the ramp at that location would require destruction of some of the roots of the tree. In addition, future root growth would likely make the ramp non-compliant due to buckling in the surface of the ramp and side slope(s). Constant and vigilant maintenance would be required by the Public Works Department.

3. Options for the location of the curb ramp crossing Sidney Street are constrained by the storm drain adjacent to the intersection. Although the storm drain will be replaced when the

street is reconstructed, for the same reason that the Green Street ramp cannot be moved farther towards Landsdowne, there are limits on how far from the intersection the Sidney Street ramp can be located.

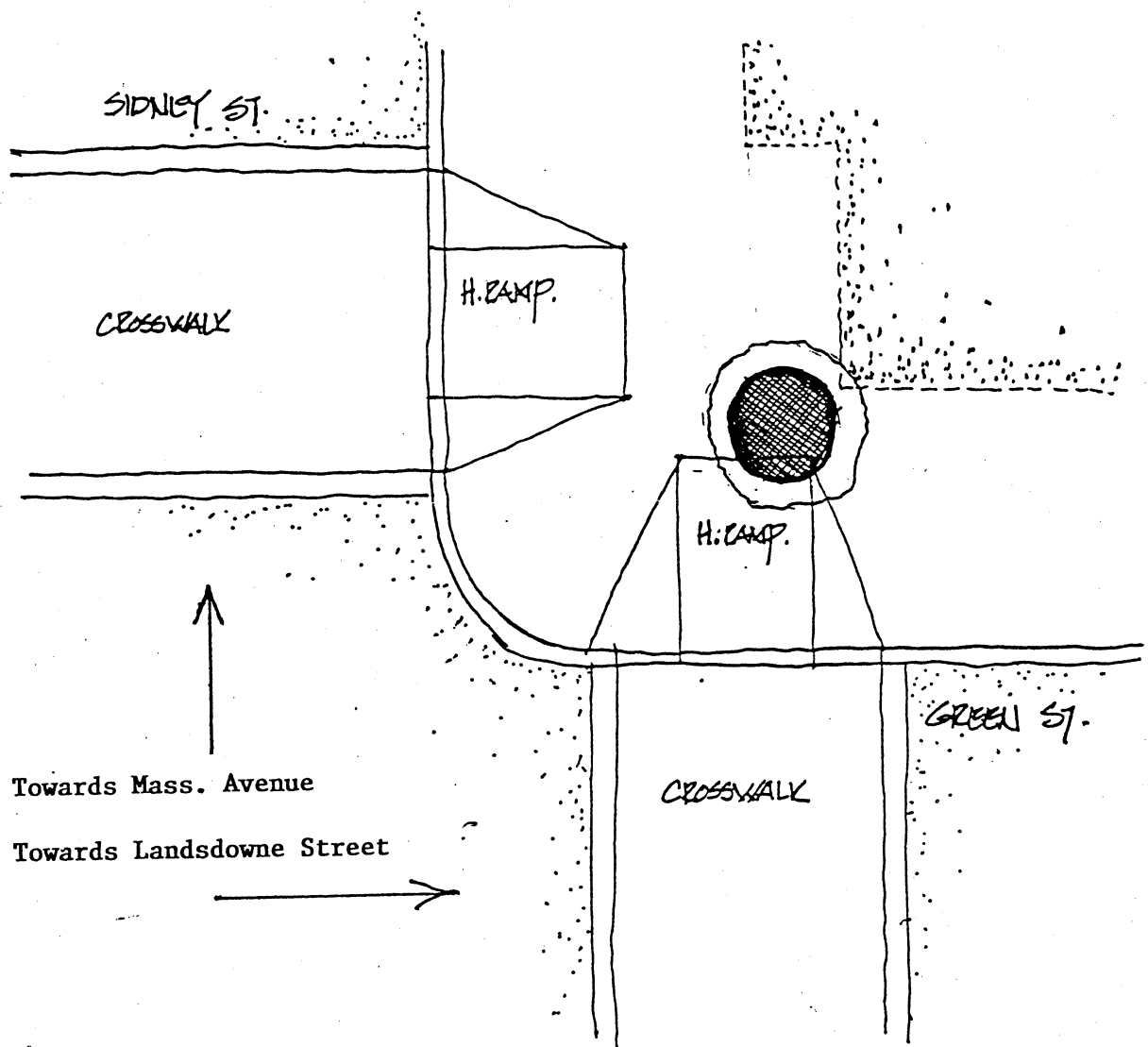
4. If the tree is not eliminated, there will be an unsafe pedestrian path of travel around the corner due to the presence and close proximity of the two curb ramps which will essentially depress the entire corner at the intersection. Depressing the corner with ramps and side slopes will permit vehicular traffic to "cut the corner" to turn right from Green Street onto Sidney Street when Sidney Street becomes a two-way street. Because the developer proposes to build to the edge of the property line, there is no other possible path of travel for pedestrians, and their safety will be seriously compromised. It should also be noted that the presence of the tree and the adjacent building will virtually eliminate the driver's ability to see around the corner from Green Street onto Sidney Street.

5. If the building is not built to the property line, which would require either that the developer donate the land or the City purchase it back, a four foot walkway could be created to skirt the tree safely on the inside of the tree, away from the intersection. However, there is compelling reason to believe that persons using the curb ramps would continue to be exposed to unsafe conditions due to the aforementioned depression of the corner. Therefore, an interior path of travel would not resolve the ramp safety problems that the presence of the tree creates.

Handicap access is not only a state requirement but a City priority. City Council Order # 53 (Revised) makes safe, complying handicap access impossible at the corner of Sidney and Green Streets.

Please feel free to contact me for additional information or comment.

UNIVERSITY PARK AT MIT
CURRENT ROADWAY CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT - PHASE III INFRASTRUCTURE



The above sketch is a scaled overlay of the proposed/approved construction and the existing Ailanthus tree.

The construction documents call for removal of subject tree.

9/5/89

THE WORKS
CAMBRIDGE
DEPARTMENT
OF PUBLIC

147 Hampshire Street
Cambridge
Massachusetts 02139
617.498.9051

William Sommers
Commissioner

RECEIVED

89 OCT -4 AM 9:25

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

October 3, 1989

TO: Robert Healy, City Manager

FROM: William Sommers, Commissioner, DPW

Subject: Disposition of Tree at Sydney and Green

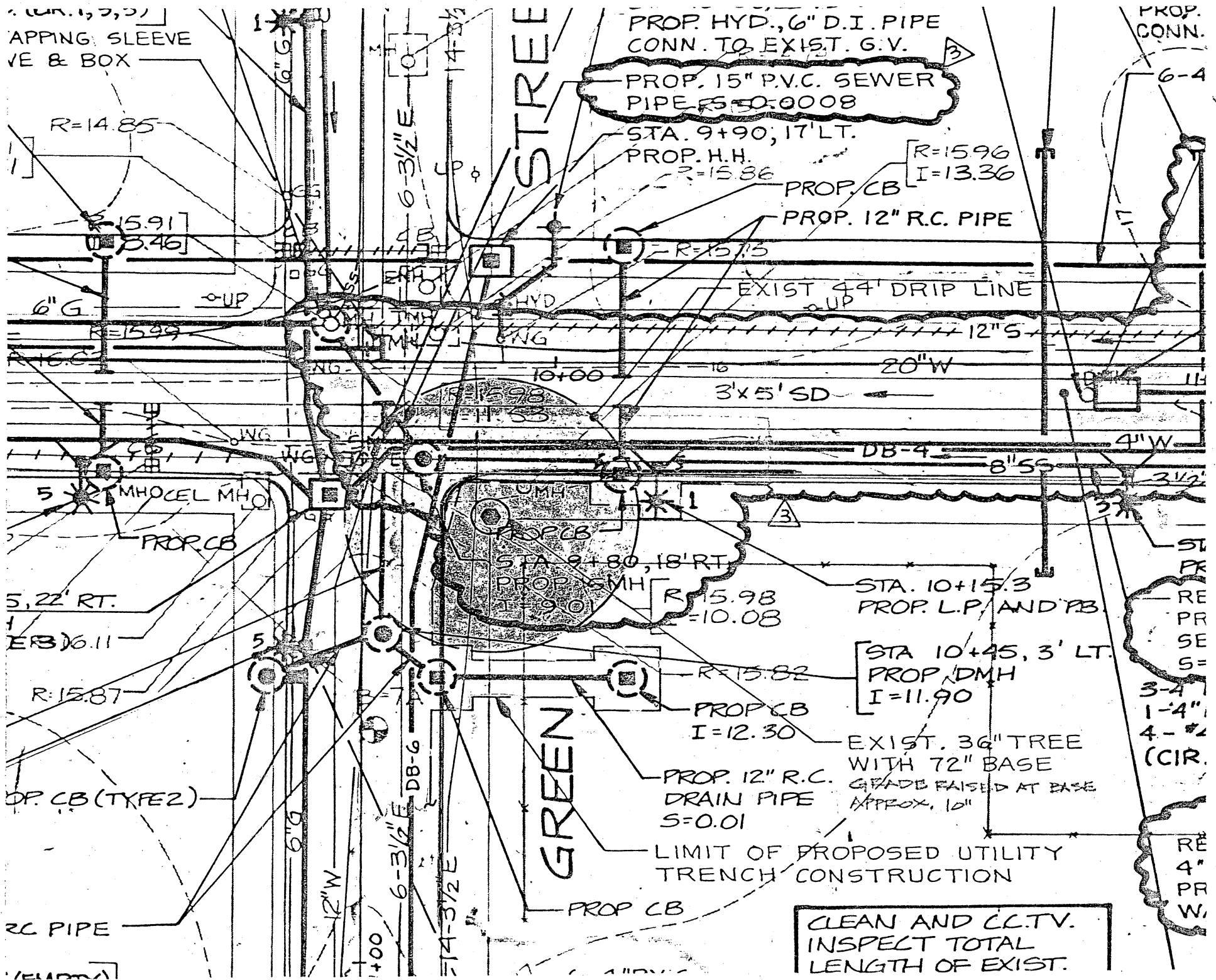
The tree, located at the corner of Sydney and Green, and which was the subject of a recent council order, is large, well formed and in good health. It is an *Alianthis* which is a "weed" that is prevalent in urban settings.

The problem here is that the tree is right in the middle of projected street, utility and building construction. This is shown by the accompanying layout. As the street work progresses and the building construction begins, the root system will be disturbed and the tree will soon succumb. We have made a carefully analysis of the tree and the work to be done and there is no way, short of abandoning the project, that the tree can be saved. The tree also sits right in the path of the sidewalk and handicap ramps that, by law, must be constructed here.

While the loss of this tree is no small matter, the fact is that the planting scheme envisaged in the site development contains a considerable planting which, in time, will more than offset the loss of this single tree.

Our staff, including the city arborist, have carefully reviewed all the options, have met twice at the site and have examined the proposed development plans. We concur that the tree should be removed.





APPING SLEEVE
VE & BOX

PROP. HYD. 6" D.I. PIPE
CONN. TO EXIST. G.V.
PROP. 15" P.V.C. SEWER
PIPE S=0.0008
STA. 9+90, 17' LT.
PROP. H.H.
R=15.86

R=15.96
I=13.36

PROP. CB
PROP. 12" R.C. PIPE

EXIST. 4' DRIP LINE

20" W
3'x5' SD

STA. 10+15.3
PROP. L.P. AND P.B.

STA. 10+45, 3' LT.
PROP. DMH
I=11.90

EXIST. 36" TREE
WITH 72" BASE
GRADE RAISED AT BASE
APPROX. 10"

PROP. 12" R.C.
DRAIN PIPE
S=0.01

LIMIT OF PROPOSED UTILITY
TRENCH CONSTRUCTION

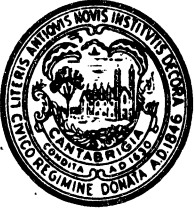
CLEAN AND C.C.T.V.
INSPECT TOTAL
LENGTH OF EXIST.

KOETTER, KIM & ASSOCIATES
344 BOYLSTON STREET BOSTON MA 02116
617.536.8560
Architecture, Planning and Urban Design

DRAWING TITLE: SIDEWALK & GREEN ST.
UTILITY TRENCH & EXISTING TREES
PROJECT: PHASE III / IZ INFRA-
STRUCTURE

DATE: 25 SEPT 88
SCALE: 1"=20'-0"

DRWG. NO.: SK-5



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139
TEL. 498-9011

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

October 16, 1989

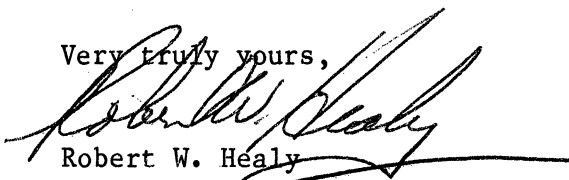
To the Honorable, the City Council:

Enclosed are two reports from the Commission of Handicapped Persons and the Commissioner of Public Works outlining the extreme difficulties in preserving the tree referenced in City Council Order #52 of August 7, 1989.

However, the area in question has had 10 trees planted with another 25 being planted in the near future.

I am confident that these 35 trees represent a more than adequate replacement for one.

Very truly yours,


Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/dls
enclosures (2)

Agenda # 15 5-684

Response to City Council Order # 53 of
August 7, 1989 re: disposition of the
tree at Sydney and Green Streets.

In City Council,

Oct. 16, 1989

Placed on file

93 JUL 06 1989

530