

April 4, 1998

Dear Mayor Duehay and City Councillors,

Fresh Pond is the wild and sacred place where Cantabridgians can refresh their souls with nature. When I used to drive, I would go there several times a week to jog, to correct papers lying in the sun. I would stand at the promontory and watch the wind ripple across the water, hear it rustle through the trees, and feel it blow through my hair. When I am able to get a ride, I still go, usually when a storm is brewing.

Today on the Tree Walk of Strawberry Hill/ Fresh Pond, my son couldn't resist running along the wood chip path, drawn by the trees and the broad expanse of water.

I love the smell of the leaf mold under my feet in the damp woods. As a bird watcher, catching the sight of a variety of birds in the underbrush around the pond is a pleasure. We have no other natural place in Cambridge. Those of us who don't drive, or can't get away for the weekend, treasure this one small access to wild nature.

I remember when I first saw Neville Manor. I was horrified that there was a building there- why wasn't it across the street? Now that I know it disturbs the water quality when the water is low, I wonder what is the relative cost of having us all drink bottled water during the months of drought which come periodically. So now, I am more horrified to know that MORE building is being planned.

I understand that the Water Dept. needs to be there, but some of its services which could be moved away from the area, should be, to guard this special place for nature.

This is a place to fly kites with my son, for others to golf, to be quiet and hear the birds. It is rare. It is priceless in Cambridge. NO MORE BUILDING.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Karen Carmean". The signature is fluid and extends to the right with a long horizontal stroke.

Karen Carmean

P.S. I, more than most, understand that we in society need places like Neville Manor. And we need to gather together to have a strategic plan for our old age. Given the retired newcomers coming into Cambridge, we have not only more of a need to plan, we also have more people who are qualified to help plan for it. Who is willing to stand up and lead that planning process? I am working on trees and the library, two things I personally need now and, for my old age.

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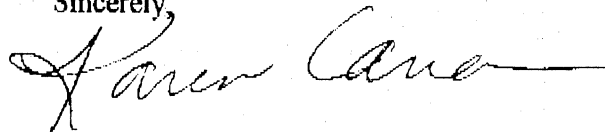
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Consent Communication #15 S-267

A communication was received from Karen Carmean, transmitting a letter expressing her opposition to any more building at Fresh Pond, a sacred place.

In City Council April 13, 1998

PLACED ON FILE