



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CITY HALL, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139 • (617) 498-9017

OFFICE OF
THE CITY CLERK

March 26, 1980

Mr. James L. Sullivan
City Manager
City Hall
Cambridge, MA 02139

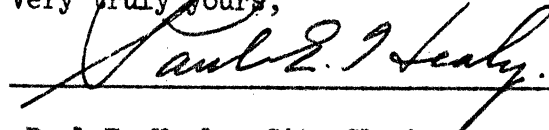
Dear Sir:

At the City Council meeting of March 24, 1980, the City Council was in receipt of a communication from Shippen L. Page on behalf of the residents of Bellis Circle to be heard before the City Council on March 24, 1980 regarding the wetland area abutting Bellis Circle.

Councillor Wylie made a motion that the City Council accept the recommendations on Page Three and Four - and this motion carried.

Your kind attention in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,



Paul E. Healy, City Clerk.

PEH/dl

Enc. Communication # 13.

Statement of the Bellis Circle Residents
before the Cambridge City Council:
Monday, March 24, 1980
Concerning the plans for Wetland Area No. 9

Good evening. My name is Shippen Page. I represent all of the residents of Bellis Circle. Thank you for this opportunity to appear before you to present our concerns. Bellis Circle is known to most of you. It is U shaped off of Sherman street in Northwest Cambridge. The residents include citizens who were born there and who have lived there for the better part of this century. Some have grandchildren who now live next door to them, others who have lived there for a shorter time. The neighborhood speaks tonight with a single voice concerning the future plans for the wetlands which abut Bellis Circle.

This is a map of the area in question. This area has been designated by the Cambridge Conservation Commission as an official wetland. This is not the first time that the residents of Bellis Circle have come before you seeking relief from the conditions that have existed in the area abutting their property over the last 35 years. They have told you many times of the smells, the rats, the cockroaches, the fires, and the flooding of their yards, they have had to live with when this area served as the Dump for the City of Cambridge.

Now the MBTA and its contractors want to move ahead in the wetland. The Bellis Circle residents have not been consulted about the plans, despite a petition sent to the City Manager dated May 14, 1979 in which we stated clearly our position that the present character of the wetland be preserved. You have a copy of this ^epetition.

We welcome the plans that are coming to fruition to build a recreation area on the former dump site. It will be an important city wide resource. We also support extension of the Red Line and recognize how vital this project is to the City of Cambridge and to the whole region. We do not question the work that is going on in the dump site. However, we do raise questions concerning the work that the city intends to do in the Wetland which lies between the houses on Bellis Circle and the former dumpsite.

The area is depicted as a swampy area on the earliest maps of Cambridge. Our elders can recall fetching water from the springs on the site. Today tall pampas grass covers the area. Ducks, geese, pheasants, red winged blackbirds, muskrats, raccoons and skunks are among the wildlife commonly seen in the wetland. It is regarded by naturalists as a significant bird refuge. For neighbors and visitors it serves an important aesthetic and visual function. The area also serves as a means of flood and pollution control as the Cambridge Conservation Commission recognized when it officially designated the area to be a wetland. The Conservation Commission held extensive hearings on the city's proposals to dredge, drain and fill the wetlands. It issued an Order of Conditions that required the City to provide it with more information before the City could legally proceed to do any work in the Wetland area. The City appealed the decision to the State Department of Environmental Quality Engineering, which upheld the Conservation Commission. Each of you has been provided with material which offers detailed documentation of this chronology. The City has not provided either the Conservation Commission or the DEQE with any more information. No permit to do any work has been issued. Yet work was begun on the wetlands on Friday morning March 14, 1980. The MBTA or its contractor has been dumping fill in what we believe may be wetlands.

We believe that there is imminent danger that significant parts of the wetland will be irretrievably lost unless prompt action is taken. Work runs from 7 AM to 11 PM. Trainloads of fill are brought in daily from the excavation being done for the Red Line extension.

The neighborhood believes that:

1. the wetland is a valuable natural resource which should be preserved.
2. the water in the wetland should be tested to determine whether and to what extent is it polluted?
3. the wetland should be cleaned and preserved in a manner consistent with its existing character.

We know that drainage is a problem, and that as work continues on the recreation area the problem may grow worse. We share the City's concern that unregulated run off may damage abutting properties. We believe that a solution can be worked out simply and inexpensively to maintain the wetlands and drain the excess water. We emphasize that existing data on these issues are lacking and that further research is required before a sound decision can be made regarding an optional drainage system.

We therefore respectfully request the City Council to take the following action at this meeting:

Direct the City Manager to:

- a. instruct the MBTA and its contractors immediately to cease filling in any part of the wetland designated as Wetland No. 9 by the Cambridge Conservation Commission on its official map dated August 1978.
- b. instruct the City Engineer to prepare a topographic and perimeter survey of the wetland area as soon as possible.
- c. instruct the MBTA to delineate the wetland area as surveyed by the City Engineer by means of

clearly observable markers to replace the fence that it or its contractor removed from the line of the south side of the wetland on March 20, 1980 and desist from any further fill in the wetland as delineated.

- d. instruct the MBTA and its contractors to use all possible care in constructing the Methane Gas venting trench to minimize disruption to vegetation in the wetland.
- e. instruct the Commissioner of the Department of Public Works promptly to comply with the Order of Conditions issued by the Cambridge Conservation Commission on April 3, 1979. Authorize the appointment of a Task Force by the ^{City Manager} Mayor to consist of members of City Employees, representatives from the Conservation Commission, and representatives from the Bellis Circle residents under guidelines to be established to review the further information submitted by the City pursuant to 1-^b/~~a~~ above accomodating the drainage needs of the area while preserving it as a wetland area.

The water level in the wetland must be controlled to protect abuttive^{ng} properties and steps must be taken to clean the area.

On behalf of the residents of Bellis Circle I want to
Thank You very much for your attention.

29 Bellis Circle
Cambridge, MA. 02140

March 19, 1980

Mr Paul Healy
Clerk
Cambridge City Council
City Hall
Cambridge, MA. 02139

Dear Mr Healy:

On behalf of the residents of Bellis Circle, I respectfully request that we be given the opportunity to be heard by the City Council at its next meeting on Monday, March 24, 1980. The subject of our concern is the wetland area abutting Bellis Circle and the questions regarding its future which work being done in the former City Dump have provoked.

It is our position that this wetland is a significant and fragile natural resource which ought to be recognized and given the fullest protection possible. We have as yet had no assurances from the City that the wetland as it is will be preserved. We strongly oppose any precipitate action that would jeopardize its character or existence.

If you would kindly distribute to members of the City Council copies of the enclosed documents the material therein will provide them with developments over the past year concerning this area. I would like to draw their attention particularly to the petition of the residents of the Circle submitted to Mr James Sullivan dated May 14, 1979 which identifies the active concern of the neighborhood for the future of the wetland almost one year ago.

Thank you for your attention to our request. Should you have any need to be in contact with me, I can be reached at 742-8555 during business hours, and at my home number 492-7391 in the morning and the evenings.

Sincerely,
Shippen Page
Shippen L. Page

cc: Residents of Bellis Circle
Members of the Cambridge City Council
City Manager James Sullivan

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before the Cambridge City Council:
Monday, March 24, 1980
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CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

147 HAMPSHIRE ST., CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Conrad C. Fagone
Commissioner

February 2, 1979

Mr. Thomas Bracken, Chairman
Conservation Commission
57 Inman Street
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Dear Mr. Bracken:

On behalf of the City of Cambridge I am notifying you of the work proposed at the former City Dump property by the MBTA contractors. As a result of the discussions at the meeting in the City Manager's Office on Friday, January 12, 1979 I am forwarding to you a plan of the proposed work which is as follows.

1. Construction of a methane venting trench around the perimeter of the dump.
2. Filling and grading the entire site and construct the haul road.
3. Construction of a drain pipe to collect surface run-off.
4. Possible construction of retention area pond for peak storm run-off.

The work of Item 4 will be delayed pending further studies of the property on Bellis Circle to determine the effect of flooding from run-off of the sleding slope. It may be possible after discussion with the abutters to raise the grade of their property and drain the private lands to the dump property. The venting system trench itself will cause the water to drain below the elevation of the trench. It is because of this problem that further studies must be conducted, however, I am enclosing copies of the plans and reports done by CE Maguire, Inc.

As soon as more information is available I will send it to you.

Very truly yours,

Conrad C. Fagone
Commissioner

CCF/ho'
enclosures

cc: Mr. James L. Sullivan, City Manager
Mr. Frank Keville, MBTA

C-E Maguire, Inc.
Combustion Engineering, Inc.
60 First Avenue
Waltham, Massachusetts 02154

Tel. 617/890-0100
Telex: 92-3403
Cable: CEMI



October 20, 1978
CEM 2824.23

Conrad C. Fagone, Commissioner
Public Works Department
147 Hampshire Street
Cambridge, MA 02138

Ref: Cambridge City Dump
Proposed Drainage at Bellis Circle

Dear Commissioner Fagone:

Attached please find copies of two plans showing alternate methods for providing drainage to the portion of the City Dump behind Bellis Circle. The portion of the proposed athletic complex (approximately 19 acres) which will drain toward Bellis Circle has been superimposed on the plans. No changes have been made to the proposed grading above elevation 20, except in the area adjacent to the railroad and at the limits of grading near Sherman Street.

A storage area has been provided adjacent to the railroad and some minor grading adjustments have been made near the parking area on Sherman Street to allow runoff from the south end of the drainage area to flow toward the railroad.

Under both alternates the drainage would outlet into the 5' x 9' storm overflow on the northerly side of the B & M Railroad right of way. This would require a jacking sleeve under the railroad.

Alternate 1 would provide a 24-inch drain from the 5' x 9' storm overflow to a point near Sherman Street. The area below elevation 20 would be graded to provide a swale behind the homes on Bellis Circle to a storage area adjacent to the railroad right of way. A number of catch basins would be provided along the swale to intercept the runoff with excess flows going into the storage area.

Alternate 2 would provide a 24-inch drain from the storm overflow to the edge of the railroad embankment. As in Alternate 1, the area below elevation 20 would be graded to provide a swale and a storage area. However, under this alternate the swale carrying the runoff from the steeply sloped athletic complex would be separated by a low ridge from a

Public Works Department

October 20, 1978

Page 2

parallel swale provided for the yards on Bellis Circle. A flap valve would be provided on the 24" drain to prevent any backflow from the storm overflow along the railroad.

Back-up of flows from the 5' x 9' storm overflow was of concern during the evaluation of this area. Considering the closeness in elevations between the dump and the overflow, there appeared to be a potential for the overflow to back flow into the dump area when flowing full. To eliminate the possibilities of this occurring, the ground surface under Alternate 1 was maintained at a minimum elevation approximately 16.5. This minimum elevation reduced the total elevation difference from Sherman Street to the railroad resulting in a swale of marginal capacity which could run over into the yards on Bellis Circle. For this reason, the pipe and catch basins were provided to remove the runoff more quickly. Excess flows during peak runoff would follow the swale to the storage area. Under Alternate 2, back flow from the storm overflow would be prevented by the flap valve.

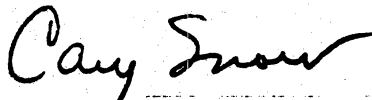
The maximum water elevation in the storage basin for a 10 year storm will be approximately 16.6 for both Alternates with the storage basin emptying approximately two hours after the storm. In the event the outlet becomes plugged under either Alternate, the water surface in the storage basin for a 10 year storm will be approximately 16.8.

We recommend Alternate 2 since it would require much less maintenance than the piping and catch basin system of Alternate 1, and grounds maintenance (mowing) would be made simpler. Also, the cost of Alternate 1 would be approximately \$100,000 greater than Alternate 2 due to the additional piping and structures. Under either Alternate, the existing drain to the Sherman Street combined sewer should be plugged to eliminate the possibility of sewage back flowing into the area.

If you have any questions concerning this report, please contact me.

Very truly yours,

C-E MAGUIRE, INC.



Cary Snow, Principal Engineer
Environmental Engineering Division

CS/eh

Enclosure

**wilson
rains@
associates**

12 bellis circle · cambridge · massachusetts 02140 · 617-661-4666

*Copy for your
information -
Wilson*

18 February 1979

Re: GAS VENTING SYSTEM AT THE DUMP

Mr. Conrad Fagone
Department of Public Works
147 Hampshire Street
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Fagone:

After considerable thought about the gas venting system for the Bellis Circle side of the dump, I have become convinced its proper location is as originally shown by the MBTA. I request that you give serious consideration to accepting this placement for the following reasons:

1. In order for the whole venting system to work, ground water levels must be kept at or above trench bottom elevations. This water level in the dump has not fallen but rather continues to be naturally high, not only is the wetland itself evidence of this, but I observed that last month before the heavy rains, water levels adjacent the Sherman Street parking area were -12 to -18" in the vent trench at construction time.
2. No loading of the wetland area (ie. outside the original trench location) is proposed; therefore, conditions under the area are in reality no different with respect to gas generation than in my own backyard or in any fringe property adjoining the trench line.
3. With ground water at a high level elsewhere, as required by the system, the additional water in the wetland area will cause continued upward migration of the gas, if any does reach that point.

Therefore, as a homeowner in the neighborhood, I would feel secure with the trench as originally located -- as would others on the block with whom I have discussed this matter.

Further, the construction of the trench along our property lines has two very real disadvantages to us in and of itself:

1. It will decrease property values because the end result is to

DPW
18 February
Page two

create a very ugly barren swath some 50 to 100 feet in width as may be observed elsewhere in the dump. One house abutting this area is presently for sale; certainly this elderly woman could use every dollar she receives as she is in a nursing home now.

2. The cutting of this swath through the wetland will open up the backyards to intrusion from traffic of undesirable persons who shortcut through the dump. It is a fact that robberies on Bellis Circle happen over the back fences where no surveillance by neighbors is possible. In the last few years these have decreased to none since the back lot lines are no longer passable. There is, however, no doubt that robberies will once again begin to occur if the trenching is done at this location. The block has finally obtained, from the MBTA, the closing off by fencing of our neighborhood from the railroad tracks and the associated traffic of outsiders who litter and steal; the trenching will completely undo this progress.

Finally, I must recommend that dikes be installed at the entering and leaving points of the trenching as it passes through the wetland to prevent inadvertent draining via the trench. As you know, some Bellis Circle residents have water problems in their basements and had sought relief from the City for many years. I believe water levels can be limited in the wetland by a drain with rim elevation properly set. This will avoid overly high water but will retain water in the wetland to permit continuance of a very valuable, and accessible, natural area.

Thank you for your continued time and assistance to our problems,



Wilson Rains

cc: Conservation Commission- for distribution
Property owners, Bellis Circle/Dump



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

57 INMAN STREET, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139 • TEL. 876-6800

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes, Regular Monthly Meeting of the Conservation Commission
Tuesday, February 27, 1979, 7:30 p.m.
Cambridge City Hall, City Council Chambers

Commissioners present: T. Bracken, D. Altman, S. Lesser, M. Kennedy, H. Field, P. Pratt, W. Rains. Commissioners Not present: R. Birkhoff, D. Henry. D. Yonika (Interdisciplinary Environmental Planning), C. Steward (MBTA), J. Carey (MBTA), R. Fahlander (Cambridge Community Development Department - Red Line Coordinator), C. Fagone, Commissioner, Cambridge Public Works Department), H. Meyer (Mystic River Watershed Association), were present; residents from the Bellis Circle neighborhood (K. and M. Oberlunder, S. Page, A. St. Goar) and D. Kimball (Executive Secretary, Conservation Commission) also attended.

I. WETLAND NO. 9 - FORMER City DUMP

Messrs. Steward and Carey described briefly how the methane venting system, as presented on plans (MBTA) in the possession of the Commission and dated 7/14/78, operates. Mr. Fagone stated that the City's position was as before, i.e., the City proposes to drain and fill the wetland. He also brought before the Commission his letter proposal, dated February 2, 1979, describing the City's plans and attaching (1) a C. E. Maguire letter to CF dated 10/20/78, with contour drawings attached, describing two alternative plans for draining the wetland area, and (2) his revisions to the MBTA plans for the venting system at the wetland, these revisions to change the location of the system, moving it along the property line at Bellis Circle.

ACTION: The Commission will issue a Notice of Public Hearing (to be drafted by T. Bracken and distributed immediately to all Commissioners for comment/amendment). The Notice will be published in the 3/8/79 edition of the Cambridge Chronicle, with the Hearing to be scheduled for Tuesday, March 13, 1979. T. Bracken will also draft a letter informing Mr. Fagone of the Commission's intention. W. Rains and D. Yonika will develop proposal alternatives to Mr. Fagone's, these to be presented to Mr. Fagone prior to the Hearing, where they will also be discussed.

II. W. R. GRACE - ACID SLUDGE IN THE PROPOSED RED LINE TUNNEL RIGHT OF WAY FROM DAVIS SQUARE

Acid sludge strong enough to eat through concrete has been located at the site of the proposed tunnel. Preliminary testing has been done; more detailed tests appear to be required. DEQE, EPA, MBTA consultants (Sverdrup & Parcel) are working together to determine what additional tests are necessary. The Commission has secured a copy of the report "Contaminated Groundwater Report" prepared by MBTA consultants. A copy of this and the Resource Analysis report "MBTA Alewife Special Studies", which deals with the Alewife 100-year flood plain, will be sent to IEP.

III. ALEWIFE BRIDGE (MDC) AND THE CITY'S PROPOSAL FOR A TRUCK BYPASS THROUGH THE ALEWIFE WETLANDS.

Mr. Fagone stated emphatically that the City has at the present time no definitive plan to place an access road through the Alewife wetlands to resolve the heavy trucking problem presented by the defective Alewife Bridge.

IV. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

A. Riverside Press Parcel

After the conclusion of an interview-selection process which included the CCC, the City has chosen the firm of Maurice & Geary (sp?) as landscape architects for the site.

B. Charles River Cleanup

Commissioners have been asked to pinpoint target areas for inclusion in the Cleanup.

3. Cambridge River Festival

R. Birkhoff will be asked to further define what (if any) plans the Commission might pursue for this year's Festival.

D. National Conservation Teacher of the Year

D. Kimball will contact the Superintendent of Schools to determine whether Cambridge has a possible nominee for recipient of this \$1,000 award.

E. Meeting Dates:

3/13/79, Public Hearing on Wetland No. 9, Council Chambers, 7:30 p.m.
3/20/79, Regular Monthly Meeting, Walnut Room, 7:30 p.m.
4/10/79, Special Business Meeting, Walnut Room, 7:30 p.m.

Submitted by,

Deirdre M. Kimball

ATTACHMENT (AGENDA)

(TAPE AVAILABLE)



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

57 INMAN STREET, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139 • TEL. 876-5300X
498-9048

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Pursuant to a Public Notice which appeared in the Cambridge Chronicle on Thursday, March 8, 1979, a Public Hearing was held in the chambers of the City Council at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 13, 1979. The purpose of this Hearing was to review a proposal concerning Wetland No. 9 (located at the former city dump). This proposal was first presented to the Cambridge Conservation Commission at its Regular Meeting on February 27, 1979 by the Commissioner of the Department of Public Works (DPW) of the City of Cambridge (the Applicant). The substance of this proposal is contained in a letter dated February 2, 1979 (with attachments) to the Commission (see Attachment 1).

Present and representing the Cambridge Conservation Commission (CCC) were T. Bracken (Chairman), D. Altman, R. Birkhoff, M. Kennedy, H. Field, and W. Rains (Associate). IEP, Inc. (Donald Yonika), consultant to the CCC, was represented. D. Kimball, Executive Secretary to the Commission, also attended. Representatives of the neighborhood, the MBTA, and other agencies present are identified in Attachment 2. The Applicant was not represented.

The City's proposal was presented and explained by IEP in the context of Alternative 2, identified in the letter of C. E. Maguire to the DPW, a copy of which is included with Attachment 1.

An expanded proposal, developed by the CCC and IEP, was also presented. The CCC proposal, involves lowering the elevation of the wetland by approximately 2 feet, controlling drainage from the wetland when the wetland water level exceeds a certain to-be-specified level by tying into the extant MDC drainage system connecting to Alewife Brook, and building the methane venting system around the wetland, along the property line. This proposal is designed to alleviate flooding in the vicinity of the wetland, while at the same time retaining the wetland and the values (flood attenuation and pollution control) it presently serves by providing compensatory retention/detention capacity.

Two additional concerns were expressed in addition to those identified above:

1. That drainage from the altered wetland into the Alewife Brook not increase the already existing flooding problem there.
2. That no pollution be allowed to enter the Alewife Brook from this wetland, e.g., as a result of dump leachate and the proposed drainage system.

Public Hearing, March 13, 1979
Ré: Wetland No. 9
Page 2

ACTION: The CCC will further consider the above proposals and related questions at its next regular Commission meeting, Tuesday, March 20, 1979, 7:30 p.m., Walnut Room, Cambridge City Hall.

IEP will prepare a memorandum outlining the technical considerations which must be dealt with and which will provide the framework for an Order of Conditions which must be issued to the Applicant by April 3, 1979. The Commission will review the outline and transmit it to Mr. Fagone, along with a cover letter to be drafted by T. Bracken.

With approval by the CCC and the DPW, IEP will subsequently work with C. E. Maguire to formulate plans for carrying out the agreed-upon proposal.

Prepared by Deirdre Kimball
March 14, 1979



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

147 HAMPSHIRE ST., CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Conrad C. Fagone
Commissioner

February 2, 1979

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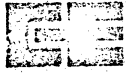
Conrad C. Fagone
Commissioner

CCF/hol
enclosures

cc: Mr. James L. Sullivan, City Manager
Mr. Frank Keville, MBTA

C-E Maguire, Inc.
Combustion Engineering, Inc.
60 First Avenue
Waltham, Massachusetts 02154

Tel. 617/890-0100
Telex: 92-3403
Cable: CEMI



MAGUIRE

Architects • Engineers • Planners

October 20, 1978
CEM 2824.23

Conrad C. Fagone, Commissioner
Public Works Department
147 Hampshire Street
Cambridge, MA 02138

Ref: Cambridge City Dump
Proposed Drainage at Bellis Circle

Dear Commissioner Fagone:

Attached please find copies of two plans showing alternate methods for providing drainage to the portion of the City Dump behind Bellis Circle. The portion of the proposed athletic complex (approximately 19 acres) which will drain toward Bellis Circle has been superimposed on the plans. No changes have been made to the proposed grading above elevation 20, except in the area adjacent to the railroad and at the limits of grading near Sherman Street.

A storage area has been provided adjacent to the railroad and some minor grading adjustments have been made near the parking area on Sherman Street to allow runoff from the south end of the drainage area to flow toward the railroad.

Under both alternates the drainage would outlet into the 5' x 9' storm overflow on the northerly side of the B & M Railroad right of way. This would require a jacking sleeve under the railroad.

Alternate 1 would provide a 24-inch drain from the 5' x 9' storm overflow to a point near Sherman Street. The area below elevation 20 would be graded to provide a swale behind the homes on Bellis Circle to a storage area adjacent to the railroad right of way. A number of catch basins would be provided along the swale to intercept the runoff with excess flows going into the storage area.

Alternate 2 would provide a 24-inch drain from the storm overflow to the edge of the railroad embankment. As in Alternate 1, the area below elevation 20 would be graded to provide a swale and a storage area. However, under this alternate the swale carrying the runoff from the steeply sloped athletic complex would be separated by a low ridge from a

Public Works Department

October 20, 1978

Page 2

parallel swale provided for the yards on Bellis Circle. A flap valve would be provided on the 24" drain to prevent any backflow from the storm overflow along the railroad.

Back-up of flows from the 5' x 9' storm overflow was of concern during the evaluation of this area. Considering the closeness in elevations between the dump and the overflow, there appeared to be a potential for the overflow to back flow into the dump area when flowing full. To eliminate the possibilities of this occurring, the ground surface under Alternate 1 was maintained at a minimum elevation approximately 16.5. This minimum elevation reduced the total elevation difference from Sherman Street to the railroad resulting in a swale of marginal capacity which could run over into the yards on Bellis Circle. For this reason, the pipe and catch basins were provided to remove the runoff more quickly. Excess flows during peak runoff would follow the swale to the storage area. Under Alternate 2, back flow from the storm overflow would be prevented by the flap valve.

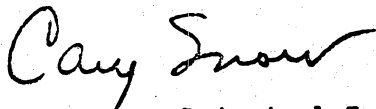
The maximum water elevation in the storage basin for a 10 year storm will be approximately 16.6 for both Alternates with the storage basin emptying approximately two hours after the storm. In the event the outlet becomes plugged under either Alternate, the water surface in the storage basin for a 10 year storm will be approximately 16.8.

We recommend Alternate 2 since it would require much less maintenance than the piping and catch basin system of Alternate 1, and grounds maintenance (mowing) would be made simpler. Also, the cost of Alternate 1 would be approximately \$100,000 greater than Alternate 2 due to the additional piping and structures. Under either Alternate, the existing drain to the Sherman Street combined sewer should be plugged to eliminate the possibility of sewage back flowing into the area.

If you have any questions concerning this report, please contact me.

Very truly yours,

C-E MAGUIRE, INC.



Cary Snow, Principal Engineer
Environmental Engineering Division

CS/eh

Enclosure

ATTACHMENT 2

Conservation Commission (1)
 Public Hearing, Tuesday, 13 March 1979
 7:30 p.m., Council Chambers

NAME	Affiliation Address	Phone #
Charles Steward	WBTA	783-3152
John A. Cary	(T)	722-5806
Steph Bay	SCEOC-NCPT	9682900; 661-0767
Docky Altman	ccc	
Thomas [unclear]	ccc	
Mary Kennedy	ccc	
Shyppan L. [unclear]	29 Sellers Circle	492-7371
Aune F. St. [unclear]	"	"
Sam [unclear]	54 HASKELL ST. CHAMBERS. Dr. Coomb's Pl. Team	547-1024
Neil Scaphone	N. Carol. Pl. Team	547-7799
Herbert [unclear]	M. R. Witt.	643-2157
Darcy C. Lakerty	N.C. Planning Team	547-6325
Elsie C. Fure	Wilmington Comm.	643-2174
DON YONKA	H. P. INC	643-6106
John Berdes	Wilmington Dept. of Planning + Community Dev. Town Hall, Wilmington 02174	643-6100 x279
W. Field	ccc	
William Siskton	ccc	
W. [unclear]	ccc	
Debra Kimball	ccc - Exec Sec	



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

57 INMAN STREET, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139 • TEL. 876-6800

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

March 16, 1979

Conrad C. Fagone, Commissioner
Public Works Department
City of Cambridge
147 Hampshire Street
Cambridge, MA 02139

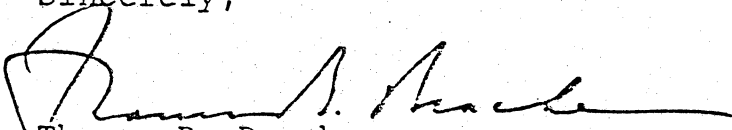
Re: City's Proposed Work in Wetland
Area #9 of Former City Dump

Dear Mr. Fagone:

As you know the Conservation Commission held a hearing on March 13, pursuant to notice published in the Cambridge Chronicle, to consider the City's proposal to conduct certain work in the wetland area #9 located on the site of the former City Dump near Bellis Circle. Mr. Donald Yonika of IEP has prepared a Memorandum outlining recommended conditions for performing the work in order to protect the interests and meet the requirements of the Wetlands Protection Act. A copy of the Memorandum is enclosed.

For the purpose of assisting the Commission in preparing a final order of conditions for this work which will satisfy your objectives and the Commission's responsibilities, I think it would be helpful for Mr. Yonika to talk directly with your engineer, who we understand is Mr. Cary Snow of C-E McGuire, Inc. If you agree, would you please advise Mr. Snow that he can expect a telephone call from Mr. Yonika early next week.

Sincerely,


Thomas B. Bracken

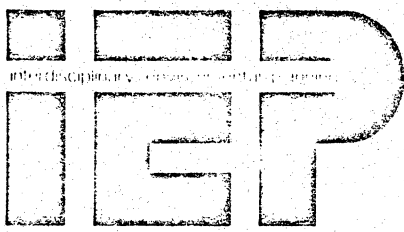
TBB:cf

Enc.

cc: Donald Yonika

TBB to include DY memo w/ CF 3/21/79

Meet 4/1/79 (Monday) for final hearing
on DY proposal.



534 Boston Post Road,
P.O. Box 438
Wayland, Mass. 01778

617-358-5155
617-899-7066

MEMORANDUM

TO: Deirdre Kimball

DATE: March 14, 1979

FROM: Donald Yonika

SUBJECT: Technical Conclusions Relative to the Public Hearing on Alterations of Wetland #9, Former City Dump

As a result of last evening's public hearing, and a review of the materials submitted to date by the Department of Public Works, I have outlined below what must be accomplished to develop a plan that can be incorporated into the Order of Conditions.

The existing value of the wetland to flood control must be ascertained. It became evident during the hearing, that the existing wetland provides storm-water detention and retention value. Apparently stormwater runoff from the contributing catchment area drains to this wetland, and is retained or permanently stored until it either infiltrated slowly into the ground, or is given off to the atmosphere by the processes of evaporation or evapotranspiration. During heavier or more intense rainfall and runoff events (less frequent events), the water level rises in the wetland until it reaches the invert of a culvert that is located in the Sherman Street area, which purportedly drains to the 5' x 9' storm overflow discharging to Alewife Brook.

The statutory flood control value of this wetland is thus to Alewife Brook, in that it provides retention of runoff that would otherwise enter the Alewife system, and also provides for detention of runoff from major rainfall events prior to discharge indirectly to Alewife Brook via the storm sewer system.

The proposed alteration of Wetland #9 must recognize this value and an engineering solution must be developed to both accomplish the objectives of improving surface and groundwater drainage conditions in the area, but not significantly compromising the value that the wetland presently has to Alewife Brook, in terms of stormwater detention and retention.

Clearly, one work item that must be done is to quantify these existing values. The invert elevation of the culvert that drains the area must be determined from field measurement. Using the accurate photogrammetric map that C.E. Maguire, Inc. has produced both the retention value (storage below the outlet invert) and detention value (storage above the invert elevation) can be computed.

These functions can then be designed into a newly engineered plan by use of one or several controlled outlet structures, and by varying the storage area, by careful contouring to a new lower elevation.

MEMO

Deirdre Kimball

March 14, 1979

Page 2

The new plan should provide for a new base groundwater elevation in the immediate area of no greater than 15.5, and preferably lower.

The new configuration should result in positive surface drainage from contiguous areas to the proposed detention and retention area.

The new plan must also combine the proposals of the MBTA for the methane gas venting trench, as the two current plans are mutually exclusive - both present drainage alternatives call for lowering of the groundwater table below the design invert elevation of the gas venting trench, therefore rendering it inoperable. Both systems must be designed together in order to function.

The new plan should illustrate the actual surface expression of the gas venting trench (the width of crushed stone at finish grade). Several actual proposed sections along the perimeter of properties fronting on Bellis Circle should be developed. If the required depth to the invert is found to be shallow, and if soil conditions or materials are found to allow almost vertical sidewalls, perhaps a specification can be written to require use of a small rubber tired backhoe for trench construction in the area.

The new plan should also specify the provision of six foot chain link fence, armored with 3 strand, to parallel property lines in the Bellis Circle area.

A grading plan should accompany the drainage plan. A planting plan showing how and to what material the area is to be replanted and maintained should be developed. We would suggest that revegetation be accomplished primarily with wetland plants that would encourage wildlife, and particularly waterfowl utilization of the area. The grading, drainage and planting plans would have to be carefully developed in concert with each other to enable successful redevelopment of a wetland at the lowest elevation of the detention/retention basin.

Returning to the most important aspect of the proposed new plan, the applicant should engineer a controlled outlet structure capable of both retaining and detaining stormwater flows from the contributing catchment area (in the final developed condition according to the Carol R. Johnson and Associates, Inc. master plan for the former Cambridge City Dump), so as to replicate existing wetland function.

1-5 4-20
E
20 20
detention

The proposed solution should not negate the significant objective of providing positive surface drainage from the proposed park, as well as from Bellis Circle properties. The entirety of existing Wetland No. 9 should be excavated to a lower level, contoured, and finish graded so as to provide detention and retention no less than the guidelines below:

- (A) Maximum basin invert averaging 15.5. Lower basin levels would be preferable if engineeringly possible and, if necessary, for storage.



MEMO
Deirdre Kimball
March 14, 1979
Page 3

- (B) Maximum water stage under any storm condition up to the 100 year event to be no greater than elevation 17.5. Lower, if possible, if storage area permits (16.5 preferred).
- (C) Complete retention of all runoff up to and including that generated by the 1 year event within the proposed catchment area.
- (D) For events between the 1 and 5 year frequency range, stormwater detention with a maximum storage time of 12 hours.
- (E) For events between the 5 and 10 year frequency, stormwater detention with a maximum storage time of 24 hours.

It should be noted that these guidelines are tentative, and are intended to replicate the detention/retention values of the existing wetland system. When such calculations are accomplished (Paragraph 2 above), the design engineer may size the control structure(s) to duplicate existing function. Because groundwater conditions are expected to be directly at the control invert elevation, retention will have to be provided by means of grading a berm to develop an enclosed and isolated area with stormwater discharge directed into such structures.

All construction plans should also be accompanied by an erosion and sediment control plan which will insure that no offsite or downstream adverse effects occur.

Finally, it should be noted that the issue of water quality impacts to Alewife Brook was raised at the Public Hearing. Leachate currently enters, and probably will continue, to enter the wetland. The amount may even be increased when the hydraulic gradient is increased by setting the wetland at a lower base elevation. This leachate may then be conveyed, under the City's original proposal directly to Alewife Brook. Issue was raised as to whether an NPDES permit would be required, as a new discharge (the 24 inch pipe under the railroad tracks) is being proposed to convey the accumulated leachate to Alewife Brook, proposed to be upgraded to Class B waters. The Applicant should address this issue.

Under the proposals conceptually outlined above, however, this potential adverse impact would be minimized if runoff waters, and leachate-laden groundwaters are substantially retained within the basin, and if chemical and biological processes are allowed to occur in a newly created wetland environment.

ORDER

WETLAND PROTECTION ACT

G.L. C. 131 s. 40

FILE NUMBER: No Number Assigned

TO: City of Cambridge
147 Hampshire Street
Cambridge, Ma. 02139

RE: Attn: C. C. Fagone, Commissioner, Public Works

2/2/79

DATE OF PUBLIC HEARING: 3/13/79

PROJECT LOCATION: Former City Dump,
adjacent to Bellis Circle, near

CERT. MAIL NO: Sherman Street

733752

DATE OF RECEIPT BY
CONSERVATION COMMISSION: 2/27/79

Pursuant to the authority of G.L. C. 131 s. 40, the Cambridge Conservation Commission has considered your notice of intent and plans submitted therewith, and has determined that the area on which the proposed work is to be done is significant to one or more of the interests described in the said act. The Cambridge Conservation Commission hereby orders that the following conditions are necessary and all work must be performed in strict accordance with said conditions and with the Notice of Intent and Plans, unless modified by said conditions:

CONDITIONS

1. Failure to comply with all conditions stated herein, and with all related statutes and other regulatory measures, shall be deemed cause to revoke or modify this order.
2. This order does not grant any property rights or any exclusive privileges; it does not authorize any injury to private property or invasion of private rights.
3. This order does not relieve the permittee or any other person of the necessity of complying with all other applicable federal, state or local statutes, ordinances, by-laws and/or regulations.
4. The work authorized hereunder shall be completed within one (1) year from the date of this order unless otherwise stated below pursuant to Regulation 6.7. The order may be extended by the issuing authority for one or more additional one-year periods upon application to the said issuing authority at least thirty days prior to the expiration date of the order or its extension.
5. Any fill used in connection with this project shall be clean fill, containing no trash, refuse, rubbish or debris, including, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, lumber, bricks, plaster, wire, lath, paper, cardboard, pipe, tires, ashes, refrigerators, motor vehicles or parts of any of the foregoing.

"D"

6. No work may be commenced until all appeal periods have elapsed from the order of the Conservation Commission or from a final order by the Department of Environmental Quality Engineering.
 7. No work shall be undertaken until the final Order, with respect to the proposed project, has been recorded in the Registry of Deeds for the district in which the land is located within the chain of title of the affected property. Copy to be furnished to issuer of this Order showing book and page prior to commencement of work.
 8. Upon completion of the work described herein, the applicant shall forthwith request, in writing, that a Certificate of Compliance be issued stating that the work has been satisfactorily completed.
 9. A sign shall be displayed at the site not less than two square feet or more than three square feet bearing the words, "Massachusetts Department of Environmental Quality Engineering. Number _____".
 10. Where the Department of Environmental Quality Engineering is requested to make a determination and to issue a superseding order, the Conservation Commission shall be a party to all agency proceedings and hearings before the Department.
 11. The work shall conform to the following described plans and additional conditions.
 12. The Conservation Commission finds that the wetland, as it presently exists, serves important flood control and pollution attenuation values in the Bellis Circle area as well as within the Alewife water system. The Commission has reviewed the following plans and documents with respect to activities proposed in or adjacent to the wetland:
 - A. Cambridge City Dump, Methane Gas Venting System Plan, Plan No. 53107, dated July 14, 1978.
 - B. Cambridge City Dump, Methane Gas Venting System Details, Plan No. 53114a, dated July 14, 1978.
 - C. Letter of Conrad C. Fagone, Commissioner of the Public Works Department, to Mr. Thomas Bracken, Chairman, Conservation Commission, dated February 2, 1979.
 - D. Cambridge City Dump, Proposed Drainage at Bellis Circle, Alternate No. 2, dated October, 1978, prepared by C. E. Maguire, Inc., for the Department of Public Works.
- The Commission finds that the activities described in Plans A and B above, associated with installation of a methane gas venting system on the perimeter of the dump, do not adversely affect the statutorily defined interests which this wetland serves and which are identified above.
13. With respect to Documents C and D above, the Commission approves the activities as set forth therein, subject to the following Conditions 13 through 15. No work shall begin until Conditions 13 through 15 below

have been satisfied. The additional plans and information required therein shall be submitted to the Commission for its review and approval at one time and the Commission shall act upon these plans within fourteen (14) days thereafter.

14. In order to (a) properly design a stormwater detention area (wetland) to maintain the existing stormwater retention and flood control aspects of the existing wetland, (b) alleviate flooding problems of the Bellis Circle resident and (c) prevent increased flow to and pollution of the Alewife water system, the Applicant shall prepare drainage plans and calculations to meet the following design concepts and shall submit the same to the Commission for review and approval prior to construction:

A. Maximum basin invert averaging 15.5, as shown on Plan D above, or lower, if possible.

B. Maximum water stage (level) under any storm condition up to and including the 100-year event, to be no greater than elevation 17.5, as shown on Plan D above. A lower maximum water stage (level) of 16.5, as shown on Plan D above, should be used if equivalent storage can be achieved.

C. Complete retention of all runoff up to and including that generated by the 1-year event within the proposed catchment area.

D. For events between the 1- and 5-year frequency range, stormwater detention with a maximum storage time of 12 hours.

E. For events between the 5- and 10-year frequency, stormwater detention with a maximum storage time of 24 hours.

15. In order to ensure that embankments and other areas have a suitable permanent groundcover necessary to prevent erosion and siltation to the wetland and subsequent receiving water courses, the Applicant shall prepare a suitable grading, drainage, and planting plan for all areas within and bordering the catchment area as shown on Plan D above, and submit this plan to the Commission prior to commencement of construction. The Applicant shall replant the area with wetland vegetation that shall maximize the absorption of leachate.

16. Because of the nature of the steep embankments proposed to border the stormwater retention pond, erosion of bare earth surfaces is of concern to the Commission. The Applicant shall therefore prepare an erosion, sedimentation and dust control plan, keyed to the construction sequence, and so formulated as to minimize erosion of soils and subsequent siltation of downstream areas. The Applicant shall utilize groundcover plantings or mulch, hay bale checks, crushed stone berms, or other means as recommended in the "Guidelines for Soil & Water Conservation in Urbanizing Areas of Massachusetts", prepared by the Soil Conservation Service, and shall maintain the same until the permanent planting program, as provided in Condition 15. above, is implemented. This erosion, sedimentation, and dust control plan shall be subject to review and approval by the Commission prior to the commencement of construction.

have been satisfied. The additional plans and information required therein shall be submitted to the Commission for its review and approval at one time and the Commission shall act upon these plans within fourteen (14) days thereafter.

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The applicant, any person aggrieved by this order, any owner of land abutting the land upon which the proposed work is to be done, or any ten residents of the city or town in which such land is located, are hereby notified of their right to appeal this order to the Department of Environmental Quality Engineering provided the request is made in writing and by certified mail to the Department within ten (10) days from the issuance of this order.

ISSUED BY Cambridge Conservation Commission

Mare, Kennedy
Deputy Attorney
Quarjales
Thomas S. Arch
Rich C. Burkoff

DATE OF ISSUANCE: April 3, 1979

On this 3 day of APRIL 1979, before me personally appeared Rich C Burkoff to me known to be the person described in and who executed the foregoing instrument and acknowledged that he/she executed the same as his/her free act and deed.

James Grayson

My Commission expires APR 22 1985

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Department of Environmental Quality Engineering

Metropolitan Boston - Northeast Regional Office

Tombury State Hospital

Tombury, Massachusetts 01876

May 15, 1979

Conrad Fagone, Commissioner
Public Works Department
147 Hampshire Street
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

RE: CAMBRIDGE-#123-16
Renovation of City Dump

Dear Commissioner Fagone:

On May 4, 1979 an engineer from the Department of Environmental Quality Engineering Wetlands Staff met with parties to the above-referenced proposal which has been "appealed" to the Department of Environmental Quality Engineering following issuance of a local Order of Conditions by the Cambridge Conservation Commission on April 3, 1979. The appellant Cambridge Public Works Department was not represented at that meeting; however, all other appellants, the Conservation Commission, and several abutters were represented.

Appellants other than your Department have raised the issue of inadequate information and calculations to permit determination of the severity of runoff to Alewife Brook which may result from the changes proposed, as well as concerns relative to the value of the existing wetland area as a wildlife habitat. While Ch 131 & 40 G.L. does not address the matter of habitat value of a wetland, the flood control and runoff attenuation values are specifically protected, and must be addressed by any applicant.

The data submitted thus far through the Department of Environmental Quality Engineering, and as far as can be determined, to the Conservation Commission, do not present any data to permit evaluation of downstream or local effects of changes in slope, runoff coefficient, storage capacity, or drainage alterations. The Department concurs with the Cambridge Conservation Commission that such data and calculations are necessary to the protection of the statutory interests of the Wetlands Protection Act, and therefore finds that the requirements of such information is appropriate, although the manner in which control is accomplished is open to negotiation.

The matter under appeal is hereby remanded back to the Cambridge Conservation Commission pending submission of the required data relative to drainage alterations. Such data must be submitted to the Commission by June 1, 1979, at which time the Commission shall reconvene a public hearing on the matter within 21 days, and issue an amended order within 21 days thereafter. Failure to submit the required data shall be grounds for denial of the proposal, and failure of the Commission to act in a timely manner as outlined above shall constitute grounds for a request for an Order from the Department of Environmental Quality Engineering.

RE: CAMBRIDGE-#123-16
Renovation of City Dump

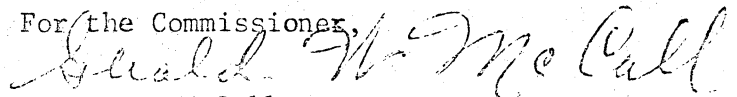
May 15, 1979

-2-

in the manner and form prescribed for an original filing.

Very truly yours,

For the Commissioner,



Gerald W. McCall

Acting Regional Environmental Engineer
Metropolitan Boston Northeast Region

EGM/Ekt/jb

CC: Cambridge Conservation Commission
57 Inman St.
Cambridge, MA 02139

Arlington Conservation Commission
Town Hall
Arlington, MA 02174

Charles Steward
Environmental Coordinator, MBTA
50 High St
Boston, MA 02110

Mystic River Watershed Assoc. Inc.
276 Mass Ave
Arlington, MA 02174

Attention: Dr. Herbert M. Meyer, V.P.

Mr. Silvia J. Scaglione
N. Cambridge Planning Team
50 Clifton St.
Cambridge, MA 02140

Shippem Page
Anne St. Goar
29 Bellis Circle
Cambridge, MA 02140

14 May 1979

Mr. James Sullivan
City Manager
City of Cambridge
City Hall
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Dear Mr. Sullivan:

On behalf of the residents of Bellis Circle, we respectfully submit this petition to express our concern to you, the City Council and the members of the City's administrative departments about the future of the wetlands area adjacent to Bellis Circle, which has been the subject of much intense and constructive debate over the past several months.

The enclosed petition accurately reflects the sentiment of the residents of Bellis Circle that the City support the recent Order of Conditions imposed by the Conservation Commission on the Department of Public Works' proposal for the area designated as Wetland #9. The Conservation Commission adopted in its Order the viewpoint that its responsibility encompassed the critical issues of flooding and pollution resulting from the work in the former dump site, as well as the significant aesthetic and environmental interests the area promotes as a wetland. As such, the Commission furthers the interests of the residents of Bellis Circle and of the City as a whole.

We earnestly seek your support in this matter.

Sincerely,

Shippin Page

Anne St. Goar

cc: Francis H. Dushay, City Councillor
Cambridge Conservation Commission
Kenneth Tarbell, D.E.Q.E.
Conrad Fagone, Department of Public Works

PETITION

We, the undersigned residents of Bellis Circle, of the 10th Ward, 4th Precinct, hereby declare our concern that the area of the former Cambridge City Dump, designated by the Cambridge Conservation Commission as Wetland #9, be maintained as a wetland to serve the function of flood and pollution control, as well as to preserve the significant security and environmental interests it now promotes.

The flooding of basements of houses abutting the dump has been and continues to be a problem. We appreciate the efforts the City has made to cope with this problem. We believe that appropriate methods are available which will solve this problem while preserving the present character of the wetland, and we solicit the support of City Council to ensure that whatever work is performed in this area will not result in the destruction of this amenity.

Signed,

<u>Patrick Wilby</u>	<u>27 Bellis Circle</u>
<u>William J. Lee</u>	<u>6 Bellis Circle</u>
<u>Elizabeth M. Lee</u>	<u>6 Bellis Cir</u>
<u>Roberto Kalinski</u>	<u>111 Sherman St</u>
<u>Anthony Kalinski</u>	<u>111 Sherman St</u>
<u>Erin Brownell</u>	<u>111 Sherman St</u>
<u>Janella D. Agostino</u>	<u>24 Bellis Circle</u>
<u>Lawrence J. D'Agostino</u>	<u>24 Bellis Circle</u>
<u>Yvesad Kattus</u>	<u>19 Bellis Circle Comb</u>
<u>Florida Tautier</u>	<u>19 Bellis Circle Comb</u>
<u>Marie Voutour</u>	<u>17 Bellis Circle Comb</u>
<u>Anne Marie Voutour</u>	
<u>Alaine Alixandro</u>	<u>27 Bellis Cir. Comb</u>
<u>Mike Alixandro</u>	<u>12 Bellis Circle</u>
<u>Ralph Alixandro</u>	<u>27 Bellis Circle Comb</u>
<u>Konrad Oberhuber</u>	<u>40 Bellis Circle Comb</u>
<u>Nerianne Oberhuber</u>	<u>40 Bellis Circle Comb</u>

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Signed,

Antoinette Caputo

33 Bellis Circle Cambridge mass

RALPH F. CASARANO

37 BELLIS CIR.

Robert W. Lott

56 Bellis Circle

Jane McCoy

27 Bellis Circle

Mary Filso

30 Bellis Circle

Dorinda Filso

30 Bellis Circle

P. Coady

32 BELLIS CIRCLE

Shirley Day

29 Bellis Circle

William H. Dicktenberg

54 Bellis Circle

Anthony J. Dicktenberg

54 Bellis Circle

Joseph Papaleo

44 Bellis Circle Cambridge

Joseph A. Rando

44 Bellis Circle Cambridge

Rachel Francini

13 Bellis Circle

David S. Gao

29 Bellis Circle

Talbot Lane

12 Bellis Circle Cambridge



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

57 INMAN STREET, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139 • TEL. ~~876-6880~~
498-9048

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

December 21, 1979

Mr. Shippen L. Page
29 Bellis Circle
Cambridge, MA 02140

Dear Mr. Page:

I received your telephone message of December 20, 1979. I spoke with Conservation Commissioner Hermann Field to try and find out the status of the wetland adjacent Bellis Circle. He informed me that there is a standstill on the issue at present because the D.P.W. does not agree with the position of the Conservation Commission. Acting on the advice of our consultant, Don Yonika of I.E.P., Wayland MA, the Conservation Commission believes this wetland should be protected and preserved, while the D.P.W. wants to fill it in.

Right now, evidence has been brought forward to show that there is dump fill located 40 feet beneath the wetland area. This raises new questions about whether or not this area should be protected from any new fill. However, Hermann Field is trying to find out how our consultant feels about the boring samples and if he still believes the area should be protected.

At present, the Conservation Commission is still standing firm on the necessity of preserving and protecting this wetland area.

I hope I was able to answer some of your questions.

Sincerely,

Carole B. Boutwell
Executive Secretary

29 Bellis Circle
Cambridge, MA. 02140

March 13, 1980

Mr. James McCarthy
Program Development Agent
MBTA
58 Day Street
Somerville, MA. 02144

Dear Mr McCarthy:

This letter is in response to your request during our telephone conversation this morning in which I raised the concerns of the residents of Bellis Circle about the MBTA's plans for the installation of a methane venting trench around the perimeter of the former Cambridge City Dump in connection with the Red Line Project.

First, thank you for undertaking to find out about the schedule for the installation. I look forward to receiving that information.

Second, the Bellis Circle residents do not oppose the extension of the Red Line or the work that is in progress on the former dump site. We are enthusiastic about the future of the site and the increased recreational and open space facilities it will afford to the citizens of Cambridge.

With these considerations in mind, on behalf of my neighbors, I wish to detail our concerns about the methane venting trench. This aspect of the MBTA project has been the source of a number of meetings over the past year at which the Cambridge Conservation Commission, the City of Cambridge, the MBTA, concerned neighbors and other parties were represented. When we first saw your plans we noted with satisfaction that the location of the trench lay to the interior of the dumpsite from the wetland area. Recently, we understand that the City of Cambridge has directed you to place the trench along the property line. I would appreciate it if you would inform me if our understanding is correct, and if it is not, what your plans call for.

A plan to install such a trench along the property lines of the houses on Bellis Circle, as we see it, would create the prospect of substantial noise, dirt and dust, create an open strip which would expose the rear of the properties to intrusion and vandalism, and might drain the water which now exists in the wetland.

It is our understanding that City Manager Sullivan and Mayor Duehay are out of town until next Thursday. We are seeking to meet with them at the earliest possible date. We would appreciate a meeting with the appropriate person or persons at the MBTA to discuss these issues. We believe that an early resolution is possible and that any delays which may result (and we hope there will be none) will not hinder your plans. I may be reached at home before 7:30 A.M. at 492-7391 and during the day at work at 742-8555. Thank you for your attention to these issues.

cc: Mayor Duehay
City Manager James Sullivan

Sincerely,

Shippen L. Page

29 Bellis Circle
Cambridge, MA. 02140

March 19, 1980

Mr Paul Healy
Clerk
Cambridge City Council
City Hall
Cambridge, MA. 02139

Dear Mr Healy:

On behalf of the residents of Bellis Circle, I respectfully request that we be given the opportunity to be heard by the City Council at its next meeting on Monday, March 24, 1980. The subject of our concern is the wetland area abutting Bellis Circle and the questions regarding its future which work being done in the former City Dump have provoked.

It is our position that this wetland is a significant and fragile natural resource which ought to be recognized and given the fullest protection possible. We have as yet had no assurances from the City that the wetland as it is will be preserved. We strongly oppose any precipitate action that would jeopardize its character or existence.

If you would kindly distribute to members of the City Council copies of the enclosed documents the material therein will provide them with developments over the past year concerning this area. I would like to draw their attention particularly to the petition of the residents of the Circle submitted to Mr James Sullivan dated May 14, 1979 which identifies the active concern of the neighborhood for the future of the wetland almost one year ago.

Thank you for your attention to our request. Should you have any need to be in contact with me, I can be reached at 742-8555 during business hours, and at my home number 492-7391 in the morning and the evenings.

Sincerely,
Shippen Page
Shippen L. Page

cc: Residents of Bellis Circle
Members of the Cambridge City Council
City Manager James Sullivan

E-122

Comm. from Shippen L. Page on behalf of the residents of Bellis Circle to be heard before the City Council on March 24, 1980 re: wetland area abutting Bellis Circle.

In City Council,
March 24, 1980

3/24/1980

- Hearing Held -

L. Wylie moved City

Council accept the

Rec. on Page 3 and 4

- Motion Carried -

copy sent to City Mgr

3/26/80 (dl)