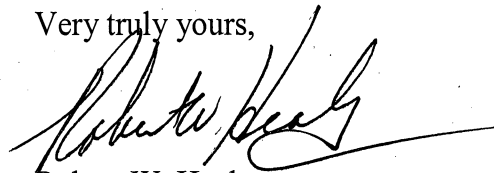


It is anticipated that a draft Tree Ordinance will be forwarded to the City Council for its review early next year.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert W. Healy", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert W. Healy
City Manager



21.

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE • EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Robert W. Healy, City Manager

Richard C. Rossi, Deputy City Manager

December 18, 2000

To the Honorable, the City Council:

In Response to Awaiting Report #00-47 regarding a report on recommendations to preserve trees and prevent conflict, please be advised that over the past several months, a Tree Protection Task Force has been meeting to develop recommendations to preserve and protect trees. Two main goals have been established:

Establish and maintain maximum tree cover.

This goal acknowledges that the urban forest serves a wide variety of functions that promote the health, safety, and general welfare of residents. These functions include:

- conserving energy, by providing shade and evaporative cooling;
- improving local and global air quality by absorbing carbon dioxide and ozone, adsorbing particulate matter, and producing oxygen;
- reducing wind speed and directing air flow;
- reducing noise pollution;
- providing habitat for birds, small mammals, and other wildlife;
- reducing storm runoff and the potential for soil erosion;
- increasing real property values;
- enhancing visual and aesthetic qualities that attract visitors and businesses and serve as a source of community image and pride.

Prevent loss of highly valued, significant trees

The Task Force is discussing both regulatory and educational measures to achieve these goals. Measures include: (1) improved education on tree care and maintenance; (2) a Tree Ordinance to protect existing trees and/or develop appropriate mitigation measures in connection with large development projects; and (3) protection of unique, historically significant trees through the landmarking process, as administered through the Cambridge Historical Commission. The Tree Protect Task Force is continuing to meet and fully develop each of these proposals



2000 Things 2 Do in 2000

5459

Consent Agenda Item#21

Awaiting Report Item Number
00-47, regarding a report on
recommendations to preserve
trees and prevent conflict.

In City Council December 18, 2000

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