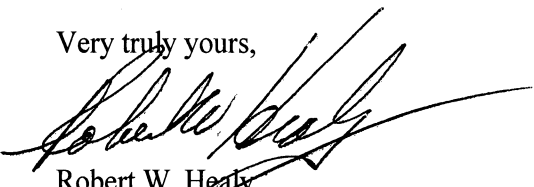


In the case of the Belmont Office/R & D Building the circumstance is different. This is not a redevelopment project with an existing storm service connection into the Cambridge system. Thus there is no potential reduction in storm flows to the combined sewer system that will have a beneficial impact on CSOs to the Alewife Brook. Rather, if the project proponent wished to direct flows to Cambridge they must be fully mitigated so there is no increase in activations as a result of this project. At this point, given that the development has indicated that they do not intend discharging into the Cambridge system (FEIR page 2-5, pg 2.3.4 and page 3-39 pg. 3.4.1) no further discussion have been had with the developer as to how such a discharge would be mitigated through Cambridge. The proponent now states that the project will discharge sewer flows via Frontage Road in Belmont to the Belmont municipal system and that they have agreed to pay Belmont \$115,000 for inflow and infiltration removal work so as to eliminate the effect of the increased flow on CSO activations downstream.

Very truly yours,



Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mec



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE • EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Robert W. Healy, City Manager Richard G. Rossi, Deputy City Manager

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December 8, 2003

To the Honorable, the City Council:

In response to Awaiting Report Item Number 03-140, regarding a report on the status of a proposed development in Belmont along the Alewife Reservation and matters of water and sewer connectivity, Public Works Commissioner Lisa Peterson reports the following:

The City of Cambridge Department of Public Works met on two occasions at the invitation of Belmont town officials, prior to the submission of the final MEPA filing (August 2003) associated with this project, with Rizzo Associates who represented the Development Company, O' Neill Properties. The purpose of these meetings was to discuss the viability of connecting the proposed development's sanitary discharge into the City of Cambridge sewer system on Acorn Park. Subsequently, the Final Environmental Impact Report stated that they had rejected connecting to the Cambridge sewer system as an option. We have had no further discussions with the Development Company or their representatives since then. Similarly no further contact has been had with the Development Company concerning a water connection between the City's network and the proposed project.

At present there exists a City of Cambridge 10"/15" sewer pipe that conveys flows in a westward direction to a pump station located on the northern bank of the Little River at the Acorn Park Office site. This pump station discharges flows under the Little River to the MWRA owned Belmont Branch Sewer which then connects into MWRA 48" line that serves the north western area of the City of Cambridge. There are 8 CSOs on or beside the MWRA interceptors as they convey flow along the Alewife Brook between Cambridge and Somerville. The City of Cambridge is presently working with the MWRA on a program to reduce by 84% the CSO activations along this corridor.

Typically, in instances where a development is proposing connectivity into our sanitary systems we look at the project in a holistic way so that we can fully assess the benefit or detriment to our systems with regard to service levels and combined sewer overflow (CSO) volumes and activations. In Cambridge the system capacity is such so as not to cause sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs). The introduction of a flow such as that proposed by this project will not in and of itself cause any SSOs. The concern is whether the proposal will increase the volume or number of CSO activations. Typically in the City of Cambridge the majority of our projects are redevelopment projects where both storm and sanitary flows collectively can impact CSO volumes and activations. Our policy in these instances is that the developer must significantly reduce the storm water discharge to the combined sewer system, through storage or infiltration, which typically has a significant impact on CSOs in combined sewer areas and depending on whether there is a level of service impact on the sanitary system the developer will also be required to remove inflow from the sanitary system, or store and off peak pump sanitary waste into our sewer system.

396S

Consent Agenda #7

Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to **Awaiting Report Item Number 03-140**, regarding a report on the status of a proposed development in Belmont along the Alewife Reservation and matters of water and sewer connectivity.

In City Council December 8, 2003

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