



City of Cambridge

57.

IN CITY COUNCIL

August 4, 1997

COUNCILLOR TRIANTAFILLOU
COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN
VICE MAYOR BORN
COUNCILLOR DAVIS
COUNCILLOR DUEHAY
COUNCILLOR GALLUCCIO
COUNCILLOR REEVES
MAYOR RUSSELL
COUNCILLOR TOOMEY

WHEREAS: On April 29, 1997, the Alewife Study Group held an Information Fair and Celebration; and

WHEREAS: Over 80 people attended the fair at the Fitzgerald School, many of whom filled out questionnaires voicing their concern about development at Alewife; and

WHEREAS: The Alewife Study Group has compiled said comments, in an easy-to-read format, attached to this order; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Clerk publish said comments in the City Council Agenda for review by the City Council and the public.

In City Council August 4, 1997

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "D. Margaret Drury".

ATTEST:-

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

questionnaires

ALEWIFE STUDY GROUP (ASG) QUESTIONNAIRE - 35 ~~surveys~~

1. Small group selected (Circle one) Flooding/floodplain 8 Hazardous materials 3

Habitat/wetlands/recreation 4

Zoning/land-use 5

Traffic 7

2. What are your main concerns about development on the WR Grace site and why?

Destruction of open space and of what "quiet" remains.

Increased traffic/air pollution

Loss of habitat for wildlife

Keep Harvey Street closed.

Cut through traffic in neighborhood.

The incredible traffic on Route 16 during the day especially the rush hours. There is no way existing road structures can handle the new traffic.

Parking for the development - not on side streets.

T parking on side streets - overflow.

Completely "urbanizing" the area - having it become devoid of wildlife.

Robbing existing wildlife of their habitat.

Eliminating open/recreation space - already limited in the city.

In addition to flooding and environmental impact on neighborhood, extensive development on site will generate traffic that exceeds capacity of existing parking and street.

Currently too much traffic density.

Desire open space, nature, more liveable neighborhood.

Volume & Speed, Parking, overflow from T.

Traffic is at a maximum already on Rts. 2 & 16.

The area is low lying - almost a wetland, perhaps need most of it open and wild (allow natural growth) since too much development would flood surrounding areas.

Traffic rerouting itself onto side streets to avoid clogged main arteries.

Preservation of wild life.

Flooding, (ground-subsurface water), hazardous waste (disturbance of contaminated sites), and traffic!

We are new in the neighborhood and would like to learn about all the neighbors concern

Measurement of tonnage of automobile pollutants per day/month/year which in all likelihood exceeds some federal or state standard. (The carbon dust in my house is already excessive as shown by frequent clean-up necessary.)

Its open space adjacent to other open space also along bike path which could be aesthetically enhanced.

Lights, noise, traffic - a 24-hour intrusion into the neighborhood. Buildings that are too high. Rte2/16 and the T-station along with existing Grace building already add a 24-hour presence.

Loss of wetlands = loss of flood control, loss of interesting habitat, loss of recreational/green space.

Direction of the ground water which is now flowing in the area of Whittemore and Seagrave Rd.

Congestion would be horrendous. Flooding in my cellar started when MBTA ext. began. Now has seeped in from WR Grace.

Flooding owing to construction and development.

Traffic, flooding, hazardous waste, loss of open space (recreation, wildlife), basically, all of the issues you have outlined at your information tables.

Appropriate development of the site. Its existing condition is unacceptable and many of the problems can be addressed by appropriate development.

All of the above; particularly environmental pollutants and their effect on human and other life.

I am concerned about toxic materials being exposed through the soil and the groundwater, and the related health risks. I am concerned about worsening flood problems, and I am concerned about the loss of open space.

Loss of open space. Air pollution from increased traffic. Noise pollution. Sight pollution - high buildings.

Concern about maintaining open space, not disturbing the ecology/natural environment further. Concern about hazardous materials, current and what may be exacerbated if development doesn't proceed carefully re: potentially detrimental effects of hazardous materials.

I don't believe Grace cleaned up Russell Park area (or Danehy Park).

Traffic.

It shows disregard for the flood plain. We need to have as much flood storage capacity as possible and not put more storm water into Alewife until we can manage the pollution coming from it.

Traffic parking hazardous materials. 1938 large volume of water at end of Harvey Street. 1955 heavy volume of water covering Rte. 16 at Arl.Camb. line.

Flooding will increase.

Impact on neighborhood, recreational areas, wildlife. Traffic (already bad).

Maintaining as much open space as possible - to maximize the quality of local urban life.

That it will reduce the area available for H/W/R. Release toxins which will inhibit/harm R/H.
Rearrange water ways/ - wording?

3. Do you have a direct experience to share which affects your views? Please be as detailed as possible.

We are tenants who have enjoyed our 14 months at Clay Street 3 family. We like being close to the bike trail, Russell Field, Fresh pond, and the open space which is currently wild and precious. We might consider trying to buy property here someday, but not if this monstrosity of development goes through as currently proposed.

If Harvey Street gets opened it will become an extension of Route 2 - another way to get from Mass Ave. to the highway.

Travel through the Route 16/2 intersection on a regular basis. It is already jammed beyond reasonable levels and the spillover is put onto streets like Concord Ave. and Lake Street in Arlington.

Parking on Whittemore Ave. has become a regular T parking street only to get worse with Grace development

No access to our own houses during peak traffic.

Being a commuter to Rindge Ave from Route 2, I spend anywhere from 4 - 12 minutes traveling from Route 2 circle to Mass Ave.

Inconvenience. Being squeezed, pushed, frightened, blocked, splashed, etc. by MANY fast moving cars. Also, NOISE pollution.

Having to drive through area to get to work or to get to Alewife station and park when it's too cold or rainy/snowy to walk or bicycle.

Often travel through Alewife area; aware of natural resource, fields, lakes and the encroachment of more buildings.

We just bought the house in August 96 (20/22 Columbus Ave.) and we had 2 1/2 feet of water in basement.

Recent fire on WR Grace property put fire fighters unknowingly at risk from toxic smoke. No one alerted them and they brought no protective gear.

Wildlife audits done every day from Jan. 1 to June 5 with a minimum of 90 birds and animals.

Only that I live a half mile away - across Mass. Ave. Take frequent walks and bicycle rides through the area. Have small child, concerned about hazardous waste.

I believe that the present condition of the site has created a crime problem (or at least a crime perception problem). In addition I believe some of the flooding problems can be addressed through appropriate development.

I live on Clifton Street and have experienced a flooded basement twice in the past 8 months. I have 2 sump pumps. During heavy floodings, we pump our water straight outside into our backyard and onto Clifton Street. I am concerned about the toxicity of this water in the basement and in the soil in my yard.

Longtime resident who experiences air pollution from Grace.

I want open space in urban living!

Past experience with environmental issues in another community and knowing that w/o expert advice from ecologists/scientists, the public may be unaware of long-term disturbing environmental impact of development.

Watched them test land in white suits years ago. They looked like stunt men from central casting. I didn't trust them.

Water in basement - 1967, increase since Alewife Station

I have studied the Freeman Engineering report on stagnant waters in 1906 and the 1981 hydrology study for the MDC to resolve flooding and also consider water quality matters.

I remember Cambridge before Rindge Towers were built. An eyesore forever, and a lousy place for people to live.

Daily enjoyment of what is now there.

4. **What do you think should be done to address your concerns (strategies you would like the neighborhood to use, studies that should be undertaken, contact with city decision makers, etc.)?**

More door to door information. Put the model on wheels, take it door-to-door.

Build housing where they want to build offices.

Traffic calming measures, narrow streets, wide sidewalks, speed bumps

Any designs for this land must include detailed plans for what roadways (new or existing) will be used to handle the new traffic load- going N, S & W from the Grace site - as well as its affect on Concord and Mass Ave.

Enforce permit parking (resident only)

Create more open space.

Educational programs/materials about wetland habitat and wildlife.

Other than massive public transportation, I have no solution. Regional problem. Most of the Rte. 16 traffic is towns outside of Cambridge.

Updated classification of traffic speed limit. Based on current uses (ex. daycare on Harvey Street)

Change zoning to allow limited development.

Leaving a significant "wild" area.

Integrated into Residents for Growth Management, special zoning for North Cambridge so as to check for unthoughtful development.

As much neighborhood involvement as possible (numbers count!!)

Use herons as indicator species at Jerry's Pond. Allow other uses as they affect the herons. Develop meadows with small trees, berries and wild flower while moratorium is in effect to do our dead level best to prove viability of species and attracting them.

Continuing to return the wetlands area to their natural state. Green space and extremely minimal office construction, if any! There is already plenty of development near the t-station.

Russell Field clearly blocks surface drainage from Clifton. Single sewer near Harvey St. cannot handle drainage of that large area; should be ditch to drain all the way to Alewife Brook. Need permanent groundwater monitoring for evaluation of pollution and flow.

Environmental concerns should be initiated ASAP. We really cannot take serious action until it is done. Immediate steps are most important.

Hydrologic assessment.

Studies of hazardous waste/remediation.

Studies of water movement (runoff, percolation, drainage).

I believe the city can (and is) providing the resources needed to bring the problems to resolution. The task is to agree on approach and execution of process.

More of the same plus - I'd like to explore the possibility of getting the state's Dept. Of Public Health to do an epidemiological study of the area. I am familiar with the data the state collects, and I believe to do a limited analysis to see if there might be a higher than average rate of certain health conditions that would be related to the toxic substances present on the WR Grace site.

Downzone the area. Preserve for open space.

Environmental testing and consulting by experts. Outreach & community education re: hazardous materials and how development affects ecosystems short and long-term.

Real testing - whatever it is. No more building till it is cleaned up. Clean up Russell Field and Danehy Park too.

Is water hazardous?

Review the CDM 1981 study. Be in touch with the MDC Dam people. But for recreation (canoeing in Alewife Reservation) keep the water level higher than it is now, except during storms.

No more commercial building.

I need to learn. I am impressed by what has been done already.

Perhaps make it clear and simple to all the local inhabitants through flyers and the newspaper) what exactly we can do to influence the city in the decision making process, i.e., how much power we have and what the extent of options there are for the development (or not) of the site... so people know that they can actually make a difference.

I would like to enhance what is there - idea of rehabbing the pond historically.

5. **Are you interested in working with the Alewife Study Group?** Yes 16 but it is tough for me to find time) (Maybe) (Yes, in the future. Currently in the midst of finding a job! No time until I resolve that!)

No 4. Undecided.

Not at this time.

6. **What issues would you like to work on? (Check as many as you like.)** *Flooding/floodplain 3*
(4) *Traffic 8 (3) Zoning/Land-use 6 (1) Hazardous materials 6 (and public health)(2)*
Wetlands 3 (5) Wildlife habitat 4 (6)

ADL has agreed to print 500 more copies of my Alewife Area Ecology Guide, which will be available soon.

7. **If you are willing to help, what are you willing to do?**

4 Call neighbors

7 Call City Councilors

2 Write/design flyers

5 Write letters to decision makers/newspapers

6(possibly) Edit copy

9 Attend Planning Board meetings

10 Distribute flyers

10 Attend City Council meetings

Other (Please specify):

Complain

Design/help take part in pre-traffic study done by local residents, models to redirect traffic flow.

Evaluate engineering study data.

Whatever is needed to address the environmental issues and public health risks.

Coordinate with other towns and groups in the watershed of the Mystic River.

EVALUATION

1. Did you find this meeting informative? Yes 25 No 0
2. Did you like the format of the meeting? (Please circle one answer for each component of the meeting.)

Information tables	<i>Liked very much</i> 15	<i>Liked</i> 6	<i>Disliked</i>	<i>Strongly disliked</i>
Large group presentation	<i>Liked very much</i> 8	<i>Liked</i> 11	<i>Disliked</i>	<i>Strongly disliked</i>
Small group session	<i>Liked very much</i> 10	<i>Liked</i> 13	<i>Disliked</i>	<i>Strongly disliked</i>
Reports in large group	<i>Liked very much</i> 8	<i>Liked</i> 7	<i>Disliked</i>	<i>Strongly disliked</i>
Tight schedule great!				

3. Do you have any ideas how we could make our meetings better?

I found the small group session (traffic) one-sided with the Harvey Street concerns and no views for the Grace neighborhood Whittemore Ave. - North

Acoustics need improvement.

Room is too noisy. Food was great. Reports in large group went well. Large group presentation was nice and concise! Small groups needed round tables. Small groups needed perhaps a little more time.

Already very effective - carry on!

No, I think ASG does a wonderful job!

Maybe later.

Not at the moment.

Sound was a problem in auditorium re: hearing in small groups.

They seem good as is.

4. Would you attend another meeting sponsored by the Alewife Study Group? Yes 21 No 1 (I'm too busy, but hope others I know will come.)
Issues were a bit too one-sided.

5 Would you like to be contacted regarding development at the WR Grace site? Yes 20 No 1

6 If yes, please let us know how to get in touch with you:

- *Jason Boehk & Cheryl Brownlee, 90 Clay Street #3, 661-5609
- James Egan, 85 Clay Street, 491-7448
- Kathy Bagdonas, 85 Clay Street, 491-7448
- Harry Jee, 30 Cambridge Park Drive, 492-9040, hyungjee@ziplink.net
- *Ken Thomson, 32 Griswold Street, 02138, 547-7015, kthomson@civicnet.org
- Russell Hoy, 8 Seagrave Road, 985-3951, rhoy@statestreet
- Honey Schnapp, 32 Clay Street
- Charlie Hong, 4 Warwick Park, 492-6557
- *Marie Guzell, 44 Harvey Street, 876-5580
- *Glenn Koenig, 26 Park Street, Arlington, 02174, GCK@AOL.Com
- *Hong Lin, 1673 Cambridge Street, 02138, 547-7851
- Victor Plosinski & Family, 104 Clifton Street, 876-0824
- *Prudence & Prachad KC, 22 Columbus Ave., 868-3699, prem@aol.com
- Ralph Yoder
- *Carl Spagnoli, 41 Newbury Street, Somerville, 02144, 628-5637, cspagnoli@juno.com
- *Paul Pintus, 59 Crawford, Watertown, 923-8935, pintus@compuserve.com
- Meg Kelly, 23 Seagrave Road, 354-7207
- *Hugh Carter, 101 Jackson Street, 876-0447
- *Roger Garberg, garbert@ultranet.com
- *Madeline Lourie, 11 Jackson Street, 864-5730
- *Amy Simms, 85 Clifton Street, 876-1965, amy.simms@state.ma.us
- *Catherine Claypoole, 7 Forest St. 31, 547-7541, claypool@law.harvard.edu
- Bob Lenkaskas, 98 Clay Street, 354-0788
- Jill Padawer, 2 Warwick Park #2, 661-6650
- Nancy, Adria, Steve, Dick, 33 Jackson St.
- Peter J. Imrie, 96 Jackson St.,
- *Stew Sanders, 73 Fairmont St., Belmont, 489-3120, ssandbird@aol.com
- E. Frank, 163 Harvey Street
- *Olive Pierce, 69 Harvey Street, 864-2438

7. Do you have any other comments?

Interested in joining the Core Group. (Prudence & Prachad)

Get a good photo of the model that shows the grotesque scale of the proposed buildings and distribute a photocopy to each residence in the neighborhood?

Keep up the good work on the Grace site.

I was impressed with, generally, how organized and coordinated the meeting was! It's a very complex situation and lots of detail involved and getting volunteers to stay involved is quite a feat!

You are doing a wonderful job. Leading urban neighborhoods into downzoning is ??environment.

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No building!

Food was good! We should get serious get together with City Council.

As an employee of the Mayor's Office, I am willing and eager to assist with bringing these issues to the City Council and assisting with the planning and facilitation of the public process. David Goode.

I think you guys are super and are doing a great job, and I'm glad you're my neighbors. I am very interested in helping out re: the environmental issues, but I have limited time available in May. But please stay in touch with me and I'll do whatever I can. (Amy Simms)

Excellent organized and fun meeting!!.

Nice jobs.

We are going to take some water samples in several locations in May and June. (Stew Sanders)

FUSION NR
S. RIZZY

TELL LISA -

- 1) LIST FROM FELC
- 2) CO SPONSOR ORDER

~~KATHERINE~~ -
SOMEONE
ELSE -

↓

CP 4 17

7/11/97

Whereas, On April 29, 1997 the Alewife Study Group held an Information Fair & Celebration; at the Arch.

Whereas, Over 80 people attended the fair ~~and filled out~~ ~~questionnaires~~ @ the Fitzgerald School, many of whom filled out questionnaire voicing their concern about development @ Alewife.

Whereas, the Alewife Study Group has compiled said comments in an easy-to-read format,

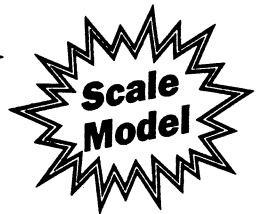
Now therefore, be it resolved that the City Clerk publish said comments in the City Council Agenda for review by the City Council & the public.

yes does
K. [unclear] [unclear]

Information Fair & Celebration

The Alewife Study Group invites neighbors to

- ❖ celebrate our community's victories:
 - a one-year building moratorium at the Grace site in North Cambridge
 - a \$10,000 grant from the state for environmental consultation and community outreach
 - a City agreement to test Russell Field for contamination
- ❖ exchange information
- ❖ plan the next steps to ensure that any future use or development is respectful of the neighborhood



Where: The Fitzgerald School, 70 Rindge Ave.

When: Tuesday, April 29, 7:00 - 9:00 PM

Come and check out information tables on traffic issues, environmental hazards, zoning and land use, recreation and wetlands, and flooding and flood plains. View the amazing interactive scale model (built by your neighbors) of the Grace site and surrounding neighborhood. There will also be an opportunity to discuss these issues in small groups and share your ideas. Snacks and refreshments will be available.

Bring a friend and some munchies to share!

**For more information call Joel Nogic (547-6463) or Vicki Paret (491-9059)
or look for us on the Internet at www.civic.net/asg**



City of Cambridge

57.

IN CITY COUNCIL

August 4, 1997

COUNCILLOR TRIANTAFILLOU

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Born, Davis, Dwyer, Galuccio, Russell
Consent Order #57 *Toomey* *S-430*
Councillor Triantafyllou re: Publish
comments from the Alewife Study
Group's Information Fair.

In City Council August 4, 1997

ORDER ADOPTED