

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE.

IN THE YEAR ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-FIVE.

AN ORDINANCE IN RELATION TO SEWERS.

Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Cambridge, as follows :

SEC. 1. All sewers and drains laid by private parties in any street, court or way, opened or proposed to be opened, for public travel and accommodation, shall be deemed to be the property of the City when connected with a public sewer ; and no such connection shall hereafter be made with a public sewer except upon consent of the Mayor and Aldermen, nor unless it be of such size, material, construction and depth, and in such location as the City Engineer may direct, so far as it is within the lines of such street, court or way, nor until the owners thereof shall in writing relinquish to the City exclusive control over the same.

SEC. 2. Whenever any street shall be opened for the laying of pipes for water, gas or other purposes, or for the prosecution of any works of construction, ~~said laying of pipes and the work~~ connected therewith, or such work of construction, shall be executed in such a manner as not to obstruct, in any way whatever, the course, capacity or construction of a common sewer or drain ; and whenever pipes for any purpose, or any work of construction shall hereafter be found to exist at such depth, or in such location as to interfere with any existing sewer or with the building of any common sewer of the required size, and at the proper depth and grades, the department, corporation, company or individual, as the case may be, maintaining the same, shall, upon notice thereof, at once remove, change and alter

said pipe or pipes or other works, in such manner as the City Engineer may direct. If such department, corporation, company or individual neglects to immediately comply with the terms of such notification, then the City Engineer may make such removal, change or alteration, and the cost thereof shall be paid by such corporation, company or individual.

SEC. 3. The City Engineer shall under the direction of the Committee on Sewers and Drains, take the general superintendence of all main drains and common sewers, built, or permitted to be built or owned by the City, and of all connections built under provisions of this Ordinance, and take charge of the building, repairs, and keeping in order of the same.

SEC. 4. He shall make and file in his office accurate plans of all sewers and main drains, showing all entrances thereto when made as hereinafter provided. He shall have constant care of, and keep clean and in every way in proper order, condition and repair, all street catch-basins and main drains, or connecting drains within the limits of any street, court or way;

provided, however, that the Superintendent of Streets shall keep the cesspools open and clear of ice in cold weather, so as to permit of the flow of surface water through them and thence into the sewers.

SEC. 5. He shall keep and submit to the Mayor and Aldermen an accurate account of the expenses of constructing each main or common drain, together with a plan in detail thereof, showing all estates abutting thereon, or deriving benefit therefrom, with their frontages, areas, and owners' names; or in such manner as to conform fully to the principle upon which estates are to be assessed by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen for the time being.

He shall keep, and whenever requested, report to either branch of the City Council, an accurate account of the cost and all other expenses upon each common sewer or main drain; and he shall annually, in December, submit a report of all work performed, and the amount of all expenditures from the Appropriation for Sewers and Drains.

SEC. 6. In the month of January of each year, and at other times whenever necessary, the Committee on Sewers and Drains shall license

not less than five competent drain-layers in each ward of the city, (provided such number shall apply for licenses.)

who alone shall be authorized to make all openings or excavations in any street or highway for the purpose of constructing or repairing any private drains, and who shall construct all entrances into the main drains and sewers. Such persons shall hold office for one year unless sooner removed by said Committee. No such private drain shall be laid of a less size than six inches interior diameter; and the work shall be done as directed by the City Engineer.

SEC. 7. Every person licensed as provided in the preceding section, shall, before performing any work authorized thereby, execute a bond to the city in the sum of Five Hundred Dollars, with two good and sufficient sureties to be approved by the Committee on Sewers and Drains, conditioned that he shall comply with the terms of the permit under which entrance is made; that he shall cause the excavation to be properly fenced during the whole time the street may be obstructed; that he will, when necessary, maintain one or more lighted lanterns in a conspicuous place over such obstruction from twilight in the evening and through the whole night; that he will properly make all entrances to the sewers, and will leave no obstruction of any description in the sewer which he may open; that he will properly close the excavation, restore the earth and pavement taken up, and regrade and repave the street should it settle or become out of order through any negligence of his within six months thereafter, and if he fails to do so within forty-eight hours after being notified thereof in writing by the City Engineer, then it shall be regraded and repaved by the City at his expense; and that he will indemnify and hold harmless the City from any damage or cost to which it may be put by reason of injuries resulting to any one from neglect or carelessness in making or repairing such drain, or in properly fencing or lighting any excavation or obstruction, or in performing any other work connected therewith.

SEC. 8. No private drain shall be entered into any main drain or sewer without a permit in writing from the City Engineer, stating the time, place, manner, and construction of such entrance; and on the completion of the work the permit shall be returned to the office of the City Engineer, endorsed by the layer of the drain with a statement of his proceedings thereunder.

SEC. 9. No private drains shall be connected with a public sewer except through an intervening catch-basin of brick, the bottom of which must not be less than two and one-half feet below the bottom of the outlet pipe, the diameter not less than ~~four~~ feet, and the form and construction to be prescribed by the City Engineer; and the discharge pipe of the catch-basin shall be high enough above its bottom to prevent anything but the liquid contents passing into the sewer.

SEC. 10. Private catch-basins may be placed under the sidewalk, when, in the opinion of the City Engineer, it may be necessary,—the same to be covered with an iron cover set in a stone curb,—and shall be examined and cleaned of their solid contents by or at the expense of the owners thereof, as often as once a year, and as much oftener as necessary to prevent the discharge of any solid matter into the drain or sewer.

SEC. 11. No drain connecting with a common sewer, subject to the action of the tide-water, shall be constructed without a plug or clapper to completely prevent the reflux of drainage matter, storm or tide waters.

SEC. 12. All drains and catch-basins not now built in accordance with the requirements herein, shall be reconstructed so as to conform thereto, whenever, in the opinion of the Committee on Sewers and Drains, it may be necessary.

SEC. 13. No exhaust from steam engines shall be connected with the public or private drains, and no blow-off from steam boilers shall be so connected without special permission of the Mayor and Aldermen.

SEC. 14. Whoever shall cut into, interfere with or obstruct a main drain or common sewer, or shall enter a private drain therein, except as herein provided, or shall place or deposit in any street catch-basin any animal or vegetable matter, solid or liquid, or any other filthy substance, or shall violate any of the provisions of this ordinance, shall upon conviction, pay a fine of not more than twenty dollars for each offence.

SEC. 15. The Twenty Third Chapter of the Revised Ordinances and all amendments thereto are hereby repealed.

In Common Council May 25, 1875.

Passed to be ordained,
George A. Taper

President.

In Board of Aldermen, May 26, 1875.

Passed to be ordained,

Lucas Bradford Mayor.

An Ordinance ²⁶
in relation to
construction of
Sewers
1875

In Common Council
May 25, 1875.

Correctly enrolled,

Attest:
J. H. Sanborn (Law),
Walter S. Swanwick (Clerk),
A. D. Forbes (Ordinance)