

City of Cambridge

~~21~~
Calendar Item #1

IN CITY COUNCIL

~~March 23, 1998~~
March 30, 1998

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

WHEREAS: For many years, by the generosity of the Squirrel Brand Company on Broadway, many Cambridge residents have been able to garden at community garden plots adjacent to the Squirrel Brands factory; and

WHEREAS: The potential sale of the Squirrel Brands property on Broadway has caused concern among the community gardeners that new development or a new owner could remove this community asset; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager report to the Council about the current status of the property, including whether the City has plans to purchase the property or knows of plans by any other parties and whether the City could arrange for an easement for the community garden; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Council go on record in strong support of the continued use of the land for community gardens, an important cherished neighborhood and City asset; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to communicate the City Council's position to the owner and the real estate listing agent.

In City Council March 30, 1998.
Adopted as amended by an affirmative vote of nine members.
Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk

Broadway - Boardman
Community Garden

January 31, 1997

Mr. Robert H. Stengel
Vice President
Squirrel Brand Company
17 Boardman Street
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Mr. Stengel,

We are writing on behalf of the Broadway-Boardman Community gardeners regarding your upcoming decision on whether or not to renew the use of the land at the corner of Broadway and Boardman as a community garden. We are aware of some of the pressures involved in owning commercial property in an urban environment and are very grateful for your generosity over the past twenty years in making this space available for gardening.

There are many more gardeners than when the land was first made available for use as a community garden. We have reached capacity with 53 garden plots, and have more than twenty people on the waiting list. These plots are tended by families, couples, housemates, senior citizens, with and without assistants, and single people. They represent the diversity of the community, coming from all walks of life and many ethnic backgrounds, including Afro-American, Baltic-American, Greek-American, Hispanic, and Portuguese-American. Among us are nurses, artists and artisans, social workers, secretaries, library assistants, a theater technician, a clothing designer, an MBTA bus driver, a housing renovator, a carpenter, a factory worker, a teacher, a graduate student, and retired people. One of these, Juris Smiltens, came to Broadway-Boardman from the Hovey Community Garden on Cambridge Street after it was converted into a parking lot. (Did you know that he was the person who initially presented the idea for this garden to Barbara Ackerman?)

Besides families with children, there are several other groups giving children an opportunity to learn about gardening, as well as the values of community, cooperation, responsibility, patience, hope, and hard work that are inherent in this activity. The Maynard School kindergarten and first grade use a plot until their summer vacation, when it is turned over to the Area IV Childrens Daycare Center. The Community Arts Program located at Kendall Square has a plot for their after-school and summer programs for adolescents. All of these people enjoy growing a wide variety of plants and vegetables, including such flowers as tulips and marigolds, and such vegetables as asparagus and zucchini. You've probably seen us out there as early as March planting peas, as late as December harvesting collards and tending the roses nearly all year round.

Mr. Robert Stengel
 January 31, 1997
 page 2

Over the years we have made many improvements, with the Fenway Victory Gardens and others as inspiration. The covered bulletin board built three years ago is similar to those seen in parks and sanctuaries. On this bulletin board we post: a map of the garden with all our names and phone numbers so gardeners can contact each other, if necessary; the schedule for the season; flyers for gardening advice and supplies; guidelines for children and teens that have access to the garden, and other items of general interest, such as photos and newspaper articles. In 1994, the Area IV Summer Youth Employment Program participants built our compost bins. Other projects to improve the overall appearance of the garden have included the planting of spring bulbs along the edges of the garden; the pruning of some weed-like trees, and the addition of a few landscape plantings such as a Viburnum, a Mock Orange, two Laurels, and six Forsythia. Last year, six more Climbing Roses were added to beautify the fence and the view from the street. Also last year, a neighbor was hired to design and build a protected tool-storage rack concealed behind the compost bins. We now have regularly scheduled grass mowings for the paths and the common area near the Boardman gate, compost sorting, and three cleanups per season. Your standards for the garden's overall appearance have been very helpful in motivating us to encourage improvements in gardening practices on the part of individual gardeners. We've enclosed copies of the garden's Standards and "How Things Work" that were revised this past summer and await the vote of the membership at our March annual meeting. Also enclosed is a copy of the guidelines for children and teens.

We feel that our presence here, thanks to Squirrel Brand, is a boon to the community in terms of beautifying the neighborhood and helping to keep the streets safe through our visibility. We receive many compliments from visitors and passersby. Being able to garden at the Broadway-Boardman Community Garden has been a very rewarding experience in all our lives. Again, we would like to express how grateful we all are for the wonderful opportunity you have been providing, and hope you will continue to look on our use of this space as a positive contribution to the well-being of both your company and the community in general.

Best wishes,

Cheryl Bible

Cheryl Bible

Gabrielle Sichel

Gabrielle Sichel

Liz Layton

Liz Layton

Mary Stilwell

Rebecca Ramsay

Rebecca Ramsay

Shannon Temple

Shannon Temple

Coordinating Committee
 Broadway-Boardman Community Garden

Broadway - Boardman
Community Garden

January 31, 1997

Mr. Robert H. Stengel
Vice President
Squirrel Brand Company
17 Boardman Street
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Mr. Stengel,

We are writing on behalf of the Broadway-Boardman Community gardeners regarding your upcoming decision on whether or not to renew the use of the land at the corner of Broadway and Boardman as a community garden. We are aware of some of the pressures involved in owning commercial property in an urban environment and are very grateful for your generosity over the past twenty years in making this space available for gardening.

There are many more gardeners than when the land was first made available for use as a community garden. We have reached capacity with 53 garden plots, and have more than twenty people on the waiting list. These plots are tended by families, couples, housemates, senior citizens, with and without assistants, and single people. They represent the diversity of the community, coming from all walks of life and many ethnic backgrounds, including Afro-American, Baltic-American, Greek-American, Hispanic, and Portuguese-American. Among us are nurses, artists and artisans, social workers, secretaries, library assistants, a theater technician, a clothing designer, an MBTA bus driver, a housing renovator, a carpenter, a factory worker, a teacher, a graduate student, and retired people. One of these, Juris Smiltens, came to Broadway-Boardman from the Hovey Community Garden on Cambridge Street after it was converted into a parking lot. (Did you know that he was the person who initially presented the idea for this garden to Barbara Ackerman?)

Besides families with children, there are several other groups giving children an opportunity to learn about gardening, as well as the values of community, cooperation, responsibility, patience, hope, and hard work that are inherent in this activity. The Maynard School kindergarten and first grade use a plot until their summer vacation, when it is turned over to the Area IV Childrens Daycare Center. The Community Arts Program located at Kendall Square has a plot for their after-school and summer programs for adolescents. All of these people enjoy growing a wide variety of plants and vegetables, including such flowers as tulips and marigolds, and such vegetables as asparagus and zucchini. You've probably seen us out there as early as March planting peas, as late as December harvesting collards and tending the roses nearly all year round.

Mr. Robert Stengel
 January 31, 1997
 page 2

Over the years we have made many improvements, with the Fenway Victory Gardens and others as inspiration. The covered bulletin board built three years ago is similar to those seen in parks and sanctuaries. On this bulletin board we post: a map of the garden with all our names and phone numbers so gardeners can contact each other, if necessary; the schedule for the season; flyers for gardening advice and supplies; guidelines for children and teens that have access to the garden, and other items of general interest, such as photos and newspaper articles. In 1994, the Area IV Summer Youth Employment Program participants built our compost bins. Other projects to improve the overall appearance of the garden have included the planting of spring bulbs along the edges of the garden; the pruning of some weed-like trees, and the addition of a few landscape plantings such as a Viburnum, a Mock Orange, two Laurels, and six Forsythia. Last year, six more Climbing Roses were added to beautify the fence and the view from the street. Also last year, a neighbor was hired to design and build a protected tool-storage rack concealed behind the compost bins. We now have regularly scheduled grass mowings for the paths and the common area near the Boardman gate, compost sorting, and three cleanups per season. Your standards for the garden's overall appearance have been very helpful in motivating us to encourage improvements in gardening practices on the part of individual gardeners. We've enclosed copies of the garden's Standards and "How Things Work" that were revised this past summer and await the vote of the membership at our March annual meeting. Also enclosed is a copy of the guidelines for children and teens.

We feel that our presence here, thanks to Squirrel Brand, is a boon to the community in terms of beautifying the neighborhood and helping to keep the streets safe through our visibility. We receive many compliments from visitors and passersby. Being able to garden at the Broadway-Boardman Community Garden has been a very rewarding experience in all our lives. Again, we would like to express how grateful we all are for the wonderful opportunity you have been providing, and hope you will continue to look on our use of this space as a positive contribution to the well-being of both your company and the community in general.

Best wishes,

Cheryl Bible

Cheryl Bible

Liz Layton

Liz Layton

Rebecca Ramsay

Rebecca Ramsay

Gabrielle Sichel

Gabrielle Sichel

Mary Stilwell

Mary Stilwell

Shannon Temple

Shannon Temple

Coordinating Committee
 Broadway-Boardman Community Garden



City of Cambridge

21.

IN CITY COUNCIL

March 23, 1998

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

WHEREAS: For many years, by the generosity of the Squirrel Brand Company on Broadway, many Cambridge residents have been able to garden at community garden plots adjacent to the Squirrel Brands factory; and

WHEREAS: The potential sale of the Squirrel Brands property on Broadway has caused concern among the community gardeners that new development or a new owner could remove this community asset; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager report to the Council about the current status of the property, including whether the City has plans to purchase the property or knows of plans by any other parties; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Council go on record in strong support of the continued use of the land for community gardens, an important cherished neighborhood and City asset.

CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY COUNCILLOR BORN.

Born #2

49 ✓

Ordered: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to consult with appropriate state departments to advise the council of the current and future status of funds for improvements at Magazine Beach with a possible timetable for these improvements.

#3

21

Whereas: For Many years by the generosity of the Squirrel Brand Company on Broadway, many Cambridge residents have been able to garden at Community Garden plots adjacent to the Squirrel Brands factory, and

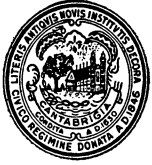
Whereas: The potential sale of the Squirrel brands property on Broadway has caused concern among the community gardeners that new development or a new owner could remove this community asset, and

Ordered: That the City Manager report to the council about the current status of the property, including whether the city has plans to purchase the property or knows of plans by any other parties, and be it further

Ordered: That the City Council go on record in strong support of the continued use of the land for community gardens, an important cherished neighborhood and city asset.

see attachment
2 pages

Attachment



City of Cambridge

21.

IN CITY COUNCIL

March 23, 1998

COUNCILLOR BORN

WHEREAS: For many years, by the generosity of the Squirrel Brand Company on Broadway, many Cambridge residents have been able to garden at community garden plots adjacent to the Squirrel Brands factory; and

WHEREAS: The potential sale of the Squirrel Brands property on Broadway has caused concern among the community gardeners that new development or a new owner could remove this community asset; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager report to the Council about the current status of the property, including whether the City has plans to purchase the property or knows of plans by any other parties; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Council go on record in strong support of the continued use of the land for community gardens, an important cherished neighborhood and City asset.

Consent Order #21

Cal. /
CM-140

Councillor Born re: continued use
of community garden plots adjacent
to Squirrel Brands factory on Broadway.

In City Council March 23, 1998

Charter Right
exercised by
Councillor Born

3/30/98

ORDER ADOPTED

As Amended