



City of Cambridge

64.

IN CITY COUNCIL

January 8, 1996

COUNCILLOR DAVIS
COUNCILLOR DUEHAY
COUNCILLOR TRIANTAFILLOU

WHEREAS: It has come to the attention of this City Council that neighborhood ingenuity and cooperation in Cambridgeport turned a winter parking war into an occasion for community spirit; and

WHEREAS: To solve the problem and ill-will of clashes over ownership claims for shovelled-out parking spaces, **Bob "Smitty" Smith, David Kemmet, Chris Augusta** and their Pleasant Street neighbors and friends got together and shovelled the entire block so that everyone would have room to park; and

WHEREAS: After two hours, the entire street was cleared, three cars had been completely dug out, and the volunteers celebrated with chili cooked by Smitty; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record honoring **Bob "Smitty" Smith, David Kemmet, Chris Augusta**, along with their participating friends and neighbors, for their community spirit and positive contribution to the quality of life of their neighborhood; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk forward suitably engrossed copies of this resolution to **Bob "Smitty" Smith, David Kemmet and Chris Augusta**.

In City Council January 8, 1996

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



City of Cambridge

64.

IN CITY COUNCIL

January 8, 1996

COUNCILLOR DAVIS
COUNCILLOR DUEHAY
COUNCILLOR TRIANTAFILLOU

WHEREAS: It has come to the attention of this City Council that neighborhood ingenuity and cooperation in Cambridgeport turned a winter parking war into an occasion for community spirit; and

WHEREAS: To solve the problem and ill-will of clashes over ownership claims ^{for} shovelled-out parking spaces, **Bob "Smitty" Smith, David Kemmet, Chris Augusta** and their Pleasant Street neighbors and friends got together and shovelled the entire block so that everyone would have room to park; and

WHEREAS: After two hours, the entire street was cleared, three cars had been completely dug out, and the volunteers celebrated with chili cooked by Smitty; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record ^{their} honoring **Bob "Smitty" Smith, David Kemmet, Chris Augusta**, along with the participating friends and neighbors for their community spirit and positive contribution to the quality of life of their neighborhood; and be it further ✓

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk forward suitably engrossed copies of this resolution to **Bob "Smitty" Smith, David Kemmet and Chris Augusta.**

In City Council January 8, 1996

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

C. Davis

64.

1/8/96
Late

Whereas: ~~That~~ It has come to the attention of this City Council that neighborhood ingenuity and cooperation in Cambridgeport turned a ~~dispute~~ winter parking war into an occasion of fine community spirit; and

Whereas: To solve the problem and ill-will of ^{ownership claims} clothes over, shovelled-out parking spaces, Bob "Smutzy" Smith, David Kemmet, Chris Augusta and their pleasant street neighbors and friends ^{got together and} shovelled the entire block so that everyone would have room to park; and ~~the~~

Whereas: After two hours the entire street was cleared, three cars ~~to~~ had been completely dug out, and the volunteers celebrated with chili cooked by Smutzy; now therefore be it

Resolved: That the City Council go on record honoring Bob "Smutzy" Smith, David Kemmet, Chris Augusta, along with their participation,

friends and neighbors for their
community spirit and positive contribution
to the quality of life of their
neighborhood; and be it further

Resolved: That the City Clerk ^{forward} ~~prepare~~ suitably
engraved copies of this resolution ~~to~~ to
Bob "Smitty" Smith, David Kennet^{mm} and
Chris Augusta

w/9

Parking space beef inspires shoveling party, chili reception

BY AMY MILLER
Chronicle Staff

A couple of local artists somehow turned a winter parking war into an occasion for community spirit that they hope can provide inspiration into the new year.

The problem began in a rage over space-saving blockades on Pleasant Street and ended over a chili meal among residents who say they ran an end-run against territorial neighbors.

The war began in 1995 when

artist Bob Smith got in trouble with his "joke" tickets that doubled as Christmas cards, bright orange cards that alerted car owners they were violating a law forbidding people from saving spaces.

Smitty, as Smith is known, didn't actually ticket anyone, but word of his Christmas cards got back to a few neighbors who think saving spaces is OK and did not think the joke was funny.

Making matters worse, Smitty tried unsuccessfully to convince a new neighbor and car owner not to join the still tiny club of local

folks who save spaces with cones, chairs and other assorted paraphernalia on that street.

Smith lost the first round.

"This guy came screaming at me," said Smith. "Later I got this really upsetting call on my machine and it was him growling at me."

But on the morning of Christmas Eve, Smitty and an artist friend came up with an antidote for the neighborhood dispute. Over coffee at the 1369 Coffee House in Central Square, Smith and artist David Kemmett decided

they would shovel out the entire block so everyone would have room to park.

Smith said he was inspired by an exhibit Kemmett was curating at the 1369. The show included works by "artists who feel alienated by society," people who find different ways to do things.

"The theme inspired this idea," said Smitty. "I thought if we just got a couple of homeless people and ourselves, I'd cook a big chili meal and we could shovel the whole street in an hour."

Kemmett, who is 37, and

Smith, who is in his 40s, enlisted the help of a couple of artists, two of them homeless, as well as friends and neighbors who wanted to help.

Smitty's landlord came running out with his shovel, one neighbor going out shopping stopped to shovel snow and another neighbor apologized he couldn't stay to help.

After two hours, the entire street was cleared and three cars had been completely dug out.

"We thought we might do something to diffuse the situation instead of inflate it," said Kemmett. "We had a vegetarian chili lunch and made a mini block party out of it."

Although the barrels were gone for Christmas, Smith noted that neighbors cannot guarantee a repeat performance each time it snows.

Around Boston and Cambridge, every neighborhood more or less faces the battle of barrels. The problem seems to appear where there are just about enough spaces for everyone, but not quite.

In areas with apartment buildings, the idea of saving a space would be absurd. And in West Cambridge, where streets are rarely crowded and many homes have garages, competition is not so fierce.

The Cambridge Department of

filled with chairs, cones, barrels and other articles saving spaces, estimated Ralph Dunphy, DPW commissioner.

The city makes it clear this practice is illegal, but the obstructions appear as sure as winter's snow. And in fact, there is no penalty for the violator except losing a barrier.

In fact, police spokesman Frank Pasquarello said he is sympathetic to the poor shoveler.

"If someone is shoveling three and half to four hours and they go around the block and come back and someone is in their space, you can understand their frustration," said Pasquarello.

Nonetheless, he said, "People do not own the street. You can be sympathetic, but you still have to obey the rules. No matter which way you look at it it's unfortunate but there's nothing we can do about it."

As Kemmett noted, "hostility comes out when its snowing [and then] well after snow melts away people are still trying to be territorial about these spaces."

But Kemmett and Smith ended the year happy to have turned hostility into good feelings.

"People talk about building a community and that's where it starts in little things like this," said Kemmett. "It was kind of a spiritual way to spend the holiday."

C. Davis

Resolutions

~~Amiga~~
Honoring Dave Kammes + Bob "Smitty"
Smith + Chris Augusta for shoveling

also Carol Fredericks for taking the
initiative to shovel out the
bus shelter ^{that serves} on Brookline St +
Erie St. that serves our citizens



City of Cambridge

64.

IN CITY COUNCIL

January 8, 1996

COUNCILLOR DAVIS
COUNCILLOR DUEHAY
COUNCILLOR TRIANTAFILLOU

WHEREAS: It has come to the attention of this City Council that neighborhood ingenuity and cooperation in Cambridgeport turned a winter parking war into an occasion for community spirit; and

WHEREAS: To solve the problem and ill-will of clashes over ownership claims shovelled-out parking spaces, **Bob "Smitty" Smith, David Kemmet, Chris Augusta** and their Pleasant Street neighbors and friends got together and shovelled the entire block so that everyone would have room to park; and

WHEREAS: After two hours, the entire street was cleared, three cars had been completely dug out, and the volunteers celebrated with chili cooked by Smitty; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record honoring **Bob "Smitty" Smith, David Kemmet, Chris Augusta**, along with the participating friends and neighbors for their community spirit and positive contribution to the quality of life of their neighborhood; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk forward suitably engrossed copies of this resolution to **Bob "Smitty" Smith, David Kemmet and Chris Augusta.**

In City Council January 8, 1996

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

D. Margaret Drury

ATTEST:-

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

Consent Order #64

R-47

Councillors Davis, Duehay and Triantafillou re: Special recognition to Bob "Smitty" Smith, David Kemmet, Chris Augusta, their community spirit and positive contribution to the quality of life of their neighborhood.

In City Council January 8, 1996

Order Adopted