



City of Cambridge

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IN CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Vellucci

May 3, 1976

WHEREAS:

The City of Cambridge, being located in the core of a metropolitan area and being densely built up, thus needing to place its emphasis on job opportunities, housing, and a sound tax base, and

WHEREAS:

The expansion of recreation open-space opportunities are limited; and

WHEREAS:

There exists within the City a number of formal leisure time programs sponsored by the Recreation Department, Community Schools, Library Department, Youth Resources Bureau, YMCA, YWCA, and Boy and Girl Scout Troops, which are attempting to meet as best as possible, the varied recreation needs of City residents, with extremely limited physical resources at their disposal often resulting in conflicts among recreational uses and excessive over use of facilities; and

WHEREAS:

The School Department provides field trips for students to enrich their history and science studies; supports after school programs at Cambridge High and Latin and Rindge Technical School in wilderness survival, and has a work-study educational program; and

WHEREAS:

Studies have identified that substantial additional recreation/open space lands are sorely needed to meet the varied leisure time needs of the city's residents; and

WHEREAS:

The City owns 600 acres of land around the Hobbs Brook Reservoir in Lexington, Lincoln and Waltham and around Stony Brook Reservoir in Weston and Waltham, strategically located between the Minute National Park and the Charles River; and

WHEREAS:

The observed widespread use of these reservoir lands for hiking, fishing, picnicing, cross country skiing, trail biking, and even camping clearly documents their substantial value for recreational purposes; and

WHEREAS:

Studies by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council have recommended that these reservoir lands be used for recreational purposes; and

WHEREAS:

The wildlife and waterfowl habitats offer significant nature study opportunities to the School Department, interested City residents, and other organizations in Cambridge; and

WHEREAS:

The City Council by Resolution on March 24, 1975 declared that the Hobbs Brook Reservoir was significant to the City as a wildlife refuge; and

WHEREAS:

There exists on City owned lands off Mill Street in Lincoln old mill sites of local historic significance which would be of educational value to the School Department and residents of Cambridge; and

WHEREAS:

Field studies conducted by consultants to the Massachusetts Department of Public Works have identified the potential existence of a pre-colonial archeological site partially located on City owned land between Mill Street and Hobbs Brook in Lincoln which may offer an unusual educational opportunity for various School Department programs; and

WHEREAS:

Minute Man National Park, and other historic sites, such as the William Benjamin House and Hoar Tavern are in close proximity to City owned land, thus providing a rich historical setting for school field trips and day excursions for Cambridge elderly; and

WHEREAS:

The reservoir lands contain a variety of flora and other plant life of value for nature study by City residents, and for their aesthetic pleasure; and

WHEREAS:

The use of these reservoir lands for various passive recreation activities by Cambridge residents, can significantly enrich the passive recreation program of the City, and can provide increased opportunities including hiking, fishing, viewing historical sites, etc.) for existing recreation programs conducted by City agencies and private organizations in Cambridge, thus enhancing but not in any way detracting from the on-going local recreation open space programs so vital to each neighborhood throughout the City; and

WHEREAS:

The Cambridge Water Board has retained consultants to develop a schematic plan and management program for recreation, wildlife refuge, nature study and educational use of the Hobbs Brook and Stony Brook Reservoirs compatible with the protection of the quality of the City's water supplies and the requirements of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That the City Council hereby finds that the Hobbs Brook and Stony Brook Reservoirs constitute an essential component of the City's recreation/open space resources plan and programs and that these reservoirs are locally significant as recreation areas, wildlife and waterfowl refuges, and that City owned land in Lincoln between Mill Street and Route 2 contain sites of historic significance and of potential archaeological value to the City;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the City Manager be requested to direct the Water Board, with assistance and advice from the Conservation Commission and any other City agency or Cambridge City organizations as may be deemed desirable, to go forward with a program responsive both to the varied recreational, educational and other leisure time needs of the City's residents, and to the year round and summer job needs of its youth; and to develop rules and regulations concerning the uses on the two reservoirs and to publicly post same in suitable and appropriate locations on the reservoirs as prudently and as expeditiously as possible;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the City Manager be requested to send copies of this resolution to the State Secretary of Transportation, Commissioner of Public Works, Secretary of Environmental Affairs, Commissioner of Environmental Quality Engineering, Commissioner of Environmental Management, Director of Conservation Services, Regional and Boston offices of the Federal Highway Administration and other appropriate Federal, State and Municipal officials;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the City Manager be requested to take whatever actions are necessary, including legal proceedings if necessary, to protect the recreational, wildlife, and other open space assets, and the quality and quantity of the waters of the Hobbs Brook and Stony Brook Reservoirs;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the City Manager be requested to investigate all possible State and Federal sources of funding for the development, maintenance and management of the Hobbs Brook and Stony Brook Reservoirs for recreational, wildlife and waterfowl refuges, educational and historical purposes and for their enhancement as water supplies; and to report to the City Council from time to time concerning the status of the multi-purpose development and use of the two reservoirs.

May 3, 1976
Adopted by the affirmative vote

of 9 members

Paul E. Walsh City Clerk

Order # 4 S-182

Mayor Vellucci resolution on Hobbs Brook
and Stony Brook Reservoirs.

In City Council,

May 3, 1976

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