



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

City Hall Annex

Inman & Broadway

EXTENSION ~~XXX~~ 9034

To The Honorable, The City Council and
James L. Sullivan, City Manager

From *Bellis Circle Wetland Area #9 Task Force **Date** July 25, 1980

Subject Progress Report

BACKGROUND

Pursuant to a vote by City Council on the proposal for a Task Force to oversee developments concerning Wetland Area #9, presented at its March 24, 1980 meeting, a Task Force was duly appointed by City Manager Sullivan as of April 7, 1980. The initial charge for this Task Force was presented in the remarks of Shippen Page before City Council on March 24, 1980.

The first meeting of the Task Force took place on Monday, April 4, 1980, with Edward Handy as Chairperson. The Task Force accepted as its goal the collection and analysis of pertinent data, followed by submission of recommendation to the City Manager to take place over a ninety (90) day period. This period expires on July 3, 1980.

SUMMARY

The Task Force has formally met twice; on April 4, and May 13; and numerous meetings and conversations--between Task Force members as well as with third parties--have also taken place. This memorandum will serve to update interested parties on progress to date and a description of the scope of work yet to be completed.

It is requested that appropriate action be taken to ensure that the Task Force continue to be recognized as the appropriate forum in which developments affecting Wetland Area #9 are considered, for such a time as proven necessary to finally resolve the issues identified herein, either expressly or by implication.

1. Timetable:

It is apparent that the ninety (90) day schedule established at the April 4, 1980 meeting was unrealistic. Complications and delays in the workings of the Task Force were many. Collection and organization of pertinent documents, identification of priorities, combined with scheduling delays with third parties - surveys of abutting property

*drafted by Shippen Page, reviewed by all members of the Task Force, and augmented, per comments, by Edward Handy

lines, and water samples - and the demands created by the Federal Census on Mr. Handy and the staff. As described below, while these prevented the Task Force from completing its objectives, important gains have been made. Task Force work has been postponed pending expeditious satisfactory resolution of the longer term objectives.

A) Short Term Objectives

- I. A forum was created for dialogue on developments affecting the wetland.
- II. Dumping in the wetland area ceased.
- III. The boundary of the wetland was identified.
- IV. The MBTA erected an eight (8) foot fence around the entire outer perimeter of the wetland area, tying in at either end with the fences of abutting Bellis Circle properties.
- V. Water quality tests were taken.

B. Longer Term Objectives

- I. Legal Status of Wetland - Present and Future
- II. Cambridge Conservation Commission's Order of Conditions.
- III. Data on Drainage and Flood Retention Capacity of Existing Wetland.

Future progress on these broader issues will require continued negotiations between members of the City Administration, the Cambridge Conservation Commission, the Department of Environmental Quality Engineering, the Attorney General's Office, the Task Force and various consultants. Unless and until there is resolution on the legal status of the wetland, the legal force of the CCC's order of conditions, and the nature and timing of additional data concerning the retention and detention values of the wetland in its present as well as proposed configuration, a stalemate will prevail.

Several moves are underway or under consideration which may, singly or in combination, permit resolution to occur.

1. Action by State Attorney General pursuant to DEQE request for AG to take action to protect the wetland against further intrusion. (Letter 4/30/80 of Thomas McLaughlin to Stephen Leonard, ESQ.)

On June 24, 1980, Susand Brand, Esq., Ass't. AG in charge of case advised that matter was under advisement but that no course of action had been decided upon at that time.

2. Meeting between consulting engineers of City, DPW and CCC respectively to determine proper scope and interpretation of CCC's Order of Conditions, to be held in September.

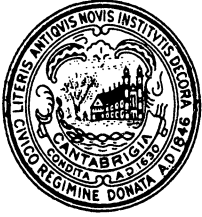
Scope of other related work to be completed:

1. Survey of abutting Bellis Circle property lines, as condition precedent to erection of fence on interior perimeter of wetland.
2. Closing of gap created at junction of perimeter fence and drainage pipe from wetland to Sherman Street.

Note: Since the initial drafting of this progress report, the City's survey of the line between its property and the Bellis Circle properties has gone forward and is nearly completed. The Public Works Department will notify the Task Force Chairman and Mr. Shippen Page as soon as the survey results are available for review. Additional items are:

1. MBTA has undertaken the work of closing the gap under the perimeter fence (see above).
2. Commissioner Fagone is preparing a memorandum to the Task Force on major issues under consideration.

cc: Task Force Members



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139
Tel. 498-9011

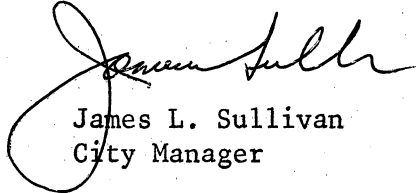
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
JAMES L. SULLIVAN
City Manager

September 8, 1980

To the Honorable, the City Council:

Enclosed for your information is a Progress Report from the
Bellis Circle Wetland Area #9 Task Force.

Very truly yours,



James L. Sullivan
City Manager

JLS/mbf
Enc.

Agenda # 7

S-408

Progress Report from the Bellis Circle
Wetland Area # 3 Task Force.

In City Council,

Sept. 8, 1980

- Placed on File -