

To: The Cambridge City Council
From: The Residents of Farwell Place
Re: Conversion of Street to Private Way
Date: 20 June 1991

JUL 20 PM 1:50
CAMBRIDGE MA.

Farwell Place is a small dead-end street with five dwellings consisting of eight residential units, as well as property owned by Harvard University and the Christ Church.

The street has eight "resident" parking spaces. At the end of the street there is no place in which vehicles can turn around. Cars and trucks must back down the street, creating a hazard for the two nursery schools renting space from the Christ Church and the five young children who permanently reside on the street.

At the corner of Farwell Place is 51 Brattle Street, to which the Harvard School for Continuing Education is being relocated. This will place enormous additional pressure on our fragile residential neighborhood as more people -- Cambridge residents and now students -- search for parking spaces.

For the above reasons, we, the undersigned owners^{of} residential property on Farwell Place, respectfully request that the City of Cambridge allow the conversion of our street to a private way, beginning at the property line dividing 10 and 12 Farwell Place and running to the end of the cul de sac. The residential unit, 10 Farwell Place, owned by Elizabeth Bartholet, has a driveway and garage and would not be included in the private way.

The first half of the street would remain a public way with its existing parking meters, allowing access to the parking lots of the Gutman Library and the rear of 51 Brattle Street.

Daniel Aaron
12 Farwell Place. Owner: Daniel Aaron

Persi Diaconis
14 Farwell Place. Owner: Persi Diaconis

Judy Bookwalter
18-20 Farwell Place. Owner: Judy Bookwalter

Olive Holmes
22 Farwell Place. Owner: Olive Holmes

Deanne Peterson
24 Farwell Place. Owner: Deanne Peterson

(more)

Kathy Spiegelman, head of Physical Planning for Harvard University, supports the conversion of the residential portion of Farwell Place to a private way, but said she must first obtain permission from higher authorities at Harvard before she can affix her signature to this petition.

The Christ Church has not yet been polled.

Although the signatures of all property owners on Farwell Place do not yet appear on this petition, it is our understanding that this petition will start the process of the street's conversion to a private way, in which all abutters will be notified and their comments sought.

Our first choice for this problem would be to have Farwell Place designated "parking for residents only."



HARVARD LAW SCHOOL

CAMBRIDGE · MASSACHUSETTS · 02138

October 3, 1991

City of Cambridge Planning Board
City Hall Annex
57 Inman St.
Cambridge, MA 02139

Re: Farwell Place conversion

Dear Sirs:

I am writing with respect to the Petition for conversion of Farwell Place from a public way to a private way, discussed at the public hearing held Oct. 1, 1991.

As indicated at that hearing, I am interested in amending the Petition so that the street in front of my property, #10 Farwell Place, would be included in the conversion. I am affected as are the other residents of Farwell Place by the cars that come down the street and the danger they pose. Indeed I am particularly affected by the traffic since my house is the closest to the entrance to Farwell Place and since the cars tend to use my driveway to turn around after their usually unsuccessful attempt to find a parking place. They also regularly park so as to block my driveway, thereby preventing me from exiting. I am the mother of two of the young children on the street for whom the traffic poses particular dangers. If Farwell Place is to be converted it would be irrational and inappropriate to draw the line between public and private way between #10 and #12. Not only do I have the same kinds of concerns as my neighbors, but #s 10 and 12 are in fact two condominiums which are part of the same physical house.

Quite obviously, as was made clear at the 10/1/91 hearing, my neighbors have no objection to my inclusion in the Petition.

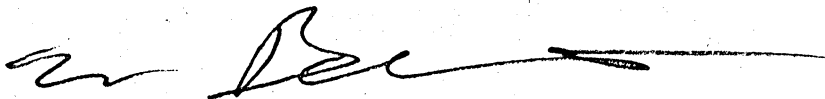
While I support the conversion of Farwell Place to a private way (from #10 to the dead end) for the reasons indicated above, I would prefer that the street be instead designated for parking by Farwell Place residents only. I think that it would be preferable, if possible, to retain City services. The real problems posed by the current situation have entirely to do with the fact that non-residents in

large numbers are regularly attempting to park on this tiny street which in fact can rarely provide any spaces at all to them.

I respectfully request that in whatever comments or report you pass on to the City Council you clarify the fact that both at your hearing and in this letter I have asked that for purposes of any conversion to private way status or any change in parking regulations governing Farwell Place, the street space in front of #10 be provided equal treatment with the space from #12 to the end of the dead end.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Elizabeth Bartholet', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Elizabeth Bartholet
10 Farwell Place
Cambridge, MA 02138
495-3128 (o)
864-4593 (h)



HARVARD LAW SCHOOL

CAMBRIDGE • MASSACHUSETTS • 02138

RECEIVED
CITY CLERK
OCT -8 AM 9:35

CAMBRIDGE MA.

October 3, 1991

City Council
c/o City Clerk
795 Mass. Ave.
Cambridge, MA 02139
Attn. John Flynn

Dear Sirs/Madams:

Re: Farwell Place conversion

My understanding is that the City Council will ultimately hold a hearing and rule on a Petition that has been filed by my neighbors to convert Farwell Place from a public to a private way.

I am writing to request that: (1) the Petition be amended to include my property, #10 Farwell Place; (2) consideration be given instead to the alternative proposal discussed at the recent City Planning Board hearing held 10/1/91 to amend the parking status of Farwell Place so as to limit parking to residents only without converting it from a public to a private way.

I made these requests at the 10/1/91 hearing, and reaffirmed them by letter of 10/3/91, spelling out my reasons (see attached letter).

Those reasons are as follows. As indicated at that hearing, I support the Petition and am interested in amending it so that the street in front of my property, #10 Farwell Place, would be included in any conversion. I am affected as are the other residents of Farwell Place by the cars that come down the street and the danger they pose. Indeed I am particularly affected by the traffic since my house is the closest to the entrance to Farwell Place and since the cars tend to use my driveway to turn around after their usually unsuccessful attempt to find a parking place. They also regularly park so as to block my driveway, thereby preventing me from exiting. I am the mother of two of the young children on the street for whom the traffic poses particular dangers. If Farwell Place is to be converted it would be irrational and inappropriate to draw the line between public

and private way between #10 and #12. Not only do I have the same kinds of concerns as my neighbors, but #s 10 and 12 are in fact two condominiums which are part of the same physical house.

Quite obviously, as was made clear at the 10/1/91 hearing, my neighbors have no objection to my inclusion in the Petition.

While I support the conversion of Farwell Place to a private way (from #10 to the dead end) for the reasons indicated above, I would prefer that the street be instead designated for parking by Farwell Place residents only. I think that it would be preferable, if possible, to retain City services. The real problems posed by the current situation have entirely to do with the fact that non-residents in large numbers are regularly attempting to park on this tiny street which in fact can rarely provide any spaces at all to them.

Please notify me of any additional action I need take. And please notify me of any hearing or other opportunity we might have to relate our concerns in connection with these matters.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elizabeth Bartholet', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Elizabeth Bartholet
10 Farwell Place
Cambridge, MA 02138
495-3128 (o)
864-4593 (h)

#203

CONSENT COMMUNICATIONS

10.

Communication received from Elizabeth Bartholet, 10 Farwell Place, requesting that her property be included in the petition to convert Farwell Place from a public to a private way.

12/9/91- Placed on file
without prejudice

In City Council,

October 21, 1991

Referred to the
petition.