



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

To Mr. James L. Sullivan
City Manager

Date March 19, 1975

From Conrad Fagone, Commissioner PWD

Reference

Subject: Use of Fertilizers at Playgrounds, Parks, and Cemetery

Recently an order has been passed by the City Council to eliminate the use of fertilizers in the Parks, Playgrounds, and Cemetery. I request reconsideration by Cambridge to this order, as it would cause many problems without the use of fertilizers. Some of these problems would be:

- (1) excessive burning of grass
- (2) death and decay of flowers, shrubs, and trees
- (3) poor appearance of many public areas

With the bicentennial celebration and general cleaning of our public lands, I feel it would be wrong to totally eliminate fertilizer use by the City. I do propose the following:

- (1) we reduce the amount used in all areas within an approximate reduction to 60% of the previous quantity
- (2) complete reduction in all ^{non}~~non~~ essential areas such as, areas ^{not} readily visible to the general public

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COMM. SEC. T.
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CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

To Mr. James L. Sullivan,
City Manager

Date March 27, 1975

From Mr. Paul G. Cowles,
Supt. of Recreation

Reference

Subject Use of fertilizer at Golf Course and Cemetery

An order dated November 11, 1974, was adopted by the City Council whereby the use of fertilizer is not permitted at the Fresh Pond Golf Course and at the Cemetery this spring.

I feel that this Order is not in the best interest of the City of Cambridge for the following reasons:

1. Fertilizer is a necessity for the greens at the Golf Course, and without fertilizer, the greens become weak, are susceptible to disease, and quickly overrun with weeds. Replacement cost is \$8,000. - \$10,000.00 per green.
2. Tees at the Golf Course represent small areas subject to much foot traffic. The absence of fertilizer on tees will result in tees having little grass but much dirt.
3. The fairways at the Golf Course have a built-in irrigation system, and in most cases a two to three inch only loam surface. The fairway grass must have not only water but also fertilizer to survive. Without fertilizer, the fairways will soon suffer and become prone to disease and weeds.

I recognize the purpose and intent of the order. I suggest that the use of fertilizer at the Golf Course be restricted to a monthly basis on the greens and tees, and to only spring and fall use of fertilizer on the fairways.

Thanks,
Paul



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139
Tel. 876-6800

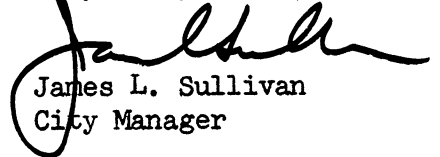
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
JAMES L. SULLIVAN
City Manager

April 14, 1975

To the Honorable, the City Council:

Enclosed for your information is a reply from Conrad Fagone and Paul Cowles regarding the City Council order relative to the elimination of the use of fertilizer. The reports basically indicate that while the total elimination of fertilizer is not feasible due to the potentially destructive effect on expensive areas such as golf course greens, a major reduction in the use of fertilizer will be put into effect.

Very truly yours,



James L. Sullivan
City Manager

JLS: ngw

Enc.

Agenda # 3

147

RE: use of fertilizer.

In City Council,

April 14, 1975

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