



City of Cambridge

5.

IN CITY COUNCIL

September 27, 1993

COUNCILLOR DUEHAY
COUNCILLOR WOLF
VICE-MAYOR CYR

WHEREAS: The Lexington Conservation Commission has issued numerous orders to stop oil and salt runoff from the State Department of Public Works garage off route 2A and 128 next to the drinking water supply for Cambridge; and

WHEREAS: The State DPW has for many years repeatedly ignored these orders; and

WHEREAS: A recent inspection by the Lexington Conservation Commission has found further deterioration of conditions at the DPW site; an increased number of maintenance vehicles stored there leaking oil, having been transferred from the facility closed in Wellesley; and

WHEREAS: The recent inspection also found that salt was still being stored in barns whose floors had rotted out; and

WHEREAS: The DPW has not complied with the order of the Lexington Conservation Commission to create a holding pond to collect the runoff of contaminants and to remove a gasoline tank buried at the site; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Cambridge City Council commend the Lexington Conservation Commission for its efforts to protect the Cambridge water supply; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Governor and Commissioner of Public Works be further informed that this City Council respectfully requests an immediate cessation of activity at this site, that the entire site be cleaned up, and that the state DPW facility be moved to another site where it does not constitute a threat to a public water supply; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to take immediate administrative action to enforce this council resolution by seeking appropriate meetings with state appointed and elected officials; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk send copies of this resolution to all members of the Cambridge legislative delegation asking them to take all action within their power to remedy this situation forthwith; and be it further

RESOLVED: That unless the City Manager reports to the City Council by November 1 that substantial progress has been made toward the resolution of this matter, the City Council schedule a public hearing on this matter at 7:00 p.m. on Monday evening, November 15, to which meeting the following should be invited:

1. Representative of the Governor of the Commonwealth;
2. Commissioner of Public Works of the Commonwealth;
3. Commissioner of Public Health of the Commonwealth;
4. Lexington Conservation Commission;
5. Cambridge Water Board;
6. Cambridge Conservation Commission;
7. Commission of Health & Hospitals;
8. Executive Director of Cambridge Environmental Program;
9. City Solicitor;
10. Other Cambridge staff as determined by the City Manager.

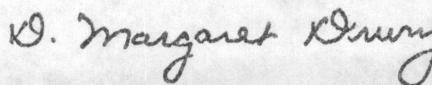
In City Council September 27, 1993.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-



D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

Board demands cleanup

By Art Ballou
Staff Correspondent

Disturbed by failure of the state to carry out promised cleanup operations at the Department of Public Works maintenance yard off Route 128 in Lexington, conservation commissioners fired off an enforcement order to the director of the state's Environmental Act Program.

By unanimous vote at its Tuesday night meeting, the commission instructed Conservation Department administrator Marilyn Nordby to issue the order and she complied Wednesday.

The action was taken following a report by commission members Dr. Robert Stewart and Angela Frick, who visited the DPW maintenance complex Monday to check on the progress of the cleanup procedure which they said had been agreed to nearly two months ago.

"We were shocked," Stewart said. "Not only had nothing been done, conditions were a great deal worse. Several trucks which had not been parked there the last time we visited were there and all of them were leaking oil."

Stewart said that a worker explained that the DPW maintenance yard in Wellesley had been closed and much of the equipment that had been stored there shifted to Lexington.

He informed Stewart and Frick that the move was part of the Weld Administration's privatization plan, and he said there are persistent rumors that "we are going to be next."

"Within two weeks, all of us may be getting pink slips."

Stewart said, "We were told what was obvious, that nothing had been done and that as far as the workers at the yard knew, nothing was going to be done."

The commission's concerns are that oil and salt have been continually emitted virtually on the edge of a large wetlands area.

"We had complained and conferred off and on for about two years to the state and have had state representatives at our meetings several times," Stewart said. "Finally, a couple of months ago, we were given assurance that a cleanup would start and we felt the issue had been resolved."

Commission member Philip Hamilton recommended that the board take immediate action.

"They have ignored the order of conditions we gave them weeks ago. We should issue the order of enforcement right away," he said.

Acting on Hamilton's motion, the commission voted unanimously to do so.

Norby said the city of Cam-

bridge also has been seriously concerned because of the proximity to the Cambridge Reservoir, and that Cambridge officials had teamed up with Lexington in negotiations with the state.

With regard to the reports on possible closing of the Lexington facility, commission member Frick said, "That's not enough. Whether it closes or it doesn't close, the state has the responsibility of cleaning up the mess and the threat to the environment."

One Lexington worker scoffed at claims by the state that \$3 million had been saved by privatizing highway maintenance in Essex County last year.

"They are still using DPW personnel, too, up there. In effect, they are using two workforces to serve one entity," he said. "They can farm out bit jobs such as repaving roads to the big contractors, but when it comes to the nitty-gritty work such as filling pot holes, fixing and cleaning catch basins, that's what we DPW guys do. We do what the sign on the truck over there says we do," and he pointed to a sign that read, "Mass. Highway Dept. Incidence Response."

Transportation secretary James Kerasiotes announced early this week that the state is allowing both public workers unions and private firms to bid for road and bridge contracts.

Boston
Sunday
9-12-93

ANDY DABILIS

Political Notebook

Lexington environmentalists angry at DPW's fouling of water

Lexington conservation officials are fuming over what they said are delays by the state Highway Department in complying with an order to stop runoff of oil and salt at a state Department of Public Works garage off routes 2A and 128 next to the drinking water supply for Cambridge.

"It's very frustrating," said Joyce Miller, the chairwoman of the Lexington Conservation Commission. She said board members Angela Frick and Bob Stewart were inspecting a wetlands area near the DPW garage last November and discovered the conditions, but subsequently found further violations, leading to an enforcement order last week from the commission.

Frick said she was appalled to find salt was stored in barns whose floors had rotted out, and that oil was leaking from stored equipment. The commission initially issued an order, which she said has been ignored, before last week's further citation.

"The DPW yards should never have been located there, but this was before there was such environmental awareness," said Frick. She said the enforcement order stipulates that "they must stop all activity adversarial to the wetlands until the conditions have been fulfilled."

A spokeswoman for the DPW, Chrysa Arvanitidis, said many of the problems cited by the Conservation Commission were being corrected. "It's been a long-standing issue and we've worked diligently to meet all the demands." She said a new barn to house the salt will eventually be constructed and trucks will not be stored on the premises.

Still, Miller said, "We're terribly angry." She said other violations have been discovered that could affect the wetlands, and the water in the Cambridge Reservoir. "People who work those areas need environmental training. They need to be aware of the damage that can be done by letting salt leak into the Cambridge water supply," she said.

The area is near a proposed widening of Route 2A and is surrounded by wetlands on either side. Frick said she was surprised last year to discover the DPW had enlarged its storage facility and operations there.

Miller said one of the orders with which the DPW was supposed to comply was the creation of a holding pond to collect the runoff of contaminants. The DPW has not done this, and furthermore, a gasoline tank is buried at the site, she said.

Sept. 26 rally against Hanscom to take place in Lexington

The effort to stop even the idea of expanding Hanscom Field in Bedford is reaching beyond Lexington, Lincoln, Concord and Bedford, the four towns contiguous to the field. A rally led by People Against Hanscom Expansion is planned for Sept. 26 at 12:30 p.m. at Minuteman National Park Visitors Center in Lexington, and is expected to draw residents from beyond the four towns. There will be a march to Hanscom as well.

Charlotee Sagoff, president of Action Citizens for En-

vironmental Safety, said her group will be represented. ACES member Jack Ormsbee said people in his town are worried about the impact of Hanscom being a major reliever airport for Boston's Logan Airport.

"The scope of the impact of whatever happens at Hanscom will affect far more than the four towns. The public impact into that has been unduly restricted. Aircraft noise is no respecter of town boundaries. There has been a fixed focus on the four surrounding towns and there's a hell of a lot more people involved," he said.

Meg Landsman of Lexington, an organizer of the event for People Against Hanscom Expansion, said opponents of expansion are worried. "This place is saturated with significant natural resources. We feel we're almost the guardian of those." And, she said, "We're interested in getting the politicians involved." She said she also expects some residents from Carlisle to attend the rally.

What's making residents around the field fret is a recent study whose data showed Hanscom could be expanded significantly, although state agencies who oversee the field say no conclusion has been reached. Sagoff said her group is worried that expansion would create environmental problems over a large, heavily populated area, including Acton.

Landsman's group has started a fund-raising effort to support possible legal challenges. There will be door-to-door canvassing in the communities. And Lexington selectmen have approved allocating half the jet fuel tax Hanscom pays to the town to fight any expansion plans.

Party bigwigs and money key players in 14th Essex race

The intense race for the seat of Rep. Joseph Hermann, the North Andover Democrat who died earlier this year, is revolving around money as the candidates, Republican Donna Fournier Cuomo and Democrat Mark DiSalvo, head into Tuesday's election for the 14th Essex House District.

State records show Cuomo pulled in \$16,712 in funds in the last three weeks, compared with \$7,518 for DiSalvo, with about 40 percent of her money coming from outside the district, which includes North Andover, Middleton and an area of South Lawrence. About 23 percent of DiSalvo's money was from contributors who don't live in the district. Cuomo has raised a total of \$28,084, including a \$2,000 loan from herself, while DiSalvo raised \$19,894, including a loan from himself of \$1,630.

Short takes

North Reading's fall Town Meeting could be the busiest they've had in years, with more than 30 warrant articles submitted. The meeting begins Oct. 4 at the high school auditorium... The secretary of state's office has ruled that a settlement between Chelmsford town manager Bernie Lynch and former secretary Beth Kinney, who sued him for alleged sexual harassment, is confidential and that the public has no right to know the details, although a sum was paid her by the town's insurance carrier. Some of the town's selectmen remain mightily displeased that they don't know either.

Duly

Amendment.
to #5

Further, that unless the City Manager
reports to the City Council by November
1 that substantial progress has been made
toward the resolution of this resolution matter

the City Council schedule a public hearing
on this matter at 7pm on Monday
evening, Nov. 15, to which meeting
the following shall be invited.

1. ~~Commissioner of~~ Representatives of the
Governor of the Commonwealth.
2. Commissioners of Public Works of the
Commonwealth
3. Commissioners of Public Health of the
Commonwealth.
4. Lexington Conservation Commission
5. Cambridge Water Board
6. Cambridge Conservation Commission
7. Commission of Health + Hospitals
8. Exec. Dir. of Cambridge Program
9. City Solicitor
10. Other Cambridge staff as determined
by the City Manager.

CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

159 THORNDIKE STREET CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02141



MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 23, 1993

TO: Superintendent Mary Lou McGrath

FROM: Bert Giroux, Director of Public Information *BG*

RE: Catherine Howard Memorial Dedication
September 27 - 2:45 p.m. - Longfellow School

Please be advised that a dedication ceremony is scheduled at the Longfellow Elementary School in memory of former teacher Catherine Howard. Ms. Howard served at the Longfellow from 1947 to 1968 and passed away in 1989.

The ceremony will begin at 2:45 p.m. at the school. Attached is an agenda for the event.

We look forward to your participation.

AHG:j
Attachment

cc: Mayor Reeves
C. Rodley, Sec. School Committee
F. Foley, Dir. Elem. Ed.
M. Otaró-Alvarez, Principal Longfellow School
S. Spooner, Asst. Supt.
P. Murphy, Asst. Supt.
S. Albano, City Council

Non-Consent

City Councillor Francis H. Duehay

For City Council Meeting of September 27, 1993

Whereas the Lexington Conservation Commission has issued numerous orders to stop oil and salt runoff from the State Department of Public Works garage off routes 2A and 128 next to the drinking water supply for Cambridge;

Whereas the State DPW has for years repeatedly ignored these orders;

Whereas a recent inspection by the Lexington Conservation Commission has found further deterioration of conditions at the DPW site: an increased number of maintenance vehicles stored there leaking oil, having been transferred from a facility closed in Wellesley;

Whereas the recent inspection also found that salt was still being stored in barns whose floors had rotted out;

Whereas the DPW has not complied with the order of the Lexington Conservation Commission to create a holding pond to collect the runoff of contaminants and to remove a gasoline tank buried at the site;

Resolved that the Cambridge City Council commend the Lexington Conservation Commission for its efforts to protect the Cambridge water supply;

Resolved that the Governor and Commissioner of Public Works of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts be informed that their inattention to removing this hazard threatens the public health of Cambridge citizens;

Resolved that the Governor and Commissioner of Public Works be further informed that this City Council respectfully requests an immediate cessation of activity at this site, that the entire site be cleaned up, and that the state DPW facility be moved to another site where it does not constitute a threat to a public water supply;

Resolved that the City Manager be and hereby is requested to take immediate administrative action to enforce this council resolution by seeking appropriate meetings with state appointed and elected officials;

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NORTHWEST WEEKLY



City of Cambridge

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COUNCILLOR DUEHAY

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Cyr, Wolf
Non-Consent Order # 5

R-43A

Councillor Duehay re: orders to stop oil
and salt runoff from the State Department
of Public Works garage next to the drinking
water supply for Cambridge.

In City Council,

Sept. 27, 1993

Adopted as amended