

Pallas Lombardi
Executive Director, Cambridge Arts Council
57 Inman St.
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Pallas Lombardi;

As a daily user of the Fresh Pond Reservation, I am most distressed to learn of the public art project for the weir house location. The proposed art work--which, I understand, has no bearing on water quality for the city--seems inappropriate for a number of reasons.

1) Loss of recreational space for the citizens of Cambridge. There are only two lawn areas (besides the soccer field) available to users of the reservation--and these are heavily frequented. The proposed fence--obligatory, apparently, to protect both the art work and the water--would cut users off from half the space of the current lawn. I know that for reasons of grading, the present path around the reservoir will move up into that lawn space, but only by a few feet--nowhere near the area marked on the art-work blueprint.

2) Security--for water and for people. There is NO WAY, without 24-hour policing (and who would want that in the park?), to keep people from defacing the art work (as they do the weir house) and to keep them on the "proper" side of the fence. People will climb the fence, endangering themselves and the water, wade in the pools, throw detritus in them, etc. (The proposed fence would be invitation to climb. Even today people climb the reservoir fence at night or early in the morning, sometimes in broad daylight--to swim, fish, picnic.)

3) I believe in the idea of the public art project, but I believe that the Arts Council's major goal should be to underwrite a project in or near the new water treatment plant which will have more and better facilities to welcome the public and to educate reservation users about water treatment. For off-site art, I urge a more modest project; a series of drinking fountains, for example (I understand that at the moment there are plans for only one), around the 2-mile reservoir walk could be an attractive, useful, and non-intrusive way to make a statement about water and water usage.

4) Finally, esthetically, I find that the proposed art work, though lovely in itself, does not fit with the look of the site for which it is proposed. As straight and abrupt as a coal chute in an area of hills and rambling curves, its line is jarring and its sleekness out of character with its rustic surroundings. The water company's original plan was for a wholly subterranean placement of these pipes. **Please** review and reconsider the original design.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours truly,

1. Timothy Sawyer
326 Walden St.
02138
2. Cheryl Corcoran, MD
304 Walden St.
02138
3. Joan Welch
50 Park Ave
02138
4. Martha Kingsbury
19 Magnolia Ave.
02138
5. Nina Lamb Vezzoli
99 Melendy Ave
Watertown 02172
(moving to Cambridge)
6. Paul Farwell
503 Huron Ave #2
02138
7. Bonnie T. Solomon
1 Newport Road #1
02140
8. Scott Leibs
44 Gold Star Road
02140
9. Karen Ogden
124 Aberdeen Ave
02138
10. Alma Triner
150 Radcliffe Rd.
Belmont 02178
(moving to Cambridge)
11. Susan Cory
17 Arlington St.
Cambridge
12. Douglas Bellow
11 Royal Ave.
02138
13. Regina Hammond
6 Craigie Circle #43
02138
14. Deborah Abramson
61 Garfield St #11
02138
15. Nancy Dalrymple
164 Vassal Lane
02138
16. Elaine Morse
95 Inman St.
02139
17. Amy K. West
110 Coolidge Hill Rd.
Watertown 02172
18. Judith Rosen
196 Larch Rd.
02138
19. Michael E. Reed
19 Fresh Pond Place
02138
20. Kimberly Crandall
105 Oxford St.
02138
21. Barbara Currier
148 Lexington Ave
02138
22. Elizabeth Rehfeld
87 Bristol St.
02139
23. J.E. Bauman
474 Huron Av #1
02138
24. Madeleine Tinmin
109 Fresh Pond Pkwy
02138
25. Melinda Walsh
31 Chilton St.
02138
26. Hugh Phillips
35 Walden St. apt 22
02140

27. Marja Lianko
147 Cushing St. #3
02138

28. Pauline Maier
60 Larchwood Drive
02138

29. James Hemmerly, A.I.A.
76 Walden St. apt 1
Cambridge

30. Ann B. Murphy
17 Leonard Ave.
02139

31. Gary Rothberger
19 Orrin St.
02138

32. Laurel Lhowe
9 Lowell St
02138

33. Joan Shaughnessy
94 Aberdeen Ave
02138

34. Betsy F. Moeller-Sally
51 Mt. Pleasant St.
02140

35. Holly Hatton
204 Larch Rd.
02138

36. Vincent Chin
11 Chilton St. #2
02138

37. Nina C. Wilson
125C Oxford St.
Cambridge 02140

38. Patrick A. Wilson
same as above

39. Ann Monaghan
41 Blakeslee St
02138

40. Laurence H. Tribe
5 Ash St.
02138

41. Carolyn K. Tribe
same as above

Signatures collected
July 3 and July 4, 1997

42. JEFF AND PAT WRIGHT
106 LARCH RD
CAMBRIDGE 02138

43. PETER CASLER
104 HOLWORTHY ST
02138

44. LORI M. GRAHAM
57 GRANVILLE RD
02138

45. MANLEY BEYZ
54 RICE ST.
02140

46. PETER BAPTISTE
17 FRESH POND PKWY
02138

47. KIMBERLY SYMAN
12 WENDELL ST. #10
02138

48. M. MEGAN O'CONNELL
2 AVON STREET
02138

49. JAN E. FORTE
650 HURON AVE
02138

50. ANNA B. SAFRAN
87 ALPINE ST.
CAMBRIDGE 02138

RECEIVED BY
OFFICE OF CITY CLERK

97 JUL 31 AM 8:28

CAMBRIDGE MA.

59
30 July 1997

123 FRESH POND PARK

CAMBRIDGE 02138

354-8273

City Council

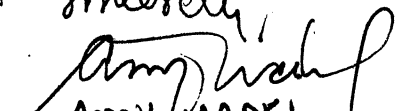
Cambridge MA 02138

Attached please find a letter which was sent to the Cambridge Arts Council by about fifty Cambridge residents (individually), along with a list of those who sent this letter regarding the proposed art project at the Fresh Pond Reservation.

These signatories are among many users who have expressed reservations about the project. The primary concerns involve loss of usable open space, siting/accessibility, and security of the water supply.

While we appreciate the work and intentions of the Arts Council in general, we would suggest that the Council consider situating the art project near the Water Treatment Plant, for the reasons cited above.

I hope the Council (City Council) will address this at the City Council meeting on August 4, 1997. Sincerely,


AMY WADEL

Consent Communications #59

S-480

Communication was received from Amy Nadel, transmitting a list of those who sent a letter to the Arts Council regarding the proposed art project at the Fresh Pond Reservation.

In City Council August 4, 1997

Referred to
City Manager