

6/5/97

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97 JUN -9 PM 12: 09

CAMBRIDGE MA.

Mike Nicoloro
Cambridge Water Department
250 Fresh Pond PKWY
Cambridge MA

Re: Fresh Pond Reservoir Maintenance and Improvements Program

Dear Mr. Nicoloro;

I want to thank you for the effort made to present the Proposed Master Plan to the public and the interest shown toward involving and educating the public. You have a tough job ahead and I wish you all the best luck and success.

Following are a few comments and questions for your consideration:

1. The Draft Master Plan states in the last sentence of paragraph III, "For most people, the importance and connection of this site for public water supply has been lost". I would like to say that if the fence that surrounds every foot of the shore line does not connect people to the importance "water supply", I don't think anything will reconnect them. This may be a pessimistic attitude, but I would question the approach of adding to and manipulating the built environment in the effort to enhance peoples' connection to the natural environment.
2. Paragraph III states, "Natural and scenic qualities are currently underutilized and unprotected from overuse." This seems to be a paradox, and I don't understand what this statement recommends to the master plan goals or solutions. Maybe a lower level of utilization is a good thing, and efforts should not be made to promote increased use.
3. Shoreline Restoration and Selective Clearing has been discussed at great length, and as I understand it, will eventually be done around the entire shoreline. As I walk the path, looking at the condition of the shore, I have to question the intent. I am seeing a rocky bank, in some cases bound together by roots, while signs of erosion are scarce. Will there be any attempt to leave areas where rip-rap or rock banks are in good condition, or where root structures have created a natural bank stabilization? I can imagine that the selective clearing will result in the saving of a tree here and a tree there, saving only those trees considered to be 'specimens'. Does this mean that there will not be any sections of thick vegetation as it is now? The naturalized vegetation on the shore seems to be important to the nesting birds, as well as providing water fowl with cover, protection, and privacy.
4. I am intrigued by the idea of returning Lusitania field to its natural state of 'wetlands'. But, I am also sympathetic with the need for playing fields in the city. I would like to propose a middle ground: reduce the existing adult field to one junior field and restore a sliver of wetland along the edge of the woods so coveted by the nesting birds. This would provide a field for the Youth Soccer League, and it would reduce the wear to the field resulting from adult soccer (which seems to prevent the sod from growing).
5. The staging of construction materials at Lusitainia field may cause some safety and access problems between the path using public and the traffic of construction materials and

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equipment. Is this much space necessary and might it be safer to close the parking at the north end of the treatment plant and turn that space over to construction staging?

6. Will there be a public review and comment period on the proposed Public Art project?

Thank you for taking the time to hear our interests and concerns.

Ben Wilson *BW*
123 Fresh Pond Pkwy
Cambridge MA 02138
354-8273 email: bwilson @ prellchil.com

cc: Chip Norton
Town Clerk

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S-377
Consent Communication #9

Communication was received from Ben Wilson,
123 Fresh Pond Parkway, transmitting his
interest and concerns regarding Fresh Pond
Reservoir Maintenance and Improvements
Program.

In City Council June 16, 1997.

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