

Slaney went to the front of the room and asked if anyone wished to call for a vote challenging Mr. Boulrice's ruling that the meeting was adjourned. Someone did move to continue the meeting. I don't recall whether that motion was discussed after being seconded, however it passed by a very large majority. Mr Boulrice and some of those aligned with him either had left or were then in the process of leaving. I have no doubt that even if everyone had remained, the vote to continue would still have passed by a quite substantial majority.

The next order of business was to elect a chair. I believe that only Mr. Slaney was nominated. He presided as chair throughout the remainder of the meeting.

Absent any bylaws of the CSNC (We had tried for more than a month to obtain the bylaws—to no avail.), we then had to decide on the conduct of the meeting. I do not recall whether we formally agreed to follow normal parliamentary procedures, but if not there was a clear consensus to do so. We had to decide on an agenda. A large majority voted to adopt the original agenda that had been announced for the meeting (see p.1), beginning with the election.

Someone — probably Mr. Hoicka — placed the alternative slate in nomination. This consisted of 11 persons: Ellen Al-Weqayan, Jon Bekken, Niels Burger, Bill Cunningham, David Hoicka, Mykol Larvie, George Salzman, Jay Scheide, Dave Slaney, Wattie Taylor, and Elizabeth Washburn. I then placed the original slate (Boulrice et al) in nomination. Mr. Slaney called for further nominations. None were forthcoming. Someone moved to close the nominations. It was seconded and voted.

Someone questioned the difference in the two slates. The Boulrice-headed slate had four officers and eight directors; the alternative slate had eleven directors, none of whom were designated as officers. The chair suggested that this be handled, since the vote was for entire slates rather than individuals, as a vote for a set of directors. It would then be left to the elected board to designate its officers. The issue was not further discussed. Someone wished to nominate another person for the alternative slate (to equalize the numbers at twelve each), but the chair ruled that nominations had been closed, and was not challenged.

A difficulty in carrying out the election was that we did not have the list of members. When Mr. Boulrice and those who followed him left the meeting they removed the lists, both of previously paid-up members (like myself) and of members who paid at the desk when entering the meeting room. This latter group included both old members who had not yet paid their current dues, and new members formally joining CSNC by paying their first-time dues.

The chair ruled that in the absence of by-laws, the people entitled to vote were those who had become members before the start of the meeting. This appeared to be consistent with the previous practice at CSNC annual meetings, which did not discriminate against new members in the matter of voting rights. The chair cautioned — and urged — that only those entitled to vote should do so.

Prior to the vote the names of the individuals on each of the two slates were written on a large blackboard, and the chair asked each of the candidates to identify him- or herself.

The vote was then conducted by secret ballot, with each voter bringing the folded ballot to the table at the front of the room, placing it before the two monitors, one of whom supported the original slate and the other the alternative slate, and then signing the sheet signifying that he or she had voted. The two monitors then counted the votes. The result was a very large majority for the alternative slate.

The two remaining items on the original agenda — introduction of new managers of Purity Supreme; and a presentation by the Holmes Family Trust — did not take place, the first because the Purity Supreme managers had had to leave earlier, the second because James Rafferty

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shepherded the architect, Douglas Solzer, and his exhibit from the meeting room just before Mr. Solzer was about to describe the proposed project.

Someone moved that the meeting act to repudiate the letter of May 28, 1997 from Mr. Boulrice to Charles Sullivan, Executive Director of the Cambridge Historical Commission, which stated, "[T]he board of directors of the CSNC has voted to support the request of the Holmes Family trust for a demolition permit ... " The motion was seconded, and considerable debate followed regarding whether it was legitimate to introduce a substantive item of business which had not been announced in timely fashion to the membership. Those who supported the motion argued that such action was "cleaning the slate" preparatory to a vote by the membership on what the stand of CSNC should be. Those opposed to the motion argued that such action was in fact substantive, and improper.

To the best of my recollection, the chair ruled (again, lacking by-laws) that it would be procedurally incorrect to hold such a vote. His ruling was challenged, the debate continued, and finally the body voted to overrule the chair, by a close vote. Then the original motion to rescind Mr. Boulrice's May 28th letter passed, I believe again by a vote that was close enough so that it had to be counted.

The meeting then adjourned.

There are two essential points I wanted to focus on in this affidavit. The first is the legitimacy of the action to overrule Mr. Boulrice and vote to continue the meeting. The second is the scrupulously democratic attempt to conduct a legitimate election. On both counts I have reported what happened as well as I can remember. Fortunately, the entire meeting has been videotaped, but I have not had an opportunity to view the tape. If my memory is faulty in any regard, that can be verified by recourse to the visual recording.

*The above statement is as complete and accurate as I
am able to make it.*

George Salzman

Date: July 25, 1997
State: Massachusetts
County: Middlesex
Appear: George Salzman

Bernadette D. Valentin
Notary Public
My Commission Expires July 3, 2003

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July 25, 1997

To the Honorable, the City Councillors
c/o Margaret Drury, City Clerk
795 Massachusetts Ave
Cambridge, MA 02139

AFFIDAVIT

Regarding the Central Square Neighborhood Coalition (CSNC).

I, George Salzman, resident of Cambridgeport, attest that the following is a true and accurate account of recent events concerning the group, Central Square Neighborhood Coalition.

Prior to the article "Major retail/residential project proposed in heart of Central Square" in the May 15 issue of *The Cambridge Chronicle* I had no knowledge of CSNC. From that article and other information I gathered, it was both (1) evident that CSNC did not represent my opposition to the Holmes Trust proposal, and (2) conceivable that it might be possible to convince enough opponents to join CSNC to change its stance to one more representative of what I believed was likely to be widespread community opposition. I advocated making the effort, arguing that at the least we would be a vigorous minority in CSNC, and on June 15 sent my membership application form with a check for \$5, the annual dues.

I received a postcard, postmarked July 7, announcing the annual meeting of CSNC on July 15 at the First Baptist Church, 5 Magazine St. The text follows:

Be sure to attend our annual meeting. Agenda: election of officers and directors; introduction of new managers of Purity Supreme; and a presentation by the Holmes Family Trust. Members are reminded to pay their annual dues (\$5) at the meeting. See you there!

Slate of Candidates Bob Boulrice, President Geneva Malenfant, Vice President Eric Pfeuffer, Clerk Paul Schlaver, Treasurer John Dietrich, Director Decia Goodwin, Director Julia Gregory, Director Fred Kimberk, Director Carol Krieger, Director Erik Scheier, Director Robert Winters, Director Fran Wirta, Director

When I arrived at the annual meeting a printed agenda on the CSNC letterhead was being distributed which no longer included as an item the previously scheduled election. I was given a paper ballot with the slate listed in the preceding paragraph. There were two choices printed, to either "support the slate" or "not support the slate."

Prior to the start of the meeting David Hoicka, on behalf of those of us seeking to elect an alternative slate, spoke to Bob Boulrice and attempted to give him our written request that we be given the opportunity to put in nomination our proposed slate. Mr. Boulrice refused to accept it and threatened to adjourn the meeting if we tried to open the election. At that point it was apparent that Mr. Boulrice had made a last-minute agenda change, clearly in an effort to avoid not having his preferred slate re-elected.

As the meeting began, Mr. Hoicka called a point of order to challenge the change of agenda. Mr. Boulrice refused to recognize him and attempted to continue with his modified agenda, whereupon David Slaney insisted strongly that a call for a point of order must be recognized. At that point Mr. Boulrice declared the meeting adjourned and left his position as chair. Mr.

Consent Communications #22 \

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Communication was received from George Salzman, regarding the Central Square Neighborhood Coalition.

In City Council August 4, 1997

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