



Cambridge Historical Commission

City Hall Annex, 57 Inman Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 02139. 617/498-9040



Robert G. Neiley, *Chairman*; William B. King, *Vice Chairman*; Charles M. Sullivan, *Executive Director*.
Dwight H. Andrews; Arthur H. Brooks, Jr.; James F. Clapp, Jr.; Charles W. Eliot, 2nd; Joseph G. Sakey; *Commission Members*.
Allison M. Crump, Suzanne R. Green, John Lyons, *Alternates*.

April 7, 1987

Office of the City Council
Cambridge City Hall
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Members of the City Council:

Enclosed please find the summary of the Mid Cambridge Neighborhood Conservation District Commission's activities from January 1986 through January 1987, submitted as per the Mid-Cambridge Order, Section 10, "Periodic Neighborhood Review."

If there are any questions regarding this summary or the Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood District Commission, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely yours,

Sarah J. Zimmerman
Preservation Planner

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MID CAMBRIDGE NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSION

Cambridge Historical Commission, City Hall Annex, 57 Inman Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 02139, 617 498-9040.

Constance R. Hsia, *Chairman*; Ed Feinman, *Vice Chairman*; Charles M. Sullivan, *Secretary*;
Paul Andrew, Joseph Sakey, Michael VanValkenburg, *Commission Members*.
Janice Campbell, Frankie Lieberman, Andrew Oldman, *Alternates*.

To: The Honorable, the City Council

From: Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood Conservation District
Commission

Re: Programs and activities of the Commission, January
1986- January 1987

Date: April 6, 1987

The Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood Conservation District Commission held the first of its two 1987 neighborhood meetings on February 2, 1987. Residents were notified of the meeting via public notice posted two weeks prior to the meeting. Approximately a half dozen residents attended. The major recommendation from the residents was to include the Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood Association as a regularly notified interested party to the commission's business. The Neighborhood Association is now notified by mail of all Commission meetings.

The Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood Conservation District Commission meets on the first Monday of each month at 5:30 in the City Hall Annex, 57 Inman Street. The Chairman is Constance R. Hsia; the Vice Chairman is Ed Feinman. The Commission has lost one member, Michael Van Valkenburg, in the last year. Alternate member, Frances Lieberman was appointed to replace Mr. Van Valkenburg. John Moos was appointed as an alternate replacing Ms. Lieberman. The Commission's Cambridge Historical Commission member, Mr. Joseph Sakey, also left during the last year; his seat has not yet been filled.

A. Design Review

The Commission has reviewed seven cases since January, 1986. Six of those cases involved demolition and/or new construction at residential properties; the remaining case involved the remodeling of a commercial property, the Store 24 at 328 Broadway. Four of the cases have involved National Register listed buildings; review of those properties is, therefore, non-binding. All of the cases were issued Certificates of Appropriateness. Finally, in the period from January, 1986- January, 1987, the staff have issued 35 Certificates of Non-Applicability for projects that did not require the Commission's full review.

In addition to its design review responsibilities, the Commission has considered several other issues related to its mandate as stated in the Mid-Cambridge order. Their major concern has been formulation of a policy regarding Excess Infill construction in the district. Specifically, the Commission is working to define excess infill and to develop guidelines for review of projects that constitute excess infill.

B. Education Program

The Commission neared completion on its major educational project, the publication of a rehabilitation booklet for homeowners. The booklet draws specifically on Mid-Cambridge examples and is intended to provide homeowners with an understanding of historic building techniques and methods for proper maintenance, rather than giving detailed instructions on how specific repairs ought to be done. The rehabilitation booklet will be an attractive publication using illustrations, both drawings and photographs, of Mid-Cambridge houses. The final draft is in preparation, with publication anticipated in late Spring, 1987.

Once the booklet is published, it is hoped that excerpts can be run as newspaper articles. In addition, the Commission anticipates working with the Cambridge Historical Society on the school outreach phases of the society's annual Cambridge history trivia contest.

C. Budget

The Commission has a budget of \$10,000 for its education program. \$2,500 of this amount is dedicated to staff time for the year. In addition, the order establishing the district requires that costs for notifications of public hearings come from the budget. To date, about \$4,200 has been spent on notifications and the education program. This leaves approximately \$3,300 in the budget for FY 1987 for notifications and the education program.

Respectfully submitted,

Constance R. Hsia

Constance R. Hsia,
Chairman

7. S-289

Comm. from Sarah J. Zimmerman, Preservation Planner, Historical Commission, transmitting for informational purposes a summary of the Mid Cambridge Neighborhood Conservation District Commission's activities from January, 1986 through January, 1987.

In City Council,

April 27, 1987

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