



City of Cambridge

IN CITY COUNCIL

March 14, 1977

WHEREAS:

A communication has been received from Joseph and Laurette D'Apice, et al, requesting that the East portion and West portion of Sheridan Street be accepted and laid out as a public way of the City of Cambridge, and

WHEREAS:

Public convenience and necessity requires that the East portion and the West portion of Sheridan Street be accepted and laid out as a public way of the City of Cambridge, and that this City Council intends to adopt an order providing for said acceptance; said acceptance of the East portion and the West portion of Sheridan Street is described as follows:-

SHERIDAN STREET EAST PORTION

Beginning at a point along the Westerly line of Raymond Street which is along the property line of 170 Raymond Street, thence turning:-

Westerly along said property of 170 Raymond Street and the property of the Cambridge Housing Authority a distance of 144.65 feet

Northerly along property of the Cambridge Housing Authority 40.00 feet

Easterly along properties of 9 and 11 Sherman Street and 176 Raymond Street a distance of 144.65 feet

Southerly along Raymond Street 40 feet to the point of beginning, the above parcel contains 5,786 square feet.

SHERIDAN STREET WEST PORTION

Beginning at a point along the Easterly line of Wood Street which is along the property line of 33-35 Wood Street thence turning:-

Easterly by property of 33-35 Wood Street a distance of 106.40 feet

Northerly by property of the Cambridge Housing Authority 40 feet

Westerly by properties of 41 and 45 Sheridan Street 106.40 feet

Southerly by Wood Street 40.00 feet to the point of beginning, the above described parcel contains 4,265 square feet.

City of Cambridge

The above described parcel of land is shown on a plan entitled: "Plan of Sheridan Street to be a Public Way in the City of Cambridge," dated March 17, 1977 as drawn by James F. Rice, Jr., City Engineer and on file in the Office of the City Engineers, and be it further

ORDERED:

That due notice be given to the owners abutting on said public way, and all other persons interested, and in the manner prescribed by law, that this City Council intends to accept Sheridan Street and that Monday, April 4, 1977 at 8:00 P. M. in the City Council Chamber, City Hall are assigned as the time and place for hearing any objections which may be made thereto.

In City Council March 14, 1977.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of seven members.

ATTEST:- Paul E. Healy, City Clerk.

A TRUE COPY, ATTEST:- Paul E. Healy, City Clerk.



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RECEIVED BY
OFFICE OF CITY CLERK

Ms. Carol Ann Johnson
1 Coolidge Place - Apt. 2
Cambridge, Mass. 02139

January 10th, 1981

CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

Mr. Paul Healy - City Clerk
City Hall
Cambridge, Mass. 02139

Dear Mr. Healy,

I have been a resident of Cambridge for several years and for the most part I enjoy living here more than any other place I've ever been (including my own home town of Holden, Mass.). Mr. Healy, I have to say "for the most part" because I am handicapped and thru the years I have been here I've had to face many unnecessary obstacles every time I've ventured forth from my apartment. I'm sure that once you've read this letter, you'll understand when I say that these obstacles have tainted my full enjoyment of living in this city and you'll know the frustration that I feel over being forced to stay at home when I could be doing things, going places like others do, and becoming more involved with the city I've come to love more than any other.

To begin with....after several years of calling and speaking to I don't know how many people at various City Offices, I have now been told that Coolidge Place has been listed as an "unaccepted street" and this is why the city is doing anything. As an "unaccepted street", Coolidge Place is not eligible for services such as snow removal, sanding, cleaning/sweeping, repairs, or other such maintenance. It might interest you to know that, years ago, when I first tried to get something done I was told that Coolidge Place was Private Property and that was why the city wasn't doing anything. This has since been proven to be untrue and the city has accepted the fact that this is city property.....but someone.....somewhere.....has managed to think up another way for the city to avoid its responsibilities by saying this is an unaccepted street.

Tho- small and barely visible on the map...Coolidge Place has approximately fifty to sixty residents living on it and is used alot by people coming from the Municipal Parking Lot in the rear to one of the major thoroughfares of this city (i.e. Mass. Ave.) which is in the front. Tho- narrow many cars and small trucks have used it and on more than one occassion I, much to my dismay, have been whizzed through by a sneaky cab driver. Of the residents....there are handicapped elderly, middle-aged adults, and children....as well as physically normal adults and children living here. Yet, the alley way between the Greek Restaurant and the Landlubbers Clothing Store further up into the "Square" which has no residents living on it does get plowed, sanded, and cleaned.

This situation must be changed because it is a danger to any person who uses Coolidge Place. It is particularly a danger to me because I have to use crutches to walk and once I've

got the door open I can't even step out of the building as there is no safe place to put the crutches. The entrance, on the Mass. Ave end of Coolidge Place usually gets plowed in and is impossible to walk over. The only time sand gets put down is when I call and call, and call. As a result of all this I can't go and come as I want and have a right to. I end up a virtual prisoner in my own home....imprisoned there, I might add, not by my handicap, but by the City of Cambridge and its seemingly lack of interest in its handicapped residents living on tiny forgotten streets.

Mr. Healy, another thing I think you should know is that the people that are supposed to be making the sidewalks accessible for the handicapped...haven't been doing things right or in the way they should. One example is the corner of Douglas St. and Mass. Ave. - there is a ramp on one sidewalk and when you get to the other side there isn't...it is just regular sidewalk. The same problem exists at the corner of Prospect and Mass. Ave. too. When I inquired about this I was told point blank that they weren't doing it unless they had to. Now, I would like to know where the funds, which I believe to be from both State and Federal agencies, are and just what they have been used for? Secondly, when they installed the ramps that they did put in they made the pavement so smooth that it gets slippery with even the slightest amount of ice on it. Anyone with even the least bit of sense would know that the surface has to be roughed up so there will be traction for wheelchairs alone. I frequently see a young man in an Electric wheelchair going down Mass. Ave. to Main St. out in the Street with his chair because he can't use the sidewalks. One day he is going to get hit by a car being forced to ride out in the street like that. Who's fault will it be? If it is possible I would like to know what has been done with the money for these aids for the handicapped. I would also like to know about the money that has all ready been spent. What it went for and where? I would also like to know why the work wasn't done with a bit more thought about those it would serve and a little less to how it looked? Who were the people that authorized the expenditures and who did the work?

Mr. Healy I will be handicapped all of my future life and I don't want pity...I just want the chance to live in such a way that I can be as active as possible for as long as possible. I can't do that if I can't get out or travel the streets safely. I am 37 years old so there's a long road ahead for me and others like me. We need the support of those involved with local, state, and federal government to get things moving so there will be just as much access to things and places for us as there is for the physically normal. I am just one individual, I represent no group, just myself in writing this to you, but the problems are there for everyone so if you can help this one person you'll be helping many. You will also be providing one of the many bits of support needed in order for the physically disabled to become more independent....which is what it's all about really. I want to participate and to help wherever I can, but I can't begin to do that if I can't get out of the house and don't have access, safe access that is, to buildings, streets, and the like.

Please feel free to call me should you want to talk about the things I've written about or anything that you would like me to help with. My telephone number is 661-3659. If it snows,

I'll more than likely be here (unless I get lucky and make my escape before the storm). In any case I would appreciate⁷⁴ hearing something back on the questions I have asked. These things have a great effect on my life and my safety and I am determined that this will be the year that I get some answers.

Again, please feel free to call if you need me.

Sincerely,

Carol Ann Johnson

Comm. from Carol Ann Johnson, 1 Coolidge Place, relative to Coolidge Place being an unaccepted public way of the City of Cambridge.

In City Council,

January 19, 1981

*Referred to C. Mgr
for report.*

*Copy sent to C. Mgr
1/20/81 (dC)*

RECEIVED BY
OFFICE OF CITY CLERK
JAN 12 3 38 PM '81
CAMBRIDGE, MASS.