

Cambridge, Massachusetts,
Office of the City Engineer.
City Hall.

July 13, 1931.

To the Honorable the City Council
of the City of Cambridge.

Gentlemen;-

I am in receipt of an order from the Honorable City Council dated June 9, 1931, "That the City Engineer be and hereby is requested to make a study with a view to devising ways and means whereby the tar may be removed from the surface of Massachusetts Avenue in the vicinity of Central Square".

The tar here referred to I assume to be a thin sheet of soft bituminous compound used in filling the joints between the granite paving when first laid.

When this stone block paving was first done, there seems to have been an excessive use of this filler compound and in the very hot days of summer this is further aggravated by the expansion and softening of the compound, making it adhesive to shoes of pedestrians who cross it.

Of course the first thought might be to scrape the excess tar off. This however, is not so simple as it might appear at first.

Asphalt pavers tell me that it will be difficult to remove the excess tar without heating it artificially then scraping it up and carrying it away. If too much is taken up when hot, when it cools the material shrinks and tends to open the joints and weaken the

paving. Further, this method would be a quite expensive one on account of the time of men and tools involved in the operation.

The Superintendent of Streets has tried to absorb this excess tar by spreading fine sand upon it. This helps it some, but the tar works up through the sand in a short time. Small chip stone alone does not work but instead the tar comes to the top without being absorbed very much.

At my request, a combination of these two methods was tried, first a layer of fine sand and then a cover coat, or layer, of fine chip stone on top.

This seems to give excellent results and is not very expensive.

Sample patches of this treatment can be seen on Massachusetts Avenue, north side, in front of City Hall, and also between Pleasant Street and Central Square.

Very respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "L. M. Hastings". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name "City Engineer.".

City Engineer.

To the Honorable, the City Council of the
City of Cambridge:

The undersigned respectfully pray

Communication
From

PETITION

of City Eng. in response to an order
of City Council that he be requested
for to make a study to determine ways
and means whereby the tax may be
removed from the surface of Mass. Ave
in the vicinity of Central Sq.

July 13th 1931

In City Council

JUL 13 1931

File

PLACED ON FILE

Frederick H. Burke, City Clerk

In City Council, JUL 13 1931 193

Referred to the Committee on

Roads & Bridges

Attest:

Frederick H. Burke

City Clerk

City of Cambridge

In City Council.....July 28, 1931.

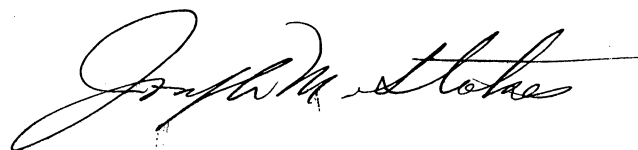
The

Committee on Roads and Bridges

to which was referred sundry communications (2) from the Mayor transmitting two from Dept. of Public Works relative to hearing on the petition of New England Tel & Tel Co for license to lay and maintain submarine cable in the tidewaters of Charles River in the cities of Boston and Cambridge

Reports,

Recommending that the communications be placed on file.



For the Committee.

205

REPORT

205

Committee on

Roads and Bridges

recommending sundry
communications be placed
on file

A

Report received, and
recommndation ADOPTED.

Attest: James H. H. H.
City Clerk