



# CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

491 BROADWAY, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02138 TEL. 876-0125

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

## FIRE DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS

THOMAS V. SCOTT  
Chief of Department

February 13, 1991

Robert W. Healy, City Manager  
City Manager's Office

Dear Mr. Healy:

The following response is in relation to Council Order No. 67, dated January 28, 1991, flooding the Cambridge Common and Hoyt Field.

I have spoken with Mr. Paul Ryder of the Recreation Department and informed him that as in the past, our department would provide the hose and turn on the hydrant. I believe in other years a member of Public Works had stood by until the water had froze.

As an observer over the years, the flooding of any park or field has proved to be total frustration. As soon as the ice begins to form, the skaters get on same and within a short time the whole flooded area is chopped into holes and ice chips making skating impossible. Also, upto the present date we have not had temperatures low enough for any extended period of time which would have produced any ice, even if the areas had been flooded.

Again, our department will provide assistance in any way that we can.

Respectfully,

Chief Thomas V. Scott



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE  
INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

To : Jeff Nutting, Coordinator  
Public Works Department

Date : February 12, 1991

From : Richard Medeiros, Supervisor  
Parks and Forestry *R Med*

Reference :

Subject : Council Order #67. dated 1/28/91,  
RE: Flooding the Cambridge Common and Hoyt Field

The flooding of Cambridge Common and Hoyt Field would be an excellent opportunity for the youth of Cambridge. However, I do feel it is my responsibility to inform you of the possible dangers. Due to past weather fluctuation, the temperature has gone up and below the freezing level. This would cause the ice surface to break-up causing an uneven ice surface, which would lead to possible personal injury.

The ballfield would suffer also. The baseball season will be upon us quickly. To allow the field to dry out below field capacity would take us past the spring starting dates for baseball. As we all know Cambridge has many pockets of dense clay, which does not allow for proper drainage.

Secondly, the Common is suffering from a very dense soil condition that the flooding will only exasperate this dangerous condition. The trees on the Common are under an intensive restoration program, as well as, new tree planting.



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

TEL. 349-4300

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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

ROBERT W. HEALY

City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI

Deputy City Manager

February 25, 1991

To The Honorable, The City Council:

In reference to Awaiting Report Item No. 29, regarding flooding the Cambridge Common and Hoyt Field, please find attached a response from Fire Chief Thomas V. Scott, as well as Parks and Forestry Supervisor Richard Medeiros, concerning this matter.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy  
City Manager

RWH/mev  
attachment

CONSENT Agenda # 9

8-301  
Awaiting Report Item Number 29 regarding  
flooding the Cambridge Common and Hoyt  
Field.

In City Council,

February 25, 1991

*Placed on file*