



Cambridge Historical Commission

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William B. King, *Chair*, Allison M. Crump, *Vice Chair*, Charles M. Sullivan, *Executive Director*
M. Wyllis Bibbins, Suzanne R. Green, Helen F. Moulton, Robert G. Neiley, Jo M. Solet, *Members*
Jennifer Jones, Anthony C. Platt, *Alternates*

March 31, 1999

To: Robert W. Healy
City Manager

From: Charles M. Sullivan *CHS*
Cambridge Historical Commission

Re: Council Order #031, dated 3/15/99, Re: Report on what
resources can be employed to compile an oral or written
account of Cambridge history from Bill Jones

Bill Jones is an irreplaceable source of information on the 20th century history of Cambridge, and some steps have already been taken to record his memories and opinions.

Sarah Boyer has already conducted an oral history interview with Mr. Jones about his recollections of former and present mayors, city councilors, and other city officials. Mr. Jones has also given Boyer a walking tour of Massachusetts Avenue in Central Square, highlighting the stores and businesses that existed in the '40s and '50s. In addition, he has agreed to do a videotaped walking tour of Central Square for the Central Square Oral History project. All of this material will be preserved in the Commission's archives along with a videotape of a 1995 discussion between former Mayor Ken Reeves and Mr. Jones.

Ms. Boyer would like to do three to five follow-up interviews highlighting Jones' recollections of other city officials and city government history, and his anecdotes of North and East Cambridge, Harvard Square, and Central Square. Other topics may include stories of famous people of Cambridge, Cambridge fires, his work with marching bands, and his perennial runs for City Council.

However, I have some concerns about the length and breadth of this project. Each two-hour interview requires up to thirteen additional hours of work by Ms. Boyer, while transcriptions cost \$14 an hour. Ms. Boyer could conduct the additional interviews in the near future, but transcription, editing, and possible compilation of an extended video will have to wait until the Central Square Project has been completed and additional funds are available.

We look forward to spending additional time with Mr. Jones and preserving his wisdom for future generations.



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
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16.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

April 5, 1999

To The Honorable, The City Council:

Please find attached a response to Awaiting Report Item No. 99-50, regarding a report on what resources can be employed to compile an oral or written account of Cambridge history from William Jones, received from Executive Director of the Historical Commission Charles Sullivan.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mec
Attachment

Consent Agenda #16

2365

Relative to AR #99-50, regarding
a report on what resources can be
employed to compile an oral or written
account of Cambridge History from
William Jones.

In City Council April 5, 1999

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