



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*.

VOTED: That this Commission adopts the following statement of its views with respect to the Harvard Square Overlay Zone:

The situation following the adoption of amendments to the Harvard Square Overlay Zone incorporating references to the Harvard Square National Register District requires a statement of policy from the Cambridge Historical Commission regarding the appropriateness of historic preservation controls in that area.

The Harvard Square National Register District has been proposed to recognize the architectural and historic significance of Harvard Square and to encourage preservation of contributing buildings through education, administrative procedures, and tax incentives. Preservation districts established under Chapter 40C of the General Laws and Ordinance 1002 provide control of alterations, demolition, and new construction visible from a public way. The Commission recognizes that the type of protection associated with locally-enacted preservation districts may be inconsistent with the continued commercial vitality of Harvard Square.

We see no need to recommend to the City Council the creation of local historic districts or neighborhood conservation districts in the Harvard Square Overlay Zone. However, this Commission will continue to address preservation issues in the Overlay Zone through the demolition review procedure under Ordinance 965 and through the designation of individual places, structures, features or objects as landmarks under Ordinance 1002.

This Commission has supported the process to amend the Harvard Square Overlay Zone and commends the property owners who have participated in it. Provided that the National Register program is incorporated into and constitutes a part of planning documents and zoning legislation in Harvard Square, we do not support the creation of additional local historic districts or neighborhood conservation districts in the Harvard Square Overlay Zone, and we look forward to working with property owners and community groups to resolve preservation issues through other means.

Adopted by unanimous vote,
June 26, 1986


Nancy L. Doonan,
Secretary



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

August 4, 1986

To the Honorable, the City Council:

Enclosed for your review please find copy of a resolution adopted on June 26 by the Cambridge Historical Commission on the appropriateness of various historic preservation measures in the Harvard Square Overlay Zone.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mbf
Enc.

Re: resolution adopted by the Historical Commission on the appropriateness of various historic preservation measures in the Harvard Square Overlay Zone.

In City Council,

August 4, 1986

VMU
MS
RF

Placed on File