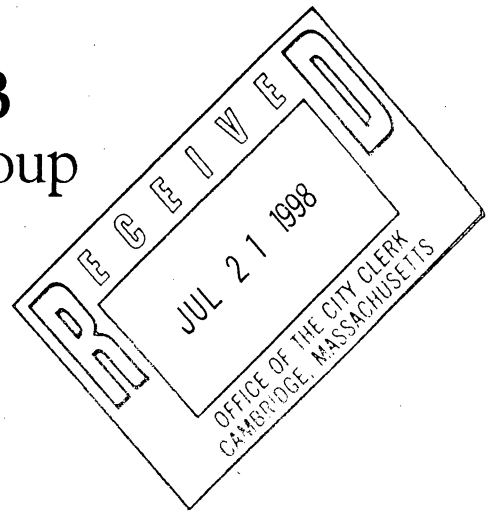




SIERRA CLUB Greater Boston Group

3 Joy Street, Boston, MA 02108
(617) 227-5339



Cambridge City Council
Cambridge, MA 02139

14 July, 1998

The Sierra Club Greater Boston Group (GBG) voted at its meeting on 14 July, 1998 to express its concern that the City of Cambridge views city-owned open space as "free" land for public or semi-public projects. The GBG wants to emphasize that Cambridge, where close to one thousand Sierra Club residents live, is one of the most densely populated cities in the state. For many Cambridge residents, city-owned open space and parkland represent the most accessible, and sometimes the only accessible, place where they can enjoy a patch of green grass or watch the breeze blowing through the trees. That the City Government believes this land has no fiscal value is troublesome, all the more so because it is the less affluent residents of Cambridge who do not have ready access to the sort of open space provided by City parks and other city land.

The Sierra Club urges the Cambridge City Council and the Cambridge City Manager to properly value all city-owned land when considering any development options. Open space should never be considered "free" and any cost-benefit analysis of development options that considers such land to be free is inherently and fatally flawed.

The Sierra Club would be happy to assist Cambridge officials in assigning a reasonable value to its open space to better promote open and honest discussion of development issues in Cambridge.

Please call Craig Kelley at 354-8353 if you have any questions about the Sierra Club's concerns that Cambridge does not properly value its open space.

Sincerely,

John Deacon
Sierra Club GBG Chair

cc: City Manager
Cambridge Chronicle
Cambridge Tab

1998 JUL 22 P 2:30



Consent Communication #47 5285

A communication was received from John Deacon, Sierra Club, Greater Boston Club Chair, transmitting concern regarding the City of Cambridge's view on city-owned open space as "free" land for public or semi-public projects.

In City Council July 27, 1998

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