

Vincent Lawrence Dixon
287 Harvard Street – Unit 64
Cambridge, Mass. 02139

(617) 491-1990

Wednesday
July 26, 2000

Dear Mayor, and Cambridge City Council,

This letter is my personal request to you individually, and as a group, to file the appropriate motions and orders in relation to the permanent preservation of the Alewife Wilderness Area.

These steps include :

- 1.) **An 18 month moratorium on any further building, construction, or road permitting, in the entire Alewife area; for a study of the creation of the Permanent Alewife Wilderness Area;**
- 2.) **A Natural Areas Study of the entire expanded Alewife Wilderness Area, including the Alewife Reservation, the expanded area of Blair Pond and its surroundings, Route 2 properties, and all of those west of Alewife, the Little River and Alewife watershed, the Grace Site including Jerry's Pond, and other appropriate properties in the area.**

[Please note : That this will include the area in the present Yoder petition, and the rest of the adjacent wetlands, including all of the Arthur D. Little property, the bowling lanes, the motel, the former Faces nightclub; the entire area of the Little River, Alewife Brook, Jerry's Pond, and the other natural areas described above.]

- 3.) **An Alewife Preservation Trust to be established by a Council Order requesting the City Manager to establish the mechanisms, and structure; the purposes of which shall include the creation of conservation easements, the collection of public and private funds for land acquisition in the area of the Natural Areas Study; an endowment for protection, and preservation; and the development of long term administration of the area as a Permanent Alewife Wilderness Area; and shall include members of the Friends of Alewife Reservation on its membership.**

(Continued)

- 4.) **A Federal National Migratory Bird Sanctuary** application to be prepared, and filed by request of the City of Cambridge, in conjunction with all relevant authorities, including but not limited to the Cambridge Conservation Commission, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the United States Government; and support to be sought from the entire Massachusetts Congressional delegation.
- 5.) **A Natural Outlook Areas Plan** to be developed during the early stages, in order to provide clarity to issues of proper ability for public viewing without negative impact on the area.
- 6.) **Specific Affiliation With Tufts University, City of Cambridge, and other institutions in creating a National Natural Wetlands Center** for scientific research, and study of these and similar natural areas and habitats; growing out of the Mystic River Watershed cleanup and protection efforts.
- 7.) **An Alewife FourCorner Community Commission** to be established as an **InterGovernmental Advisory Body**, of citizens of Cambridge, Arlington, Belmont, and Somerville; to coordinate the comprehensive efforts needed to protect the entire Alewife Wilderness Area that brings the four communities together.
- 8.) **Long Term Natural Center Creation And Property Acquisition Planning** shall be designed in order that existing property owners may be assisted in converting any existing uses to **Alewife Wilderness Area** environmentally compatible uses. This shall include a Natural Center for the site that involves a net reduction of total building footprint coverage in the area.

IN CONCLUSION

The visual evidence of thousands of birds, and many other natural species, and the strong and growing community support for the preservation of the Alewife Wilderness Area, strongly communicate that this is an opportunity that comes along not just once a generation, but maybe even only once a century.

We will be remembered by the land, the birds, and the natural habitat that we save, far more than by any buildings that we allow.

Other development, and development capacity in our city is well beyond what we may need for a long time to come. Let us for once recover, restore, and respect our fragile natural habitats, one area that is very much within our own capacity to provide leadership, in regards to our living as an environmentally responsible community.

Motions, and orders on these matters are vital. Set in motion now, these actions can benefit from many positive trends, as well as a great deal of electoral discussion of green related issues.

Any help that is needed in developing these measures will be willingly provided.

Sincerely,

Vincent Lawrence Dixon
Vincent Lawrence Dixon

Consent Communication #24

5253

A communication was received from
Vincent Lawrence Dixon, relative
to the permanent preservation of
the Alewife Wilderness Area.

In City Council July 31, 2000

PLACED ON FILE