



City of Cambridge

33.

IN CITY COUNCIL

October 21, 1996

VICE MAYOR BORN
COUNCILLOR DAVIS
COUNCILLOR DUEHAY
COUNCILLOR GALLUCCIO
COUNCILLOR REEVES
MAYOR RUSSELL
COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN
COUNCILLOR TOOMEY
COUNCILLOR TRIANTAFILLOU

WHEREAS: This City Council was deeply saddened to learn of the death of
Grace E. Bessay on October 10, 1996; and

WHEREAS: Grace lived in Harvard Square for over fifty years; and

WHEREAS: In accord with her love of nature and simplicity, Grace lived in a one-room apartment with no telephone; and

WHEREAS: Grace was an active participant in the way of life of the Cape Cod dunes both in Provincetown and Truro; and

WHEREAS: For over fifty years she enjoyed the peace and solitude of dune life; and for the last twenty five years she fought for the survival of the historic and now beloved dune shacks; her case to preserve her property - a dune shack named the Grail, at Peaked Hill - was the last case to be settled, and was the oldest pending federal court case in the country in 1990; and

WHEREAS: Grace Bessay believed steadfastly in the supreme role of nature; and

WHEREAS: Grace Bessay was in complete agreement with the National Seashore's desire to protect the dunes from development; what set her apart and light years ahead of the Seashore's perspective was her early recognition of the importance of the cooperation and collaboration of all, from private landowners and conservation organizations to government entities, to protect this unique and fragile way of life; and

WHEREAS: Grace's passing will leave a void in the lives of all of her surviving friends and family; and

WHEREAS: Grace will be sorely missed by all she touched and loved; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That this City Council go on record extending its deepest sympathy to the family of **Grace E. Bessay** at this time of such personal loss; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to the Bessay family on behalf of the entire City Council.

In City Council October 21, 1996

Adopted by the affirmative vote of eight members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

D. Margaret Drury
D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

33.

Whereas: This City Council was deeply saddened to learn of the death of Grace ~~Bess~~ E. Bessay on October 10, 1996; and

Whereas: Grace lived in Harvard Square for over fifty years; and

Whereas: On account with her love of nature and simplicity, Grace lived in a one-room apartment with no telephone; and

Whereas: Grace was an active participant in the way of life of the Cape Cod dunes both in Provincetown and Truro; and

Whereas: For ^{over fifty years she enjoyed the peace and solitude of dune life; and for} the last twenty five years she fought for the survival of the historic and now-beloved dune shacks; her case to preserve her property - a dune shack named The Grail, at Peaked Hill - was the last case to be settled, and was the oldest pending federal court case in the country in 1990; and

Whereas: Grace Bessay believed steadfastly in the supreme role of nature; and

Whereas: Grace Bessay was in ~~the~~ complete agreement with the National ~~State~~ Seashore's desire to protect the dunes from development; she believed steadfast what set her apart and lightyears ahead of the Seashore's perspective was her early recognition of the importance

WHEREAS: This City Council was deeply saddened at learning of the death of

_____ on _____;
and

WHEREAS: _____

WHEREAS: _____

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WHEREAS: Grace's passing will leave a void in the lives
of all of ~~his~~ her surviving friends and
family _____

_____ ; and

WHEREAS: Grace will be sorely missed by all ~~he~~ she
touched and loved; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That this City Council go on record extending its deepest sympathy to the family
of Grace E. Benz at this time of such personal loss; and
be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed
copy of this resolution to the _____ family on behalf of
the entire City Council.

of the cooperation ~~and~~ and collaboration of
all ~~entities~~, from private citizens to landowners,
~~organizations~~ conservation organizations and
government entities, ~~to~~ to protect this unique
and fragile way of life; and

Whereas:

63

to: KATHY + JOHN
 fax:
 re: Grace E. Bessay
 date: October 11, 1996

from: Peter Clemons
 fax: 617 628-3693

lived 1 hr 50, m
 from 50 yrs in no kelp

GRACE E. BESSAY

Spiritual Native of Provincetown

Grace E. Bessay, 74, died October 10 in Cambridge. She was an active participant in the way of life on the dunes both in Provincetown and in Truro. First introduced to the dunes by Cora Holbrook in 1945 she immediately loved the unique beauty that nature has created here. For over fifty years she enjoyed the peace and solitude that dune life can nurture. Oddly enough the creation of the Cape Cod National Seashore in 1961 introduced a much less picturesque dune experience. For the last twenty five years she stayed the course to help secure the survival of the historic and now beloved dune shacks. After the 1981 death of Andrew Fuller, her long-time friend and companion she found herself pretty much alone in attempting to defend their properties from bulldozers and bureaucrats. Few people know as well as Grace Bessay the hardship, expense and endless frustration that go with standing up to the United States government.

Her primary goal was to preserve the rights of ownership which were part of the promise made to the people of Cape Cod when the legislation to create the National Seashore was enacted. For years each and every CCNS superintendent was determined to destroy the remaining cottages on the dunes. Grace Bessay never gave up the defense of the shacks in the courts but she was unable to reverse the policy which took these properties from their owners. Hers was the last case to be settled (the oldest pending federal court case in the country in 1990) and like the others before her she was forced to give up ownership and control of her property (The Grail) at Peaked Hill. She reluctantly signed a use and occupancy agreement in 1991 under a federal government threat that if she didn't sign she would never be able to use her cottage again.

Grace Bessay was 100% in agreement with the Seashore in its desire to protect the Cape from the ravages of development. Grace Bessay never willingly sold or developed any land, property or structure. She believed steadfastly in the supreme role of nature. The CCNS never got it. The 1996 CCNS Management Plan "Forging a Collaborative Future" is in many ways an acknowledgement that Grace Bessay was holding to the truth all these years. The proposed CCNS view of the future recognizes the importance of stewardship – private landowners, organizations, and government entities working together – in protecting this unique and fragile way of life. That is what Grace E. Bessay and many Cape Cod natives were asking for all these years. It is too late for Grace Bessay to witness this promised 'vision' but her work and efforts will be remembered. Finally, the dune shack 'way of life' is appreciated and treasured as is the legacy of Grace E. Bessay.

A spring 'Way of Life' service for Grace E. Bessay is planned. The date and location will appear in the Provincetown Banner.

Benson Clemons 15 Kidder at Davis Sq. Somerville, MA 02144

617 628-3581

1K13

① Death

Grace Bessy

330

RECEIVED BY
OFFICE OF CITY CLERK

96 OCT 16 PM 12:54

CAMBRIDGE MA.

WHEREAS: Grace will be sorely missed by all she touched and loved; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That this City Council go on record extending its deepest sympathy to the family of **Grace E. Bessay** at this time of such personal loss; and be it further

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WHEREAS: Grace Bessay believed steadfastly in the supreme role of nature; and

WHEREAS: Grace Bessay was in complete agreement with the National Seashore's desire to protect the dunes from development; what set her apart and light years ahead of the Seashore's perspective was her early recognition of the importance of the cooperation and collaboration of all, from private landowners and conservation organizations to government entities, to protect this unique and fragile way of life; and

WHEREAS: Grace's passing will leave a void in the lives of all of her surviving friends and family; and

Entire membership
Consent Order #33

121063

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Vice Mayor Born and entire
membership re: Resolution on
the death of Grace Bessay.

In City Council October 21, 1996

ORDER ADOPTED