



# City of Cambridge

Committee Report #4

**IN CITY COUNCIL**

October 16, 2000

COUNCILLOR DAVIS

ORDERED: That the City Council express its strong support for the appropriation and \$75,000 for the Alewife Brook Reservation Planning; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward this support to MDC Commissioner David Balfour and appreciation to the MDC and state.

In City Council October 16, 2000.

Adopted as amended by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "D. Margaret Drury".

D. Margaret Drury  
City Clerk

Ms. Bowden stated that the benefit of the project will be that the storm drain will be separated from the sewer and this will eliminate sewer overflow. The permitting procedure is regulated by the Wetlands Protection Act and storm water standards, as required by the Department of Environmental Protection, are enforced. The standards regulate that 80% of solids must be removed from the storm drain. On the Alewife Project, the Alewife Reservation land needs to be crossed to get to Little River. The plan chosen will have a minor impact on the wetlands. Details of the plan are still being worked on at the Department of Public Works. Mr. O'Riordan stated that the Public Works Department has worked on the storm water conveyance plan.

Councillor Davis asked where was the jurisdiction of the Conservation Commission. Ms. Bowden responded jurisdiction is the 100 year flood plan. She gave boundaries of Cambridgepark Drive to Genetics site, all of the Alewife Reservation and the wetlands, the Little River and Arthur D. Little site.

The committee heard from Diane M. Mahon, Selectman, Town of Arlington, who informed the committee that Arlington is concerned about the quality of life in the Alewife area. She requested that she be kept informed of the situation at Alewife. The Town of Arlington, she said, is trying to do its part.

Ms. Sheila Cook, 34 Follen Street, asked where is the wetlands. Ms. Bowden responded behind 80 Cambridgepark Drive. Ms. Cook asked how clean is the water when it gets to Little River. Mr. O'Riordan stated that the existing line will have the best managed plan.

Ralph Yoder, 364 Rindge Avenue, asked Mr. O'Riordan once the storm water is separated will the storm water flow to Alewife. Mr. O'Riordan stated that the base flow will go through the lines and keep wetlands wet. All the storm water will flow out. The public source of storm water will be discharged through the storm drain. Mr. Yoder stated that at Alewife there are six species of Heron which have been an endangered species. Alewife, he said, is the oldest natural area in the Western Hemisphere. Pollution, he said, comes from things in storm water such as metals and salts.

Mr. O'Riordan stated that the City Council has appropriated \$300,000 for the Phase 2 Action Plan to begin the public process to dispose of the clean up properly. Community education will be used to achieve best results, he said.

Ellen Mass, 104A Inman Street, Member of the Friends of Alewife, stated that the Friends of Alewife are developing a presence at Alewife to bring about public involvement. Alewife is in danger of being overdeveloped, she said. She requested support from the City Council of the MDC Masterplanning. She requested letters of support for the allocation of \$75,000 for the Alewife Brook Reservation planning be forwarded to the MDC Commissioner David Balfour, 20 Somerset Street, Boston, MA 02108.

Councillor Davis submitted the following motion:

**ORDERED: That the City Council express its strong support for the appropriation of \$75,000 for the Fresh Pond Reservation planning; and be it further**

**ORDERED: That the City Clerk forward this support to MDC Commissioner David Balfour.**

This motion carried on a voice vote.

Elsie C. Fiore, 58 Mott Street, Arlington, member of the East Arlington Good Neighbor Committee, asked if the water will be filtered or unfiltered that goes into Little River. Mr. O'Riordan responded that the water will be filtered. Ms. Fiore asked how is a detection pond installed when the area is wet. Mr. O'Riordan stated the detection pond is in the wetlands. Ms. Fiore asked if this is MDC land. Mr. O'Riordan responded in the affirmative. Ms. Bowden informed all present that the Conservation Commission will hold hearings on this project in the future.

Stephanie Moura, MWRA, Combined Sewer Overflow Program, 100 First Avenue, Boston, stated that the MWRA will conduct meetings on this project. She further stated a MEPA process will also be required.

Carolyn Mieth, 15 Brookford Street, asked about the status of the court order regarding the North Mass Ave Sewer Improvement Project. Mr. O'Riordan stated that the sewer separation will be done as mandated by the court order. Fresh Pond and an area south of North Mass Avenue is the area affected by the notice of change order, he said.

Prior to the meeting, Councillor Davis received a communication from Roger Frymire, 22 Fairmont Avenue, who urged a city-wide effort to retain stormwater together with a sewer separation program that will lead to a zero overflow of sewerage into the surrounding waterways.

At the conclusion of the hearing Councillor Davis thanked all who attended this meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

For the Committee,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Henrietta Davis', written in a cursive style.

Councillor Henrietta Davis  
Chair

# City of Cambridge

## HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

*Councillor Henrietta Davis, Chair*

*Councillor Kathleen L. Born*

*Councillor Jim Braude*

In City Council October 16, 2000

The Health and Environment Committee conducted a public meeting on Wednesday, September 27, 2000 at six o'clock and forty minutes p.m. in the Ackermann Room.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the reduction of storm water by commercial and residential property owners and the Alewife area.

Present at the meeting were Councillor Davis, Chair of the committee; Councillor Braude; Richard Rossi, Deputy City Manager; Lisa Peterson, Assistant to the City Manager; Julia Bowden, Director of the Conservation Commission; Owen O'Riordan, City Engineer; and Donna P. Lopez, Deputy City Clerk.

Councillor Davis stated the intention of this meeting was to find out the city's responsibility to reduce the storm water and what programs are in place.

Owen O'Riordan, City Engineer, gave a presentation based on a diagram of a map entitled "Sewer Separation and Storm Water Management Project." He stated that the storm water travels to the Charles River on to Alewife and the remainder goes to Deer Island. There are thirteen combined sewer outlets (CSO) structures; seven in Alewife and six at the Charles River. Users, he said, are being encouraged to do different things with the storm water. The city has worked with most development in the Kendall Square area. Some developments have built systems and use the storm water for uses such as irrigation. Homeowners have also been encouraged to use storm water for different uses. There have been 8,000 properties surveyed in reference to the sewer separation project. Cambridge sewerage is discharged into the Alewife and the intent is to reduce the volume of the combined sewerage to the Alewife. A new outfall will be build between Concord Avenue, Huron Avenue and Alewife Brook. The benefit of this is that it will incorporate backwash that will be used to flush the storm lines. An appropriation has been made and the project is currently in the design mode.

Councillor Davis asked Ms. Bowden, Director of the Conservation Commission, to outline the conditions at Alewife and how will the area be cleaned up and the prevention of the condition worsening.

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A report from Councillor Davis,  
Chair of the Health and Environment  
Committee for a meeting held on  
September 27, 2000 to discuss  
the reduction of storm water  
by commercial and residential  
property owners and the  
Alewife area.

In City Council October 16, 2000

*Report Accepted*

**PLACED ON FILE**

**ORDER ADOPTED**

*As Amended*