



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
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Metropolitan District Commission
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20 Somerset Street, Boston 02108
CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

WILLIAM J. GEARY
COMMISSIONER

October 12, 1984

Mr. Herbert M. Meyer
President
Mystic River Watershed Association, Inc.
276 Massachusetts Avenue
Arlington, Massachusetts 02174

Dear Mr. Meyer:

Once again I appreciated hearing from you concerning Alewife Reservation, but I do hope we will not bog down in a counter-productive exchange of letters and instead will be able to focus our mutual efforts on the protection and enhancement of Alewife Reservation. To clarify our positions for you:

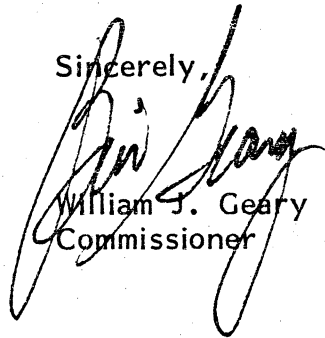
- 1) The MDC is not "collaborating" with anyone. We are participating in an open, public process to work towards the solution of a thorny series of land use questions. As a public park agency we have an obligation to preserve parkland and enhance the beauty and natural values of the region. This is a positive and creative responsibility that we are discharging in as thoughtful, reasonable and publicly open manner as possible.
- 2) It has been my policy, and will continue to be my policy, to listen to the needs and concerns of all parties who use or abut the MDC's many acres of parkland. This is equally true for community groups, homeowners, commercial and industrial owners, developers, and ordinary concerned citizens. We will listen to any proposal, discuss it with all parties concerned and educate all parties to our primary responsibility to preserve open space in a way that assures a net public improvement for now and in the future.
- 3) As you know from your participation in many of the same meetings, the MDC staff has discussed the format, approach and conceptual framework of the Open Space Study with the MAPC many times. The regional framework has been specifically addressed, as was the need for land inventories of

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uncommitted parcels and potential acquisitions. Perhaps you could help to make these concerns more explicit to MAPC. I am sending them a copy of this letter and am taking the liberty of enclosing a copy of your September 25, 1984 letter to me as well.

I trust you will find this the full and positive answer you hoped for. I continue to value your high level of interest and concern and look to your continued support for the parkway and reservation system.

Sincerely,



William J. Geary
Commissioner

WJG:kc

cc: Governor's Office
Sen. Edward Kennedy
Hon. Thomas O'Neill, Jr.
Lt. Gov. John Kerry
Sec. James Hoyte
Cong. James Shannon
Sen. George Bachrach
R.A. Kraus
J.F. Cusack
C.F. Flaherty
M.J. Gibson
Cambridge City Council
Arlington Board of Selectmen
Belmont Board of Selectmen
Cambridge Conservation Commission
Arlington Conservation Commission
Belmont Conservation Commission
Charles Eliot
G.A. Bertrand
MACC
Sierra Club

17.

5-644

Comm. from William J. Geary, Commissioner,
MDC Re: policy of the MDC regarding the
Alewife Reservation.

In City Council,

October 22, 1984

10/22/84

Placed on File -