



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site
Longfellow National Historic Site
John F. Kennedy National Historic Site
Headquarters
99 Warren Street
Brookline, MA 02445



2003 JUN 23 A 11: 41
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

June 19, 2003

Dear Neighbor,

We take this occasion to apologize to any who may have been troubled by the recent tree removal at Longfellow National Historic Site. This work was done to allow our historic landscape rehabilitation project to proceed. Privately funded through the leadership of the Friends of the Longfellow House, the project will reclaim the historic Colonial Revival garden and grounds created between 1904-1925 by Alice Longfellow to honor and memorialize the most notable occupants of the house, George Washington and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

Although we did consult with and receive the approval of our immediate abutters, we are pleased to respond to suggestions that we involve a wider neighborhood group. To this end, we hope you can join us for a neighborhood gathering at Longfellow House (105 Brattle Street, Cambridge) on Monday, June 30, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. to learn more about the planned recovery of the historic landscape, which will be underway through Summer 2005. In addition to a briefing on the project, with time for questions, the occasion will include tours of the house and the grounds. Please mark your calendars, and watch for our event invitation with more specifics about the evening's schedule.

In deference to the wishes of the Cambridge City Council, expressed at its May 12 meeting, we suspended landscape work, specifically border planting and fence replacement in the formal garden area. At its June 5 meeting, to which you were invited, the Cambridge Historical Commission gave the go-ahead for the overall landscape rehabilitation. Thus we will soon be replacing "in kind" the Episcopal Divinity School fences marking our north and east boundaries, and begin planting the low-rise border of evergreen and deciduous plants specified in the planting plan researched by our historical landscape architects and approved by the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

We look forward to seeing you on June 30 – and sharing with you our exciting plans for this landscape, which we believe will be an adornment to Cambridge civic life, and an attraction and important educational experience for our visitors from around the world.

Sincerely yours,

Myra F. Harrison
Superintendent
(617) 566-1689 x201

Enclosure

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Communication #3

A communication was received
from Myra F. Harrison,
Superintendent, United States
Department of the Interior,
regarding recent tree removal at
Longfellow National Historic Site.

In City Council August 4, 2003

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