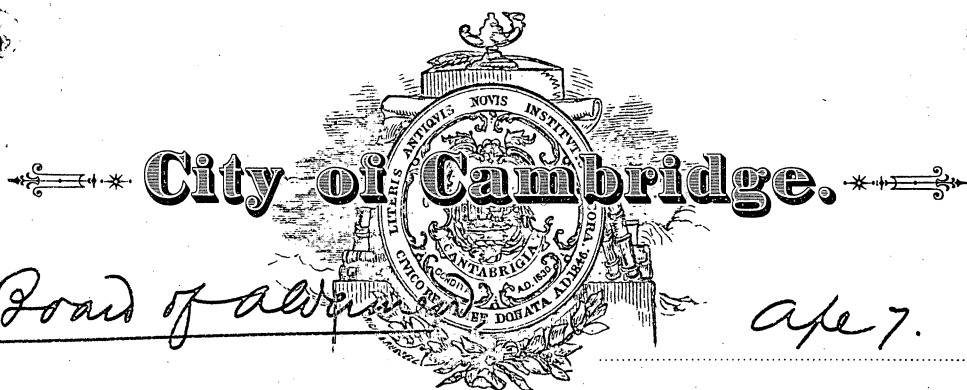




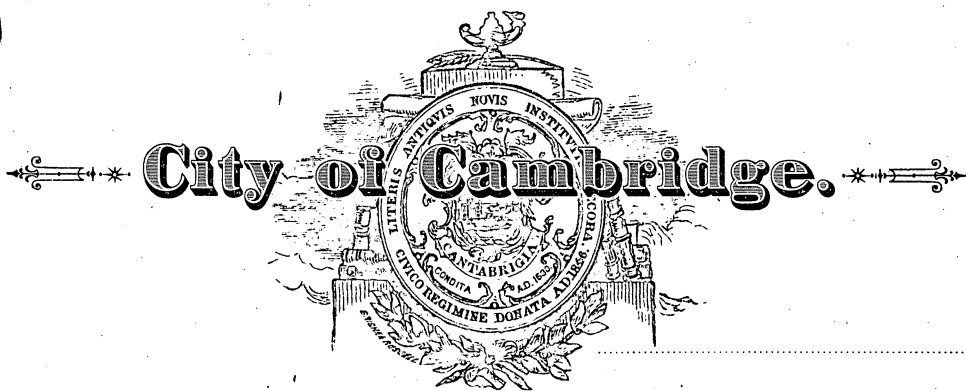
In Board of Aldermen

Apr 7. 1885

The Joint Standing Committee on Roads and Bridges to which was referred the petition of John P. Squire and others, praying for the extension of Fifth and Sixth Streets to the Somerville line, named hereunto

Report.

This petition has been under consideration before the City Councils of the years 1881, 82 & 83, and at the end of each of these years, it has been regularly passed over to the year following. A hearing was given upon the matter to Mr. John P. Squire and others, Oct. 21, 1881, at which the petitioners were represented by counsel. It was shown by old plans and maps of the lands of the Lechmere Point Corporation ~~that~~ that certain streets were laid out and named. The plan was put on record. One of these streets was Fifth Street, which by the plan aforesaid was made to extend to Millers River. From

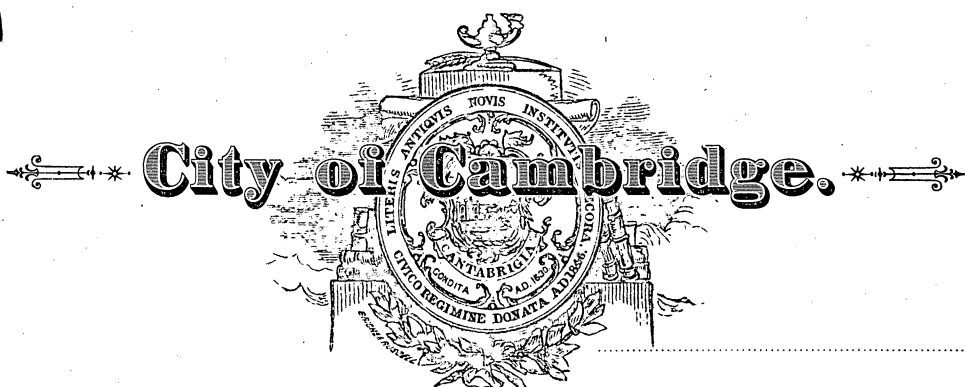


188

that circumstance it was claimed that there was an intentional dedication of the street. The land said to have been so dedicated is now occupied by parties who claim ownership. Whether or not the city, could successfully maintain a title to this land, which has been thus occupied for several years, is a question which would have to be determined by the courts.

In reference to opening Sixth Street, the principal petitioner, Mr. John P. Squire who was present at the hearing aforesaid, submitted a proposition that the city take the estate, situated on Ford Street, opposite the northerly end of Sixth Street, and he would agree to purchase at a fair valuation, the buildings thereon, and remove them. He would also agree to exchange with the city such land as might be needed to straighten the line of Sixth Street when it should be opened as prayed for.

The City Solicitor having subsequently given his opinion that the city could not legally ex-

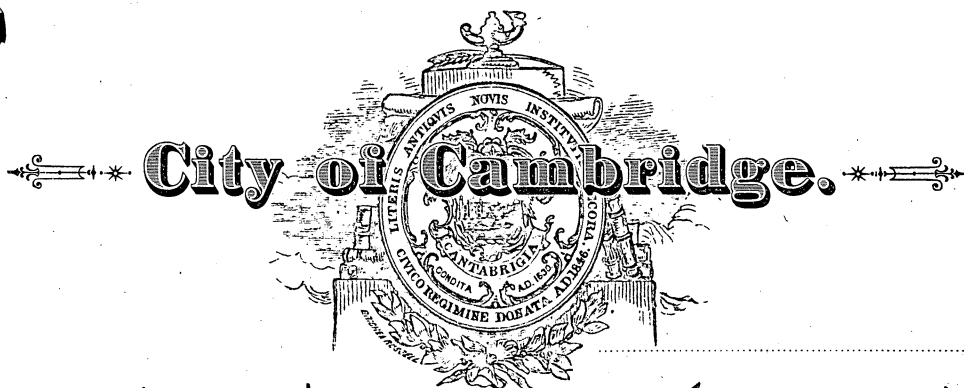


City of Cambridge.

188

change land taken by right of eminent domain for street purposes, further consideration of the matter was postponed until another proposition should be received from the petitioners. The Committee of the year 1881 visited the premises and examined the line of the proposed extension, and the year being far advanced, the matter was at length sent over to the following year, during which another Committee endeavored to deal with the question, and to obtain some definite proposition from Mr. Squire, which they might feel willing to advocate before the City Council. No conclusions were arrived at in the year 1882, in reference to this matter, and it was again before the City Council in 1883, finally reaching that of 1884. In that year the Committee visited the premises, and had interviews with Mr. Squire, by whom another proposition was made as follows:—

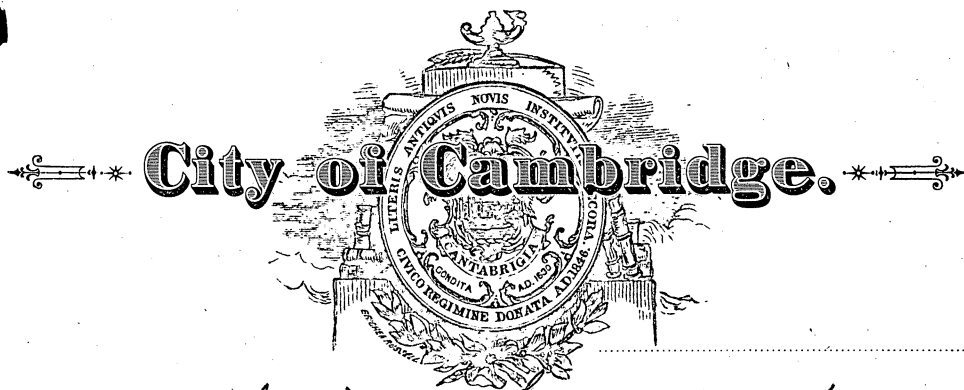
"That the City should purchase the estate lying about 25 feet east of the line of the proposed extension of Sixth Street. Mr. Squire will then exchange such portion of his



land lying directly in the line of said extension, as will open the new street in a straight line with the remaining portion of said street." no action was taken upon the foregoing proposition. It was subsequently ascertained that the estate, which the city was asked to purchase, was valued upon a valuation of [£]7000 - and held by the owner at the price of [£]10000. - It was stated at one of the hearings in the matter that it would cost not less than [£]2000 - to grade the street after the same should be opened.

The total cost of laying out the street would therefore be not less than [£]10000 - and might reach a much larger sum, as the proposition of Mr. Squire as above given was not put on record until Sept. 1884, and it then being near the close of the financial year, the Committee deemed it inexpedient to make any recommendation in the matter, but delayed making its report until the close of the year, when it finally reported reference to the City Annals of 1885.

In view of the fact that the present City Council



City of Cambridge.

1885

has made no provision for such a large expenditure as would be required by opening the two sheets named in this petition, especially in respect of Sixth sheet, your Committee has not thought it necessary to renew the hearings heretofore given to the petitioners. However desirable and beneficial to the public the extension of these sheets, might prove, your Committee cannot urge the improvement during the present year. It must necessarily wait until the proper time shall arrive.

The Committee therefore recommends that the petitioners have leave to withdraw.

For the Committee.

Charles W. Henderson

Accepted. Sent down for concurrence.

Attest: John A. Jacobs, City Clerk.

In Common Council Office 8-1885

Non-concurred - Referred to the next City Council
Sent up for Concurrence
attest Walter W. Pike Clerk

Report 234

Committee on Roads & Bridges
in petition of John P. Squire et al
for extension of Fifth & Sixth Sts.

April 1885.

also Henderson

April 15, 1885 -

Laid on the Table.