

City of Cambridge,

In Board of Aldermen Sept. 30, 1863

The Committee to which was referred the order in relation to the widening of Essex Street in the City of Cambridge between Main and Austin, have duly considered the subject referred to them and would respectfully Report

That Essex Avenue so called, between Main and Austin Streets as now laid out is twenty feet in width - That on the westerly side of said Avenue, on the Corner of Main Street, there is an incumbrance in the shape of a Portico upon the store belonging to Mr Robt. Mayhew projecting into, and standing upon the Avenue some three feet wide and feet long - That Essex Street between Austin and Harvard Streets is thirty feet wide, and that on this Street, and on the Courts leading from it, large improvements have been made within a few

years, by the erection of desirable dwelling houses, adding much to the taxable property of the city and causing a very great increase of travel through Essex Avenue - That it would be a great public convenience, and add much to the value of property in the neighborhood, to have Essex Avenue made of the same width of Essex Street - That in order to do this it would be necessary to take land abutting upon the avenue, and, in the opinion of the undersigned, the best manner of making the improvement desired would be, in adopting the plan proposed by the petitioners - viz - Commencing on the east side of the avenue, at the north west corner of the Bakery occupied by Mr M. Whitney, and running westerly to a point on Austin Street about six feet east of the present corner of Essex Avenue and Austin Street - on the west side of Essex Avenue commencing at a point ten feet to the west of the present line of the Avenue on

Main Street and running northwesterly to a point on Austin Street, about three feet west from the present corner of Elm Avenue and Austin Street.

In order to make this improvement, it would be necessary to take about 518 ft. of land belonging to Mr. Hoka Spencer - 1000 ft. belonging to Mrs. Hyde and Watson and 721 ft. belonging to Mr. Robt. Dugan, - Upon a portion of the land belonging to the latter named person there stands a wooden building, three stories high, which would require to be moved to the westward the distance which it is proposed to widen the Avenue, or to cut off such portion of the building. As the building is large, and somewhat in years this could not be done except at considerable cost.

The owners of the land proposed to be taken, who are, with two exceptions the only abutters upon the Avenue which it is proposed to widen, are opposed to the improvement, claiming that instead of

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being an improvement, it will be a great injury to them, and that the public will not be benefited to the extent of the cost.

The undersigned believe that the improvement asked for would be of great public benefit, but, in deference to the circumstances who are most deeply interested, and in view of the expense to the city, where the objections are unwilling to relinquish the land without remuneration, at this time when the city expenditures are large, the undersigned would recommend the postponement of the prayer of the petitioners to a more favorable period in our city finances and would further recommend the adoption of the accompanying order -

Respectfully submitted

George H. Foster
Samuel W. Dudley
Albert Stevens

Cambridge Sept. 30 1863.

Accepted. Attest, Justin A. Jacobs, city clerk.