



City of Cambridge

14.

IN CITY COUNCIL

~~March 18, 1996~~

March 25, 1996

COUNCILLOR DUEHAY
VICE MAYOR BORN
COUNCILLOR DAVIS
COUNCILLOR GALLUCCIO
MAYOR RUSSELL
COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN
COUNCILLOR TOOMEY
COUNCILLOR TRIANTAFILLOU

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to respond in writing to the concerns raised by Paul Feloney in the attached letter concerning the location and financing of the new water treatment plant.

In City Council March 25, 1996

Adopted 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

FELONEY ASSOCIATES ARCHITECTS

105 FRESH POND PARKWAY CAMBRIDGE MASSACHUSETTS 02138

February 14, 1996

Mssrs. Robert Healy, City Manager and
Richard Rossi, Deputy City Manager
City Hall
Cambridge, MA 02139

Re: Water Department Project

Dear Bob and Richie,

Having attended the Tobin School meeting and meditated in the interim, I am more convinced than ever that the direction being taken, i.e., replacement on the present site, indicates a lack of comprehensive planning values, and the direction ought to be reconsidered.

With respect to history, when the filtration plant was built, West Cambridge was still sparsely developed and Fresh Pond Parkway existed in rudimentary form. The plant was built with few neighbors to have an impact on.

Today, the water operation is much bigger and together with other inappropriate, nonconforming uses and the Parkway itself, presents a complete barrier between the Tobin School/West Cambridge area and the Fresh Pond Reservation. The barrier is a major problem but the least the City could do is to begin by removing its own portion of it. There is talk from time to time of establishing a pedestrian connection somewhere near the end of Lexington Avenue. Would it be better to have this arrive in a park or in the middle of an industrial establishment?

I know that the wetlands question to whatever extent it exists would be a major one but consider the advantages of a location along Concord Avenue.

LAND USE

Neighbors across Concord Avenue are commercial/industrial properties, not dissimilar to the Water Department. On the same side is City owned, undeveloped land, not active recreation areas. Zoning questions disappear.

RECREATION

It frees up the present site for more appropriate use. I am really puzzled that your administration, which has been so active and effective in developing and maintaining open space, doesn't seize this opportunity to do more of the same.

ECONOMICS

Another location would save \$15,000,000 in MWRA costs. If the construction time stretches out, as public projects sometimes do, \$15,000,000 could easily go to \$20,000,000 or \$25,000,000.

TRAFFIC

Concord Avenue offers easy safe access, perhaps at Neville Manor, where a signalized intersection already exists. Consider this vs. the Parkway, where vehicles, including some from the Water Department, make left turns in exiting. How much money might be consumed by accidents followed by Workers Comp/disability claims? When they turn right on the Parkway they frequently make an illegal left turn onto Huron Avenue.

NEIGHBORHOOD USE

I don't know of a more valuable, prized public asset than the Fresh Pond Reservation or one that is more difficult and dangerous to reach. We can do better. Moving the Water Department would be a major step in alleviating the problem.

I said earlier that I know that the Wetlands issue could be a difficult one, but I know that there is an appeals process and that the process is not impossible to pursue. An appeal could take a year to process but what is that in dealing with a project that we will have for 100 years. It will cost additional professional fees but what is that in terms of overall design costs.? The answer to both questions in my judgment is, very little.

Please give these ideas some thought and if there is to be serious reconsideration of the siting question, please make it a more open public discussion. Since time appears to be critical, I am distributing this as indicated below in the hope of starting a public dialog.

Very truly yours,

Paul G. Feloney

cc: All City Councilors
All School Committee Members
Mike Nicoloro
Susan Schlesinger
Liz Epstein
Planning Board
Tobin PTO
Stewart Clements
Mary Wylie
John Moot
Paul Deitrich
Hugh Russell.
Tab
Chronicle
Sandra Bittenbender

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Councillor Duehay

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March 18, 1996

COUNCILLOR DUEHAY

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Born, Davis, Galuccio, Russell
Consent Order #14 Sullivan, Torney

Councillor Duehay re: The location
and financing of the new water
treatment plant.

CM-134

Triantafillou

In City Council March 18, 1996

3/25/96

Order adopted