



TOWN HALL
BELMONT, MASSACHUSETTS 02178

484-2306

Office of the Board of Selectmen
Town of Belmont
Massachusetts

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1990 JUN 14 PM 1:23

CAMBRIDGE MA

SELECTMEN

CHAIRPERSON
WALTER A. FLEWELLING, JR.

VICE CHAIRPERSON
ANNE M. PAULSEN
WILLIAM P. MONAHAN

RECEIVED

JUN 17 1990

Ans'd.....

June 4, 1990

Commissioner Jane F. Garvey
Department of Public Works
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
10 Park Plaza -- Room 3170
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Commissioner M. Ilyas Bhatti
Metropolitan District Commission
20 Somerset Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

RE: Alewife Watershed -- Flood Mitigation

Dear Commissioners Garvey and Bhatti:

We are writing on behalf of the Town of Belmont to request that a comprehensive hydrologic/hydraulic study of the Alewife Watershed be conducted.

The present drainage system in the Watershed is grossly inadequate and each year results in serious flooding impacts on Belmont. A hydrologic/hydraulic study is a critical first step in addressing the problem.

For many years, the Belmont Conservation Commission has urged the Commonwealth to conduct such a study (see attached letter, dated March 15, 1985). However, no study has been conducted.

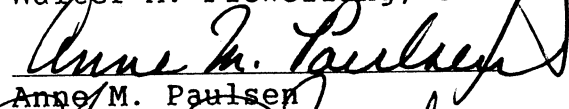
Accordingly, we hereby formally request that you make arrangements to have such a study conducted as soon as possible.

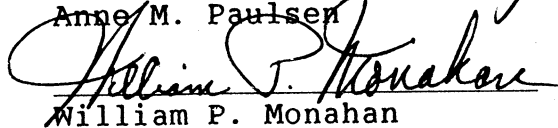
Commissioner Jane F. Garvey
Commissioner M. Ilyas Bhatti
June 4, 1990
Page Two

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,


Walter A. Flewelling, Jr.


Anne M. Paulsen


William P. Monahan

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

cc: Senator Michael Barrett
Representative Mary Jane Gibson
Secretary Frederick P. Salvucci
(Cambridge City Council)
Arlington Board of Selectmen



TOWN OF BELMONT

TOWN HALL

BELMONT MASSACHUSETTS 02178

March 15, 1985

Commissioner William J. Geary
Metropolitan District Commission
20 Somerset Street
Boston, MA 02108

Subject: Flood Mitigation/Alewife Watershed

Dear Commissioner Geary:

The Conservation Commissions of the Towns of Belmont, Arlington and Cambridge recommend that the Metropolitan District Commission immediately embark on an implementation program within the Mystic River basin to decrease the impact of flooding in the Alewife watershed.

The Conservation Commissions feel the flooding conditions at Alewife are critical. There exists a plethora of adequate planning investigations of drainage problems which were recently summed up by the MAPC. The MAPC Technical Memorandum: Alewife Open Space Hydrology, June 1984, is a restatement of fact which we support but here the document ends. The MDC must realize that in order to "get the show on the road" a detailed analysis tool geared for design implementation must be obtained. We feel this can be accomplished by refinement and updating of the CDM hydrologic/hydraulic model developed for the 1981 MDC study by the Resource Analysis team of Camp Dresser & McKee. New analysis of recommendations using performance criteria rather than strictly rate of return cost criteria (used in the 1981 CDM study) should be performed using the refined and updated "design model".

Over the last several years, the Towns of Belmont and Arlington and the City of Cambridge have been requested from time to time to prepare comments regarding potential adverse impacts on drainage which could result from proposed public and private facilities within the watershed. Concern is often centered upon whether development in the area (MBTA, ADL, etc.) will confound and aggravate already adverse outlet drainage conditions.

The Conservation Commissions have noted that on every occasion when review of a given project is required they are invariably forced to accept the position that the proposed flood mitigation measures are satisfactory since compensatory storage is provided. The Conservation Commissions have no way of knowing, or the ability to relate the effects, albeit small, of one proposed project versus another or more importantly, the cumulative

effects of projects on our drainage outlet conditions. Furthermore, each proposed plan presents its analysis on a "stand-alone" basis.

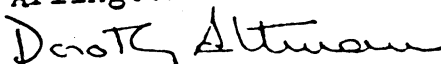
The Conservation Commission share this frustration in our review responsibilities and in realizing that these projects can have profound and lasting impacts on hydraulic and drainage conveyance characteristics. These projects deserve an up-to-date detailed analysis tool geared to design implementation. In short, the Conservation Commissions feel that the time has come to stop providing assessments on critical projects on a piecemeal, one at a time basis.

The recommended course of action is to immediately fund, in order to update and render more flexible in terms of detail, the existing CDM model. The analysis tool could provide impacts of all proposed facilities in the area and could be used to provide meaningful and comprehensive information on how to integrate proposed programs into the overall drainage management. The model could be used to assess upstream and downstream non-structural measures and to ascertain, once and for all, the viability and effectiveness of all the various structural approaches of prior investigations so as to promote an agreed upon regional consensus. It is estimated that the cost of the recommendation would be approximately \$100,000.

Concern expressed herein revolves around resolution of drainage issues. However, we do not want you to lose sight of the fact that protection of environmental values and commitment to conservation and expansion of open space at Alewife are the overall goals of the three Commissions. The Commissions play a critical role in this process as we share jurisdiction in the Alewife area. In fact, the Town of Arlington, through the Division of Water Pollution Control, has been engaged for some time in a project designed to improve water quality and drainage conditions in Spy Pond. Recently, Arlington has entered into cooperative discussions with Belmont on this project which, among others, may have a regional effect on water quality and flooding in the Alewife sub-basin. As these goals continue to be expressed in the context of ongoing public and private planning activities, we must not lose sight of the fact that they too must be addressed, not on a piecemeal basis, but on a regional basis, involving the interests of our three communities.



Stephen J. Gilligan
Chair
Arlington Conservation Commission

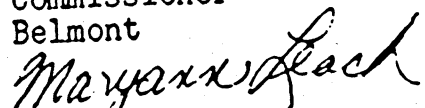


Dorothy Altman
Chair
Cambridge Conservation Commission

Sincerely,



Ken Recker
Commissioner
Belmont



Maryann Leach
Chair, Belmont
Conservation
Commission

cc. Exective Office Transportation and Construction.
Attention: Frederick P. Salvucci
Belmont Board of Selectmen
Arlington Board of Selectmen
Rep. Charles Flagherty
Rep. MaryJane Gibson
Sen. Richard A. Kraus
Sen. George Bachrach
Rep. John F.Cusack
Mystic River Watershed Association
Charles Eliot

1.
COMMUNICATIONS & REPORTS FROM
CITY OFFICERS

S-6044

Comm. from Mayor Alice K. Wolf transmitting
a communciation from the Board of Select-
ment for the Town of Belmont, requesting
that a comprehensive hydrologic/hydraulic
study of the Alewife Watershed be conducted.

In City Council,

June 25, 1990

Placed in file