



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

PLANNING BOARD

CITY HALL ANNEX, 344 BROADWAY, CAMBRIDGE, MA 02139

Date: July 10, 2023

Subject: Alewife Overlay District: Quadrangle Zoning Petition

Recommendation: The Planning Board recommends ADOPTION.

To the Honorable, the City Council,

On June 20, 2023, the Planning Board (the “Board”) held a public hearing to discuss a Zoning Petition by City Council (the “Council”), to amend Articles 20.000 and 21.000 of the Cambridge Zoning Ordinance to eliminate Alewife Overlay Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4 and replace them with a new “Alewife Overlay District: Quadrangle”.

The Board heard a presentation from CDD staff, followed by public comment and discussion among Board members. Following the discussion, the Planning Board voted unanimously to forward a positive recommendation to City Council.

Board members expressed strong support for the Petition, and commended City staff and the Alewife Zoning Working Group (“AZWG”) for reaching consensus on a unified vision for the Quadrangle and for clearly translating that vision into zoning recommendations that will bring the vision to life.

While Board members suggested that additional review could address some technical corrections in the draft text, Board members were hesitant to suggest significant changes to the zoning text because of the robust process that culminated in the Petition before them. Further, Board members expressed concern that too many additional changes might undermine the valuable role that the AZWG has played in reaching this point, and more broadly, could risk devaluing the important work that Committees do to advise the City on a host of planning and zoning issues throughout the community.

The Planning Board voted 7-0 to transmit the above report. One member was absent.

Respectfully submitted for the Planning Board,

Mary Flynn, Chair