



CAMBRIDGE HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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Notice of Public Meeting: Update on the Reservoir Hill Study

The Reservoir Hill Neighborhood Conservation District Study Committee and the Cambridge Historical Commission (acting as an Historic District Study Committee) will hold a public informational meeting on **Tuesday, December 6, 2016 at 7:00 P.M. at the BB&N Middle School, 80 Sparks Street, Cambridge, MA.** The public is encouraged to attend.

Dear Reservoir Hill Neighbors,

We are writing to provide you with an update on the work of the Reservoir Hill study committees and to invite you to attend a public informational meeting on December 6. A combined neighborhood conservation district (NCD) and historic district study was initiated by the Cambridge Historical Commission in June 2015, and an NCD study committee appointed by the city manager last fall. The NCD study committee has met thirteen times since December 2015 with the Cambridge Historical Commission (acting as the historic district extension study committee). All such meetings have been open to the public.

The committee members have been working with the staff of the Historical Commission to study the existing regulatory conditions protecting the neighborhood and to discuss the options available to: 1) extend the boundaries of the Old Cambridge Historic District, 2) establish a new NCD for the Reservoir Hill neighborhood, or 3) make no changes. Option 1 did not garner sufficient support by the study committees to be pursued, leaving just options 2 and 3 for consideration.

With the help of the CHC staff, the study committees have outlined the parameters of a possible Reservoir Hill NCD for consideration including its goals, boundaries, jurisdiction, and design guidelines. The committees are now seeking your input, and the purpose of this informational meeting is to describe existing regulations, explain how NCDs work, provide specifics for Reservoir Hill, answer questions, and seek comment. Soon after the informational meeting, all neighborhood property owners will be mailed an opinion poll to gauge the level of support for the two remaining options. The study committee will then draft a study report and a public hearing of the Historical Commission will be scheduled to consider the report and its recommendations and to vote on whether to make recommendations to the City Council.

The attached memo outlines a rationale for historic preservation protections, NCD district goals, boundaries, jurisdiction, exemptions, and design guidelines. This will all be covered in detail at the informational meeting, so please look it over and bring any questions you want to ask us. Meeting materials from the study committee meetings to date are available online, www.cambridgema.gov/historic/districtsHistoricProperties/reservoirhill. If you have any questions, please call the Historical Commission at 617-349-4683.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Ellis and Bracebridge Young, Co-chairs of the Reservoir Hill NCD Study Committee and William King, Chair of the Cambridge Historical Commission

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