

Public letters and e-mails received between June 20- Sep. 5, 2014

AFFORDABLE HOUSING	
Roberta Rubin, Cambridge resident 17 Day St.	Requesting strong support to maintain current allocation of 80% for Affordable Housing
Rashid Hasson	Submitted additional written document on bread and jams, Petition received to restore funding to Bread and Jams
Cathleen A Higgins	Supports 80% allocation for affordable housing
Carlos Fuentes	Supports affordable housing ownership
Ester Hanig	Supports 80% allocation for affordable housing
Stephanie Maggiore, Property Manager of the Tanner Residence at the YWCA	Supports maintaining the 80-10-10 allocation for affordable housing
Elaine DeRosa, Executive Director of Cambridge Economic Opportunity Committee, Inc.	Supports maintaining the 80-10-10 allocation for affordable housing
Deborah Ruhe, Executive Director of Just-A- Start Corp.	Supports 80-10-10 allocation for affordable housing
OPEN SPACE	
Richard Krushnic	Purchase Silver Maple Forest
Amy Mertl, Asst. Prof. Leslie University	Supports the Silver Maple Forest
Arthur Strang, Fresh Pond Parkway	Set aside funds for Silver Maple Forest
Bill Forster	Silver Maple Forest
Doug Brown, VP Fresh Pond Residents Alliance	Silver Maple Forest
Kathy Roberts, Huron Ave.	Silver Maple Forest
Hunter Aldrich, support friend of Alewife Reservation	Silver Maple Forest
Nina Dillon, Mothers out front mobilizing for a livable climate	Silver Maple Forest
Quinton Zondervan, President of Green Cambridge	Supports purchasing all or part of the Silver Maple Forest
Jane Hirschi/ City Sprouts	Request to use CPA funds to support a project to develop the schoolyard learning garden at the Baldwin School on Sacramento Street.
Ellen Mass, Friends of Alewife Reservation	Purchase Silver Maple Forest
Patricia Wong	Supports the new playground at the Cambridgeport School
Tim Tommey Jr., Cambridge City Council	Supports renovation of the Cambridgeport School Playground and for ways of CPA funds to help create the Grand Junction Multiuse Path.
Stuart Dash, Director of Community Planning, CDD	Requests additional funds for the Haggerty School playground
HISTORIC PRESERVATION	
Cathie Zusy, Cambridge Neighborhood Assoc.	Cambridgeport Neighborhood Association request CPA fund support for Magazine Beach Park Landscape plans to match DCR Grant funding
St. Peter's Episcopal Church	Requests funding for Church Restorations

Affordable Housing Letters

Preval, Karen

From: Roberta Rubin [rrubin@kleinhornig.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 23, 2014 5:52 PM
To: Preval, Karen
Cc: pdaly@homeownersrehab.org; 'Beya Jimenez'
Subject: Allocation of Community Preservation Act funds 2014

Dear Ms. Preval,

Having been a Cambridge resident for 30 years, and a Cambridge homeowner for 20 years, I am writing to express my strong support for maintaining the current allocation of 80% of CPA funds to affordable housing.

When I first moved to Cambridge in 1984, our city enjoyed considerably greater economic diversity. Back then, thanks to rent control, many families of low and middle income could afford to remain part of our community, despite high market rents and sale prices. Over the years, I have been saddened to see the loss of much of this economic diversity. Without the development and preservation of affordable housing, many local residents who work in our local shops, teach in our schools, or provide municipal services will no longer be able to live in our community.

Affordable housing contributes immeasurably to the richness of our community. It enhances the ability of residents from all walks of life to be stably and securely housed. Many affordable housing developers work with residents to provide supportive services, fostering workforce development, improved life opportunities, and college-readiness on the part of young adults (and even their parents!). Elderly people on fixed incomes who would otherwise be driven out of the city by rising prices have the opportunity to remain in their community and age in place. Children whose parents are able to maintain a stable, decent roof over their heads have a better opportunity to succeed in school and in their own turn give back to the community.

While both open space and historic preservation are important, there is no question that the most compelling need at the present time in Cambridge is for affordable housing. Shrinking Federal and State resources make it imperative that the City continue to support this vital need. I urge you to allocate 80% of the City's CPA funds to affordable housing.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta Rubin
(17 Day Street, Cambridge)

Preval, Karen

From: Hasson Rashid [hasson.rashid@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, June 20, 2014 5:25 PM
To: Preval, Karen
Subject: Additional Material CPA Presentation
Attachments: COMMITTEE TO RESTORE BREAD AND JAMS.docx

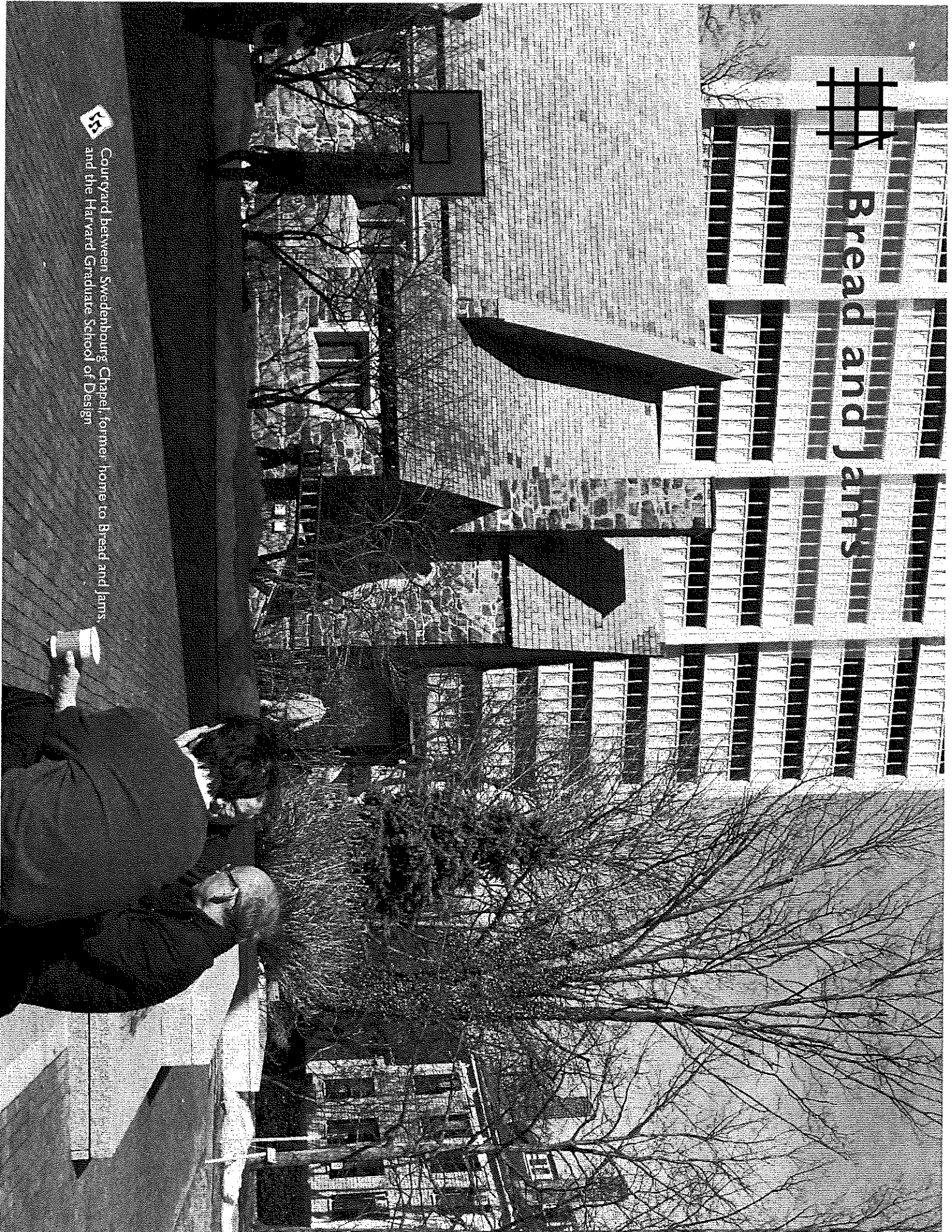
Peace Be Unto You,

Dear Ms. Preval,

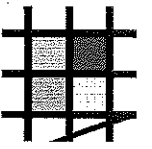
I'm attaching additional information to you concerning my presentation at the CPA meeting. Yesterday evening I handed in a hand written version of my presentation, today I'm submitting a type version of the same presentation. I will send you additional information relating to "Bread and Jams," in the future before the deadline for submitting additional information on proposed projects.

Yours In Peace,
Mr. Hasson J. Rashid,
Committee to Restore Bread and Jams,
P.O. Box 382313, Cambridge, MA 02139
617-308-4743

Bread and Jam



Courtyard between Swendenburg Chapel, former home to Bread and Jam, and the Harvard Graduate School of Design



Bread & Jams

■ ■ ■ A LINK IN THE CHAIN OF CARE ■ ■ ■

HISTORY

Bread & Jams Self Advocacy Center was an adult day center located in the basement of the Swedenborg Chapel on the corner of Quincy St and Kirkland in Cambridge. Founded in 1989 by homeless musicians and Harvard students, "Bnjs" has offered a safe place off the street for over 25 years in Cambridge, MA.

Bnjs served two square meals, and provided counseling services to the homeless and most vulnerable adult population in the Cambridge area. Around six years ago, Bnjs teamed up under Eliot Community Health Services, a non-profit organization with 1,500 staff.

CURRENT STATUS

The US Housing and Urban Development (HUD) declared that "supportive street services" such as Bnjs would not be guaranteed funding for 2014. As Eliot has no federal guaranteed funding for Bnjs, they did not renew the lease to the Swedenborg Chapel. Bread and Jams can no longer pay its rent, staff, or the cost of running the program. The last day of service was March 25, 2014.

SERVICES

Bread & Jams provided care to an average of 55 people per day. Bread & Jams provided delicious meals donated from a local international school, clothes, mail delivery, and case management, as well as help with housing search, job search, and benefits including Social Security, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, health insurance, and providing referrals when necessary.

POPULATION

Most of Bread & Jams clients were homeless or recently homeless. As most shelters require clients to leave in the morning and return at night, Bread & Jams provided a caring place for diverse individuals during the day. Many clients have been attending for many years, even some individuals who have risen out of homelessness. Bnjs provided was a bridge, where people along a continuum of care could access what they needed.



"The space was like a hug."

-Caroline James, Master in Architecture student, Harvard Graduate School of Design, and neighbor to Bnjs for 4 years.



"One bird can't build a nest alone."

-Carlos, speaking about the community provided by Bread and Jams



The backyard of the Swedenborg Chapel was enjoyed by the clients of Bread and Jams.

BREAD & JAMS FACTS

- Budget: \$160,000/year
- Space: 1,500 sqft
- Reach: Average of 55 people daily
- Services: Meals, case management, housing and job search, benefits, health insurance, and providing referrals.

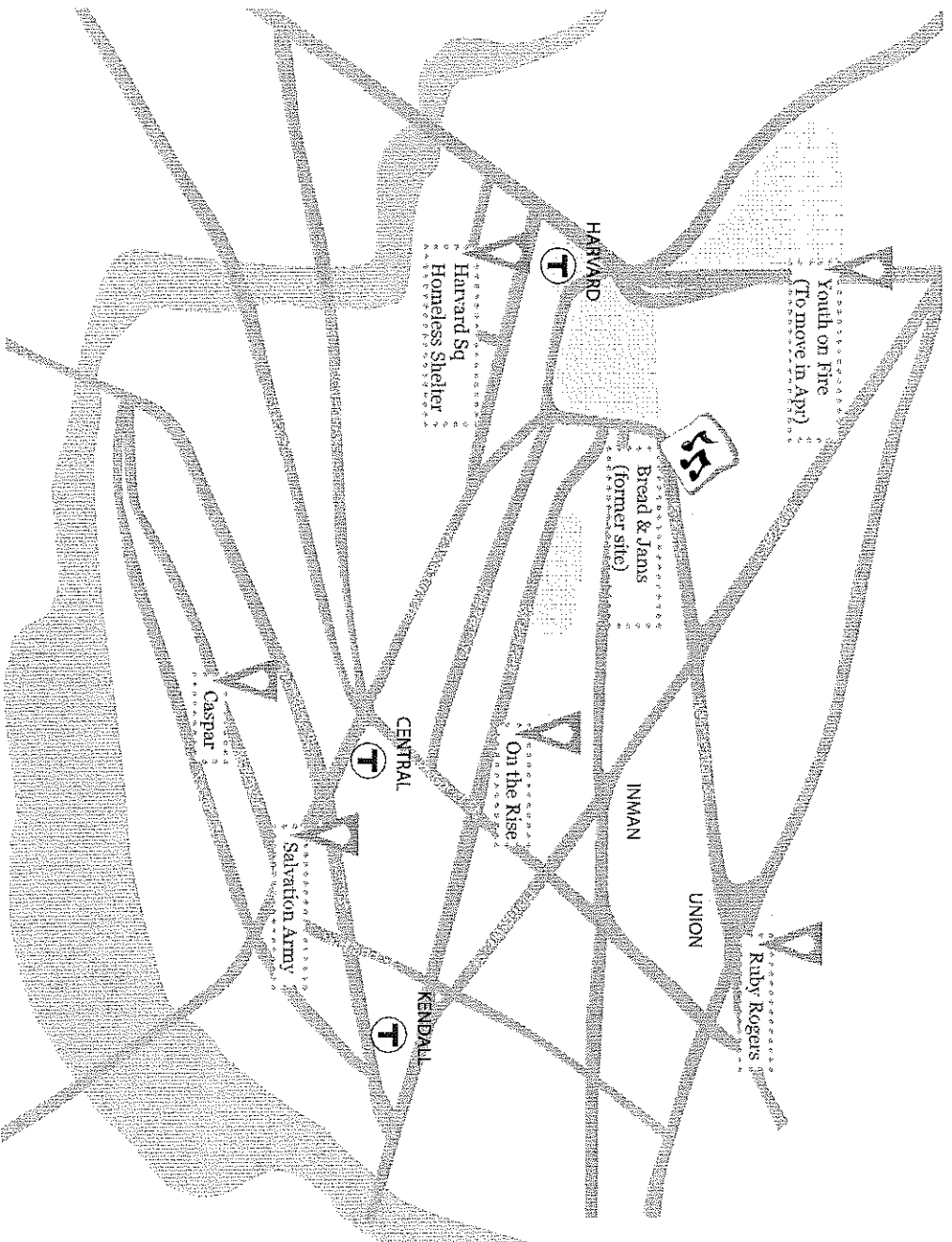
CONTACT:

breadandjams@cambridge@gmail.com





Map of Care



LOCAL SERVICES

- **SALVATION ARMY:** Short term & extended stay beds for sober men only, case management, counseling.
- **CASPAR:** An emergency shelter for men & women who are actively using alcohol or drugs only.
- **HEADING HOME:** Short term & extended stay shelter for sober men & women, case management.
- **HARVARD SQ SHELTER:** Short term & extended stay beds for sober men & women. Seasonal/winter only.
- **BREAD & JAMS:** Self Advocacy Center providing meals, mail service, help with housing search.
- **YOUTH ON FIRE:** Drop-in for homeless and at-risk youth, providing counseling, case management, health care.
- **ON THE RISE SAFE HAVEN:** Works with women who are homeless on various services.
- **RUBY ROGERS:** Self-help/advocacy, and socializing for former and current psychiatric patients.



SPORTS
GRLS BASEBALL
BEATS MALDEN
 CANTABRIGIA, B1



WEEKEND
EXTREME STORYTELLING
AT THE DAVIS MUSEUM
 PAGE B7-11

Cambridge Chronicle ESTAB

Established 1846

Thursday, April 17, 2014

www.WickedLocalCambridge.com

Vol. 167, No. 25

BREAD AND JAMS

Shelter closes after cuts

Community rallies to reopen nonprofit

By Marc Filippino
 mfilippino@wickedlocal.com

City officials and members of the community are looking feverishly to fund the recently closed homeless shelter Bread and Jams.

Bread and Jams was located at 50 Quincy St., in the basement of the Swedenborg Chapel, before closing up on March 25. The nonprofit serviced more than 200 clients annually to create a safe drop-in environment where they could get rest, obtain food and enjoy a social environment.

Operated by Eliot Community Human Services, Bread and Jams closed due to a change in its Housing Urban Development (HUD) funding, which makes up 50 percent of the nonprofit's backing. The only other source of money Bread and Jams receives is through fundraising.

Before this year's classification, Bread and Jams was labeled as a Tier 1 Permanent Housing program, which almost guaranteed Bread and James funding. This year, the homeless

SHELTER

From Page A1

shelter will be classified as a Tier 2 Permanent Housing program, which means it will be less of a priority in terms of funding from the state.

In the past several years, funding from HUD has declined consistently at the federal level. This year, President Barack Obama's proposal would increase HUD by nearly \$1.2 billion from what Congress approved for the fiscal 2014 budget.

Caroline James, a student at Harvard University's Graduate School of Design, first noticed the Bread and Jams four years ago as she walked by the entrance of the Swedenborg Church basement. Now she and other members of the Harvard Square community are looking at ways to possibly resurrect the shelter.

"The space was like a hug," James said.

The volunteer-run Bread and Jams operates on a \$160,000 budget, which was taken under Eliot Community Human Services' wing around six years ago, James said. Most of the money is used to pay rent and housing expenses.

James found out about two months ago that Bread and Jams was closing and, in response, helped form a committee of concerned citizens and stakeholders.

Additionally, Gabriel Paci, a member of Eliot's Board of Directors, said he is working to find alternative funding and see if it can move itself back up to HUD's Tier 1 funding list.

"It's a vital organization that serves a huge purpose in Harvard Square," Paci said. "It keeps the homeless in a social environment and it helps keep them away from organizations and businesses in the square."

"With that in mind, the Harvard Square Business Association could offer to help us out," Paci added.

Councilors Marc McGovern and Nadeem Mazen are holding meetings to listen to concerned citizens and help establish a short-term solution in order to get the organization immediately back on its feet. The councilors are also pointing the brainstorming session in a direction that could offer a longer-term solution for Bread and Jams.

"The long-term questions are around funding and at HUD," said McGovern. "We're working on finding a more stable revenue source so they can continue longer."

McGovern plans on meeting with members of Eliot Community Human Services and possibly local universities to help temporarily house the shelter.

Contact reporter Marc Filippino by email at mfilippino@wickedlocal.com or on Twitter- @mfilippino.

SEE SHELTER, A6

Preval, Karen

From: Cathleen456 [cahigg@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, August 05, 2014 9:55 AM
To: Preval, Karen
Subject: support 80-10-10 for affordable housing

Hi,

I am writing as a long time Cambridge resident (35 years) to strongly support the continued allocation of 80% of CPA funds for affordable housing. The basic need and right to housing should be the highest priority. When every person on a waiting list for low income income housing (over 9000 now) has a safe, affordable home, then we can worry about parks and forests. Low income people have been forced to leave Cambridge over the last decade due to the high cost of housing. We must not allow this to continue. Many low income people are at risk now for losing their homes. The city and the non-profits must continue to build and preserve this housing, and fight against an anti-development movement. Thank you.

Cathleen A Higgins
345 Norfolk St
Cambridge, MA 02139

Preval, Karen

From: carlos fuentes [carlosfuentes67@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, August 08, 2014 1:18 PM
To: Preval, Karen
Subject: CPA meeting

I just wanted to send this message as a way of supporting CPA. I am a beneficiary of affordable housing ownership. I am extremely happy to being able to purchase a condominium with the aid of different local and state organizations.

Please contact me for further testimony.

Best.

Carlos Fuentes.

Preval, Karen

From: e.hanig@comcast.net
Sent: Tuesday, August 05, 2014 11:01 AM
To: Preval, Karen
Subject: In support of maintaining the 80% allocation for affordable housing

Dear Community Preservation Act Committee members,

I am writing to urge you to recommend that 80% of the funds for FY 15 go to support affordable housing.

Although I write each year that the need has never been greater, unfortunately it is true. As Cambridge housing prices have skyrocketed in the past year, public funding has continued to decrease, and many of our Cambridge residents continue to struggle to find the employment that provides them with the resources to meet their basic needs, particularly housing. In addition to the need for additional affordable housing, we are also facing the risk of losing existing affordable units as expiring use deadlines loom, such as at Briston Arms in West Cambridge.

What has made our city special is its care for those in need and its commitment to attempting to maintain diversity. I urge you to continue the 80% allocation for affordable housing to provide resources for housing for Cambridge residents who cannot otherwise afford to live here.

Sincerely,

Esther Hanig

136 Pine St., #2

eliminating racism empowering women

ywca

YWCA Cambridge
7 Temple Street
Cambridge, MA 02139

T: 617-491-6050
F: 617-491-4108
www.ywcacam.org
www.ywca.org

Hello. My name is Stephanie Maggiore and I am the Property Manager of the Tanner Residence at the YWCA Cambridge in Central Square. I must thank you for this opportunity to share a point of view developed through years of service to this population. I am writing on my own behalf, but also to give voice to the voiceless in support the 80-10-10 ratio. I must add that even with the 80% we still struggle to fulfill the needs of the too numerous homeless women of Cambridge.

Our Tanner Residence houses just 103 of these women. And just like on the streets, our residents range between the ages of 18 and 87 and come from all walks of life. All of them, though, have suffered through many of life's horrible injustices, some starting as early as childhood: domestic violence, mental illness, traumatic military service, self-medication leading to addiction, and losing custody of their children as a result of their destroyed ability to maintain a stable life, to name just the obvious.

These women in my building finally get the room and warm bed that they deserve. We provide a safe, clean and dependable place to live. Given current rent prices, even a federal housing voucher wouldn't get anyone a room in this area. Our rents are on a sliding scale, but even \$25 a month can be a serious struggle for some. The women here know that there is nowhere else for them to go.

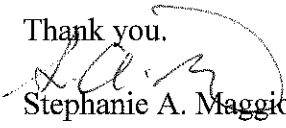
Out of our 103 units, we have few vacant at any moment, and we have an endless waiting list. Inquiries come in constantly, as least 5 per day -- women and sometimes men, looking for shelter. Many, desperate, come to the front door and we must turn them away -- sending them off to the shelter system which also cannot handle the numbers.

But we don't send anyone away without providing some options and a copy of the shelter list for the Boston area. The staff here is well-trained to refer people to agencies and temporary shelters, while also directing them to Cambridge Housing to get on the list to acquire a room here at the Tanner Residence.

We play a key role in maintaining a safe community here in Cambridge, along with the police and fire departments and Cambridge Hospital.

Yesterday one of our tenants returned from a few days in the hospital. The first thing she did upon her return was come to my office to pay her rent. She told me how much it meant to her to have a place to call her own and that she never wants to be on the streets again. It all starts with having that space.

Thank you.


Stephanie A. Maggiore
Property Manager
Tanner Residence
YWCA Cambridge

TESTIMONY
CAMBRIDGE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT (CPA) COMMITTEE
AUGUST 5, 2014
ELAINE DEROSA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
CEOC - CAMBRIDGE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY COMMITTEE, INC.

I want to thank the Committee for maintaining the 80-10-10 Community Preservation Act (CPA) formula in previous years, and request that you continue it again this year. As is stated yearly, CPA funds are the sole source of funding that the city has to develop and preserve its affordable housing.

CEOC has seen first hand the positive impact that CPA funding has had on hundreds of tenants in expiring use buildings that now know that their homes are secure. CPA funding does not just preserve the building and its apartments, CPA funds are really preserving the homes of long-time Cambridge residents.

In October 2013, an article in Banker and Tradesman celebrated Cambridge as a model for the preservation of expiring use properties. At that time CPA funds had just preserved Putnam Squares' 94 units of housing. Cambridge CPA funds have preserved hundreds of additional units. But there is no time to rest on our laurels.

There are three remaining expiring use buildings totaling 670 units of affordable housing that still need preservation, Briston Arms, the Close Building and Fresh Pond Apartments. The preservation of these three buildings will support long-time Cambridge residents who are living in fear of losing their homes and then becoming displaced from Cambridge.

Cambridge needs to maintain the CPA formula at 80% affordable housing to insure that there is sufficient preservation funding available to preserve the homes of these Cambridge tenants, 10% historic preservation and 10% open space. Not only will this CPA funding preserve the affordable housing, but it maintains the current density thus preserving our neighborhoods and the vitality of our city.

Clearly there is a need to expand affordable housing opportunities given the long-waiting lists, but we can balance the need to build with preservation. However in order to be ready to purchase expiring use properties for preservation, the city needs CPA resources to support this preservation.

Please maintain the 80-10-10 funding formula so that Cambridge will be ready with the needed resources to preserve these tenants' homes and pursue new opportunities to maintain and expand its affordable housing for all residents who are waiting for an affordable and secure home. Thank you.

June 19, 2014

Lisa C. Peterson, Chair
Community Preservation Act Committee
City of Cambridge
795 Massachusetts Ave
Cambridge MA, 02139

Dear Committee Members:

As the Executive Director of Just-A-Start Corporation (JAS), we stand in strong support of the work of the CPA Committee. The CPA funding has been an essential component of an overall strategy to develop and preserve affordable housing within our city. Now more than ever this support is needed.

It has been seven years since JAS has been able to secure new sites for the creation of new housing units. We continue to pursue opportunities but the market makes it cost prohibitive to compete.

The last new rental property developed by JAS was Elm Place, purchased in 2007 and developed and leased up in 2012. For these 11 units we had 219 applications. The other 8 units in the property were filled from the CHA wait list, which this past spring had over 9,000 households waiting for housing.

The last new Home Ownership development was also secured in 2007 and produced 14 units at the Windsor Street Church site. There we received 130 applications for 14 units of family housing.

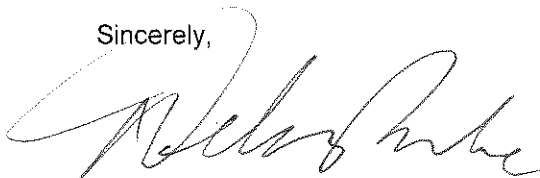
CPA supported Trust Funds helped in the preservation of 32 units of family housing purchased in 2012 and about to be renovated and restored at the Bishop Allen Apartments.

The JAS rental portfolio of nearly 600 units has a modest turnover and wait lists of over 600. Depending on the size needed, a family may wait several years for an apartment.

JAS manages a Home Improvement Program that assists homeowners in upgrades and renovations. Some of these homes have been able to benefit from the Historic Preservation allocation of CPA funds. These improved homes make an historic contribution to their neighborhoods.

Given the extremely high cost of housing within Cambridge and the need, as demonstrated by wait lists and the roles of homeless families, JAS supports the use of CPA funds to develop and preserve additional units of affordable housing.

Sincerely,



Deborah Ruhe
Executive Director



1035 Cambridge Street, #12 | Cambridge, MA 02141 | T: 617-494-0444 | www.justastart.org

August 5, 2014

Lisa C. Peterson, Chair
Community Preservation Committee
Cambridge City Hall
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Chairman Peterson & Committee Members:

My name is Deborah Ruhe and I am the Executive Director of Just-A-Start Corporation (JAS). I am also a home-owning resident of North Cambridge and have lived in the City for over 17 years. I am proud to call Cambridge my home because of our economically diverse population. I have no desire to live in a city where low income citizens and members of the Cambridge workforce can no longer afford to reside.

For the past 46 years JAS has worked to create and maintain affordable housing options for residents of the City of Cambridge. We are called Just-A-Start for a reason – we maintain and develop housing, the start, which is the essential foundation needed for basic security and upon which individuals and families can grow and succeed. As an agency, we know that the funding provided by the CPA is an essential part of what is needed to develop and preserve affordable housing within our City. Now, more than ever, the 80% commitment to affordable housing is essential to address the crisis of families living in motels, runaway housing prices and escalating rents.

At JAS we strive are dedicated to “Creating Opportunity, Strengthening Community and Improving Lives.” To support this work and the citizens of Cambridge, we ask you to maintain the 80% commitment of CPA funds for affordable housing

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deborah Ruhe", written over a white background.

Deborah S. Ruhe
Executive Director

Open Space Letters

Preval, Karen

From: Richard Krushnic [rkrushnic@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, July 15, 2014 2:43 PM
To: Preval, Karen; Peterson, Lisa
Subject: Purchase Silver Maple Forest

The Cambridge Community Preservation Committee must set aside funds to purchase the Silver Maple Forest land for conservation. The City cannot afford to lose any noteworthy open space, and particularly jewels like this, that are unique within the confines of the city. Of course it is also foolish to densely develop land like this in the flood plain. It would be a major black mark on the Preservation Committee not to make every effort to preserve this forest.

Preval, Karen

From: Peterson, Lisa
Sent: Tuesday, July 15, 2014 8:44 PM
To: Preval, Karen; Pierre, Angela
Subject: FW: Support for using CPA funds to work to purchase the silver maple forest

For the record. Thanks

Lisa

-----Original Message-----

From: almalm@gmail.com [mailto:almalm@gmail.com] On Behalf Of Amy
Sent: Monday, July 14, 2014 1:47 PM
To: Peterson, Lisa
Subject: Re: Support for using CPA funds to work to purchase the silver maple forest

Hi Lisa,

I wanted to follow up regarding the Silver Maple Forest petition to the Community Preservation committee. I know this is a complicated issue that has been before the committee twice before without success, so I wanted to check if there was any particular concerns from the committee or additional information we could try to provide for you before your next meeting on 8/5. Would be happy to do so.

We plan to attend on 8/5, as I understand it this meeting is in regards to the percent allocations not specific projects so it will be mainly to show our support for funding open space including natural ecosystems. Can only Cambridge residents attend/testify at these hearing?

As a last note, here is an interesting article on recent research showing the dramatic effects a simple walk in the woods can have on lowering human stress levels, another potential benefit of the forest!

http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2008/05/02/national/forest-therapy-taking-root/#.U8Ceqi_yKoD

Thank you for your time,
Amy Mertl

On Wed, Jun 18, 2014 at 9:28 PM, Amy <amertl@lesley.edu> wrote:

> Dear Lisa,

>

> At tomorrow nights Community Preservation committee, Ellen Mass of the
> Friends of the Alewife Reservation and other groups will be presenting
> arguments towards utilizing CPA funds to work to purchase the Silver
> Maple Forest (Belmont Uplands) for preservation along with Arlington
> and Belmont. I am attaching a letter of support on behalf of a group
> of professors at Lesley University in Cambridge, MA who value the
> Silver Maple Forest as an educational resource and for the important
> ecosystem services it provides. I hope your committee will see the
> strong value of the forest for the Cambridge community and decide to
> show support for the collaborative effort to preserve it by setting
> aside Cambridge CPA funds.

>

> Many thanks for your consideration,

> Amy Mertl
>
> --
> Amy Mertl
> Assistant Professor
> Division of Natural Sciences and Mathematics Lesley University
> 29 Everett St, Cambridge, MA 02138

--
Amy Mertl
Assistant Professor
Division of Natural Sciences and Mathematics Lesley University
29 Everett St, Cambridge, MA 02138



6/18/2014

To: Lisa Peterson, Chair of the Community Preservation Committee

From: Lesley University, Division of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

Dear Lisa and members of the Community Preservation Committee,

We are writing to express our strong support for purchasing and preserving the Silver Maple Forest (Belmont Uplands) as a forest reserve. As educators at Lesley University, we value the unique educational opportunity provided by having an intact, native forest ecosystem that is easily accessible by public transit, while as ecologists and local residents we value the vital ecosystem services provided by this forest to the surrounding urban communities.

A great challenge in teaching at an urban school such as Lesley is getting students involved and in touch with local natural history. Urban students at all levels, from preschool to college, spend a disturbingly small amount of time in natural ecosystems, which hampers their natural inclinations towards observation and discovery, and may even promote attention deficit disorders (Louv 2005). Despite the desire of many parents and teachers to combat this trend, it is logistically difficult to bring students out to such sites, particularly for the many urban residents lacking cars. For our students, especially in the natural sciences and environmental studies, the Alewife Reservation and contiguous Silver Maple Forest have provided the only such local field site that we can access using the subway. Through close collaboration with the Friends of the Alewife Reservation, we utilize this forest for many classes and educational outreach programs: from students in our Introductory Biology classes going to observe basic ecological interactions and develop service projects, to our Nature Writing course going for inspiration, to our advanced Environmental Field Studies students developing independent, semester long projects focused on the ecology and eco-chemistry of the area. In collaboration with the Urban Ecology Institute, we have also brought local high school and elementary school teachers out to the forest to practice and develop ecological activities for their classrooms.

All these educational activities would be compromised by the loss of the Silver Maple Forest. Removing this central piece of forest and replacing it with a condo development would greatly reduce the integrity of the ecosystem, resulting in the loss of many interior forest species of birds, plants, and insects (Dowd 1992, Gibb and Hochuli 2002, Alvey 2006). Water quality would likely be compromised by the development, and the additional noise and light pollution would further reduce diversity and abundance of many species (Francis et al 2009, Holker et al 2010). Larger mammal species currently present in the reserve, such as coyotes, mink and fox, would almost certainly be lost due to the reduced space and increased anthropogenic disturbances. Perhaps most importantly from an educational perspective, the wonderful and inspirational sense of being alone in the wilderness one currently feels when wandering the heart of the Alewife Reservation, a feeling most urban students rarely or never get to experience, will be lost with a hulking condo development intruding on the reserve. It will feel more like a visiting a park rather than investigating a wild place, affecting the quality and depth of its educational potential.

From a broader perspective, we also highly value the ecosystem services provided by the Alewife Reservation and the Silver Maple Forest to our local urban community. Conservationists and governmental officials often prefer to focus conservation on more rural ecosystems where larger tracks of land can be bought at lower costs. There is certainly logic to this perspective, however in terms of ecosystem services it is urban forests and green spaces that have the highest economic impacts. The Silver Maple Forest has an important role for the surrounding communities of Cambridge, Belmont and Arlington in flood protection, air quality and climate change mitigation, services that are desperately needed in urban locations. Though the multi-million dollar price tag for this property is high, the services it provides will more than pay back the surrounding communities over the long term.

We can make a few rough estimates based on research in similar environments. In terms of air quality, Nowak et al (2006) estimated trees in the Boston area reduce the amount of ozone, particulate matter, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and carbon monoxide in the air to the amount of \$1.47 million per year, or approximately 50 cents per year per m². The 15-hectare Silver Maple Forest would therefore save the surrounding towns over \$30,000 per year in air quality improvements. Trees also help regulate the surrounding temperature by trapping moisture and cooling the ground surface. Concrete and other human produced surfaces trap heat, creating urban heat islands that accentuate hot temperatures in densely populated cities (Rizwan et al 2008). Urban forests are one of the major ways cities can mitigate the effects of increasing temperatures due to climate change; large forest reserves and their surrounding areas average 1 - 3° cooler than the rest of the city and the larger the forest the greater the effect (Tyrvaainen et al 2005). While estimates for the energetic savings of these cooling effects vary by city and landscape, McPherson et al (2005) estimated a minimum savings of 44 kWhr/mature tree/year among five US cities. Using a conservative density of 182 mature trees/acre (USDA 1992) and a Massachusetts average cost of 17 cents per kWhr, we can estimate the Silver Maple Forest would save a minimum of \$50,000/year in cooling costs.

Perhaps the most convincing is the role of the Silver Maple Forest in flood protection. Floodplain forests such as the Silver Maple Forest are vital to avoid massive flood damage during heavy rainstorms, as they act to absorb excess water and slow rising water levels. The value of such a service is of course highest in densely populated urban areas; the National Wildlife Federation valued such wetlands in the Boston area at \$72,000/hectare/year based on flood mitigation alone (Myers 1996), meaning the Silver Maple Forest is saving surrounding communities upwards of \$1,080,000 per year in flood damage avoidance! Extreme precipitation events are on the rise due to climate change, so the value of an intact, functioning floodplain forest will only increase over time.

Factoring in air quality, climate change mitigation and flood protection alone, we can therefore estimate that the Silver Maple Forest would more than pay back in purchase price within ten years. This does not include a wide range of other ecosystem services the forest performs, from water quality to pest control to pollination. Overall, the value of the Silver Maple Forest to Cambridge, Belmont and Arlington as an educational resource and an ecological system far exceeds the potential value any condo development on the property could have. We strongly urge you to take up the challenge of protecting this vital natural resource and offer any support we can give you during the process.

Sincerely,

Amy L. Mertl, Assistant Professor of Biology, Lesley University, Cambridge, MA

David Morimoto, Director of the Natural Science and Mathematics Division, Lesley University, Cambridge, MA

Jeffery Perrin, Assistant Professor of Psychology, Lesley University, Cambridge, MA

Albert Liau, Assistant Professor of Biology, Lesley University, Cambridge, MA

References:

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Preval, Karen

From: Arthur Strang [arthurstrang@msn.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 16, 2014 6:22 AM
Subject: Please protect the nature of the floodplain especially the Silver Maple Forest

Please set aside funds to help purchase the Silver Maple Forest for conservation land.

Please protect this unique floodplain forest.

Thank you,
Arthur Strang
Fresh Pond Parkway

Preval, Karen

From: Bill F [bill_1860@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 16, 2014 10:28 AM
To: Preval, Karen
Subject: Buy Silver Maple Forest with community preservation funds

Buy the Silver Maple Forest with community preservation funds
once it is developed it is gone forever
Bill Forster

Preval, Karen

From: Doug Brown [douglas_p_brown@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 16, 2014 12:19 PM
To: Peterson, Lisa; Preval, Karen
Cc: jan.devereux@gmail.com; Mike Connolly
Subject: Silver Maple Forest

Importance: High

Dear CPA Committee members,

Please consider increasing the allocation for Open Space in next year's CPA budget and dedicating some or all of that additional money to the purchase of the Silver Maple Forest. Right now, we have a one-in-a-lifetime chance to protect this floodplain forest from the threat of development. Loss of this natural resource would compromise the Alewife watershed in a time of increasing flooding, eliminate a valuable urban habitat for wildlife, and erase a precious educational and recreational area located directly next door to a rapidly growing residential area. For these reasons, I believe we should set aside money to protect this vital area.

At anticipated FY15 CPA levels, funding Open Space at the maximum 80% would generate enough money (\$10 million) to purchase the Forest outright and preserve it for the future. Even at a lower level of funding, Cambridge CPA money could be leveraged with money from Belmont's CPA fund or from the latest Massachusetts Environmental Bond Bill to protect the Silver Maple Forest from imminent development. Regardless of the funding source, the time to act is now, as this project is expected to begin clear cutting the Forest in the coming months.

In conclusion, I realize that the demand for CPA funds is always high and that there is never enough money to go around. Even so, we are reaching a critical point with the forest. Local playgrounds in need of repair and historic buildings to be restored will still be standing next year if they don't receive CPA funding this year. Sadly, the same cannot be said for the Silver Maple Forest. Please help save this vital resource by allocating both a higher percentage of CPA money to Open Space in Fiscal Year 2015, as well as by dedicating that money to saving the Forest. This one-time increase in open space funding can make a lifetime's difference for our community and its threatened natural resources. Thank you for your time and attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

Doug Brown
Vice President
Fresh Pond Residents Alliance

Preval, Karen

From: Kathy Roberts [kathyroberts4@comcast.net]
Sent: Friday, July 18, 2014 2:37 PM
To: Preval, Karen
Subject: Silver Maple forest

Dear Karen Preval,

I am writing to support Cambridge and Belmont figuring out how to buy the Silver Maple Forest from the developer for many reasons but at this point I will stick to economics and being responsible for future generations.

We are all well aware of the Lesley University report which cites the importance that this forest has on air quality, climate change issues, and flood protection and that it would pay for itself within 10 years. We haven't heard of any other studies debating that statement. But truthfully I haven't checked in with the climate change deniers. This kind of insurance is the same mode of thinking that we use when purchasing fire, car and other insurance policies except we hope that we never have to use them. But in this instance we are also keeping a living grove of beautiful trees that enriches our quality of life now and for the long run. Also can't help thinking of all of the fumes from Route 2 being mitigated by the trees and what the result will be if cut down.

Although 13 million dollars is a great deal of money it seems that once the decision is made that purchasing this grove is the right thing to do there are great minds in Cambridge and Belmont to figure out paying for it. Yes, It is the right thing to do! We are elders on a fixed income. We do own our 2 family house bought in 1973 with 3 generations living in it.

Suggestions after checking out federal subsidies for environmental protection are:

Consider a percentage raise on property taxes or give an option on the tax bill for a donation to this effort.
Ask the universities and houses of worship who get huge tax breaks to join in becoming stewards of the environment.
Consider their real estate tax free holdings and make suggestions for the donation.

I have tried to contact Lisa Peterson about this and her email doesn't seem to work for me. I will keep trying.

Thank you,

Kathy Roberts
321 Huron Ave
617-721-5009

Preval, Karen

From: Hunter Aldrich [hunteraldrich@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, July 20, 2014 4:19 PM
To: Preval, Karen
Subject: The Silver Maple Forest

Dear Ms. Preval:

I am writing to offer my support for the Friend's of the Alewife Reservation petition to set aside funds to purchase the Silver Maple Forest for conservation land. I value this unique floodplain forest and support the Cambridge Community Preservation Committee setting aside funds for its purchase.

The Silver Maple Forest is extremely important to the communities of Arlington, Belmont, and Cambridge in the vital role that it plays in maintaining air quality, mitigating climate change, and flood protection. Additionally, this forest is home to many species of fauna and flora and mammals that depend on this forest for their survival.

This Committee and other local and state entities must purchase this forest to prevent developers from destroying it and building enormous commercial developments on the land, a tragedy that would adversely affect the surrounding neighborhoods. Not protecting this forest as conservation land would lead to an increase in flooding in Little Pond, an increase in air and water pollution, and an increase in traffic congestion as far as the Fresh Pond Rotary. Not purchasing this forest would allow developers to buy the forest, cut it down, and kill off the wildlife who currently live on it by destroying its habitat.

Please vote to purchase the Silver Maple Forest for conservation land.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Hunter Aldrich

Fresh Pond/Alewife Area

Cambridge

Preval, Karen

From: Nina Dillon [nxdillon@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, July 21, 2014 8:58 AM
To: Preval, Karen; Peterson, Lisa
Subject: Conserve the Silver Maple Forest

Dear Cambridge Community Preservation Committee,

I'm writing to urge you to set aside funds to help purchase the Silver Maple Forest as conservation land. This unique urban space is a local treasure. Thank you for your efforts to preserve it.

Best,
Nina Dillon
Mothers Out Front: Mobilizing for a Livable Climate

Preval, Karen

From: Quinton Zondervan [qyz915@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, August 04, 2014 4:02 PM
To: Peterson, Lisa
Cc: Preval, Karen
Subject: Letter regarding CPA funding and the Silver Maple Forest
Attachments: Letter in support of CPA funding for Silver Maple Forest 2014.pdf; CPA Statement on Silver Maple Forest.pdf; ATT00001.txt

Community Preservation Act Committee
Lisa Peterson, Chair, Deputy City Manager

Dear Members of the Committee,

July 31, 2014

This statement is in support of applying CPA funding to a future opportunity to purchase all or part of the floodplain land currently slated for development variously known as the Belmont Uplands or Silver Maple Forest (approximately 15 acres), which lies adjacent to the Alewife Reservation and represents a tremendous opportunity for all of us in Arlington, Belmont and Cambridge to protect our communities from flooding, prepare ourselves for the inevitable changes from a warming climate and protect an important urban wilderness for current and future generations of animals and humans.

Although there is no immediate purchasing opportunity at this time, I want to bring to the committee's attention recent progress regarding this issue. Specifically, the City Council passed resolution 0-4 on July 28, 2014 requesting that the City Manager convene a meeting with Arlington, Belmont and the Commonwealth to discuss possible options for preserving the forest. In addition, community activists brought in the Trust for Public Land to approach the developer about selling the land.

In light of this strong progress towards preservation, I urge the committee to consider this project a potential future open space purchasing opportunity, worthy of building up our CPA reserves for, in anticipation of that possibility. Included with this letter is my statement from 2011, as a reminder of the benefits of preserving this unique property.

Attachments and References:

Cambridge City Council Resolution 0-4, July 28, 2014:
<http://www2.cambridgema.gov/cityclerk/PolicyOrder.cfm?item id=44025>

Letter dated June 21, 2011 submitted by Quinton Zondervan and personal statement made by same at the public CPA hearing of the same date.

Thanks very much for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Quinton Y. Zondervan
President
Green Cambridge

Cc: Karen Preval, Sr. Management Analyst



Community Preservation Act Committee
Lisa Peterson, Chair, Deputy City Manager

Dear Members of the Committee,

July 31, 2014

This statement is in support of applying CPA funding to a future opportunity to purchase all or part of the floodplain land currently slated for development variously known as the Belmont Uplands or Silver Maple Forest (approximately 15 acres), which lies adjacent to the Alewife Reservation and represents a tremendous opportunity for all of us in Arlington, Belmont and Cambridge to protect our communities from flooding, prepare ourselves for the inevitable changes from a warming climate and protect an important urban wilderness for current and future generations of animals and humans.

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In light of this strong progress towards preservation, I urge the committee to consider this project a potential future open space purchasing opportunity, worthy of building up our CPA reserves for, in anticipation of that possibility. Included with this letter is my statement from 2011, as a reminder of the benefits of preserving this unique property.

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http://www2.cambridgema.gov/cityclerk/PolicyOrder.cfm?item_id=44025

Letter dated June 21, 2011 submitted by Quinton Zondervan and personal statement made by same at the public CPA hearing of the same date.

Thanks very much for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Q. Zondervan".

Quinton Y. Zondervan
President
Green Cambridge

Cc: Karen Preval, Sr. Management Analyst

Statement to the Community Preservation Act Committee at the June 21, 2011 Hearing

by Quinton Y. Zondervan
Cambridge Resident, speaking for himself and as a representative of:
Green Decade/Cambridge, President
Cambridge Climate Emergency Action Group, Co-Coordinator

Also serving as Vice Chair of, but not speaking for, at this hearing, the Cambridge Climate Action Protection Committee (CPAC) advising the City Manager on Climate Protection Issues.

Dear Members of the Committee,

This statement is in support of applying CPA funding to a future opportunity to purchase the floodplain land currently slated for development variously known as the Belmont Uplands or Silver Maple Forest (approximately 15 acres), which lies adjacent to the Alewife Reservation and represents a tremendous opportunity for all of us in Arlington, Belmont and Cambridge to protect our communities from flooding, prepare ourselves for the inevitable changes from a warming climate and protect an important urban wilderness for current and future generations of animals and humans.

Specific Benefits of preserving the Silver Maple Forest include:

1. Reduced flooding during heavy and or frequent rainstorms due to natural absorption of the water by the forest. The area slated for development lies in a FEMA designated flood plain. Ideally no development should take place there at all, because any development would almost certainly increase flooding problems. Cambridge and Belmont participate in the FEMA flood insurance program and therefore are required to comply with FEMA regulations.
2. Reduced pollution from storm water run-off due to the natural filtering of the water by the forest. Storm water run-off is a serious pollution problem for our rivers and streams. It makes no sense to add to this problem by replacing the naturally filtering forest with more impermeable surface area. Many local organizations including the Mystic River Watershed Association and Friends of Alewife Reservation, have spoken out strongly against the planned uplands development due to the certainty that it will worsen the water quality in Little River, Little Pond and ultimately the Mystic River (which received a D- rating in 2010).
3. Increased educational and recreational opportunities for enjoying the urban wilderness. The Alewife reservation is easily accessible to residents and school children in Cambridge and surrounding towns, including via public transportation. It is a unique opportunity to preserve a highly accessible wilderness for our community. It provides a rare and unique educational opportunity that our children and future generations can benefit from forever.
4. Preservation of habitat for many animal species living among us and benefiting our lives daily, including birds, insects, reptiles and mammals. We depend on the natural world to make the oxygen we breathe, pollinate the vegetables we eat, filter the water we drink and swim in, etc. These benefits are difficult to quantify in dollars, but what is certain is that the more we destroy of the natural world the greater the value of what remains. Destroying this forest is surely a cost we cannot actually afford.
5. Preserving this habitat is an important step in protecting our community from the inevitable climate changes brought on by the warming of the Earth's atmosphere. The Silver Maple Forest provides protection by naturally sequestering carbon, naturally cooling the area through the absorption of heat from the sun, and by naturally buffering the surrounding communities from increased flooding. It is predicted that the New England area will receive heavier rainfall than in the past due to climate change, and recent years are confirming that trend.
6. On June 6, 2011, the Cambridge City Council unanimously adopted a policy order resolution directing the City Manager to inquire with other state and town officials whether the property can be purchased and to determine how the city of Cambridge could contribute financially to such a potential purchase. The Community Preservation Act was created for just this purpose and it is highly appropriate that the Committee, for the next five years, set aside at least the 10% required to be spent on open space preservation for the purpose of contributing towards a future purchasing opportunity of the Silver Maple Forest.
7. Preservation of the Silver Maple Forest is consistent with the goals of the City of Cambridge's 2010 Open Space and Recreation Plan (2009 - 2016), which specifically mentions the needs to protect against flooding, storm water runoff and floodplain development in the Alewife Reservation area and to protect wildlife habitat and urban wilderness in Cambridge, specifically in and near the Alewife Reservation. The plan also specifically mentions the need to protect urban wilderness areas as part of climate protection.

Attachments and References

Cambridge City Council Resolution, June 6, 2011: http://www2.cambridgema.gov/cityclerk/PolicyOrder.cfm?item_id=32252

City of Cambridge 2010 Open Space and Recreation Plan:
http://www2.cambridgema.gov/cdd/cp/parks/osplan/osplan_2010_complete.pdf

Official Report on Belmont Silver Maple Forest from Normandeau Associates (2006, updated 2010):
<http://friendsofalewifereservation.org/2010-12-14-patrick-fairbairn-report.htm>

Mystic River Watershed Association Statement (2007): <http://friendsofalewifereservation.org/2007-08-13-mystic-river-watershed-association.htm>

Additional documents, reports and details are available from the [Friends of Alewife Reservation](http://friendsofalewifereservation.org) website:
http://friendsofalewifereservation.org/search/search.php?zoom_sort=0&zoom_query=silver+maple+forest&zoom_per_page=10&zoom_and=0

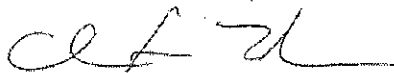
Personal Statement

First, you should know that I am a businessman and entrepreneur. I currently work as the CEO of a small biotechnology company that is developing new therapies against infectious diseases. Previously I was the Chief Technology Officer at an internet start-up company, and prior to that I worked as a software architect at Lotus/IBM. I am neither anti-business, nor anti-development, and I deeply respect the rights of private property owners. That is why I'm very much in favor of purchasing conservation land as a win-win solution for all parties.

A few weeks ago I had the opportunity to visit the Silver Maple Forest, for the first time, with my 11 year old daughter. True to form she demurred at my invitation, un-interested in my proposition to take the subway to Alewife, trudge through the mud and rain, just to see yet another piece of urban wilderness. She feared boredom and endless lectures by her father along the way. Yet we had hardly exited the train station at Alewife when her mood improved considerably upon seeing a river swallow from the bridge over Little River. She spent the next hour enthusiastically cataloging the dozens of species of birds we could hear and see as we walked all the way to Little Pond and back. The value of this experience to me, as a father, is not describable in words. To cut down even one tree on that property for more development is a crime against her and all current and future residents of Cambridge and surrounding towns.

It is very clear to me that there is a strong consensus in the community that this property should not be developed, including 8 prior city council resolutions. I hope you will recommend to set aside no less than 10% of the CPA funds every year for the next five years for the purpose of contributing to purchasing this land. If an opportunity to purchase does not arise, the funds can of course be applied to other open space preservation projects in the future.

Thank you.



Quinton Y. Zondervan
235 Cardinal Medeiros Ave.
Cambridge, MA 02141



Preval, Karen

From: Peterson, Lisa
Sent: Monday, July 28, 2014 3:58 PM
To: Preval, Karen; Pierre, Angela
Subject: FW: Request for Baldwin School learning garden
Attachments: Design Boards.RSteck.pdf; Baldwin School Request.7-28-14.pdf

For the record. Thanks

From: Jane Hirschi [<mailto:jhirschi@citysprouts.org>]
Sent: Monday, July 28, 2014 3:49 PM
To: Peterson, Lisa
Subject: Request for Baldwin School learning garden

Dear Lisa,

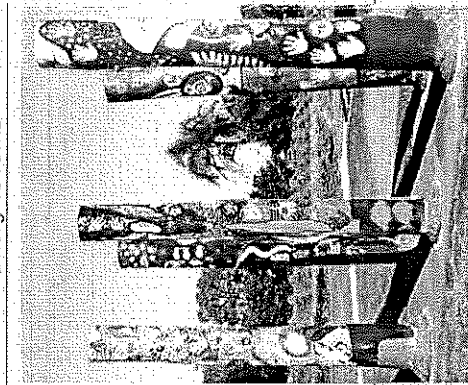
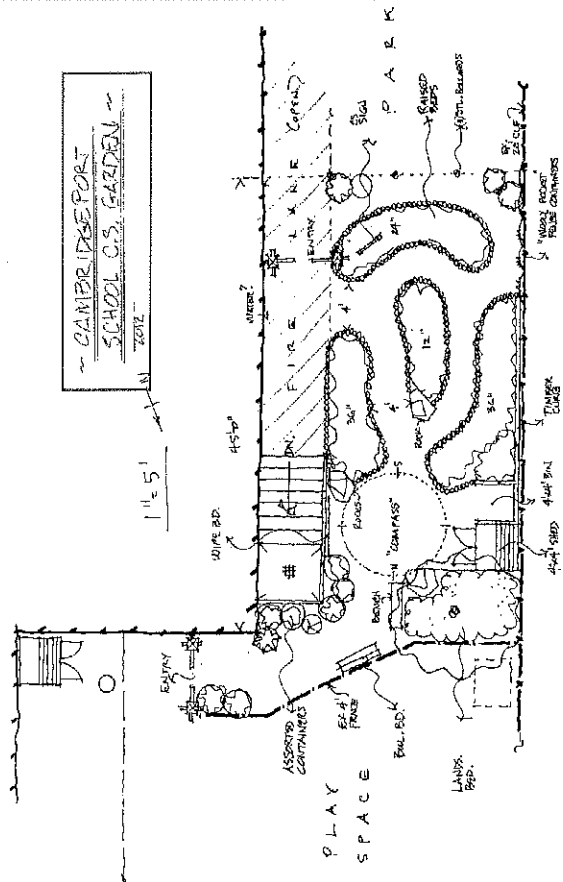
Thanks very much for encouraging me to submit this letter regarding the Open Space Community Preservation Act funds on behalf of the Baldwin School. Please find it attached. I've also attached Rob Steck's design boards for the Morse, Cambridgeport and Baldwin schools (all are on the same pages- it's a little confusing but Baldwin is on the second page with C'port).

Please let me know if there is any other information I can send to you as the committee considers their decisions.

Best,
Jane

--
Jane Hirschi
Executive Director
678 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139
(617) 876-2436
www.citysprouts.org

City Sprouts Gardens at CAMBRIDGEPORT & BALDWIN SCHOOLS

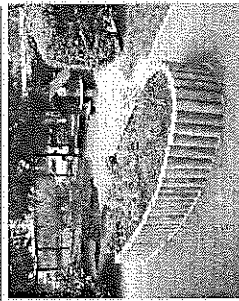
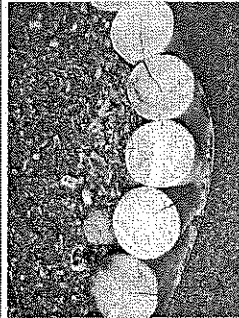


Entry Totems

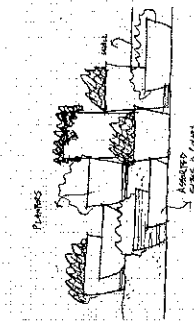
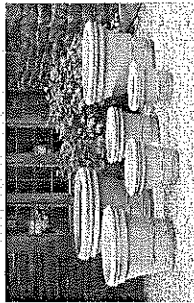
citysprouts

Entry Sign

Raised Plant Beds



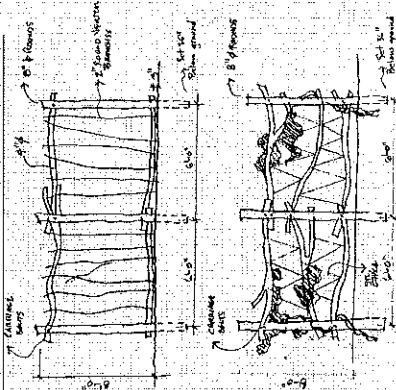
Assorted Containers



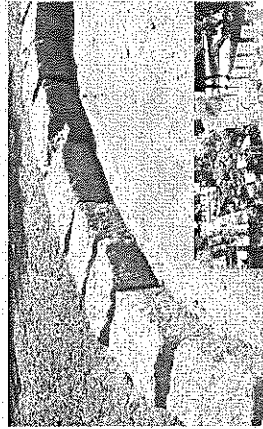
Bulletin Board



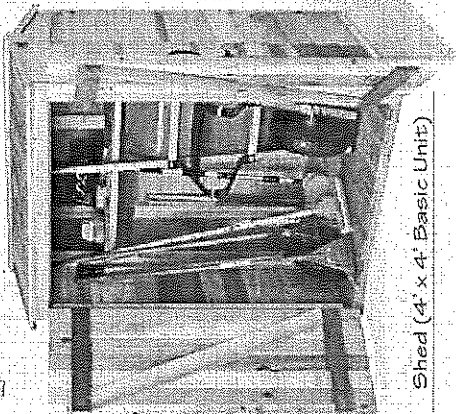
Trellis with Vine



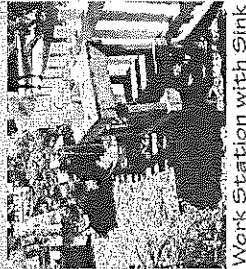
Sitting Rocks



Shed (4' x 4' Basic Unit)



Work Station with Sink





678 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

July 28, 2014

Lisa C. Peterson
Deputy City Manager
Cambridge City Hall
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Ms. Peterson,

I am writing to request funding from the Open Space Community Preservation Act for a project to develop the schoolyard learning garden at the Baldwin School on Sacramento Street. This open space project is based on a design created by Rob Steck of the City of Cambridge Community Development department. The cost of the development is \$40,000.

This project will transform the current space at the Baldwin School in a number of ways. First, it will address Baldwin School teachers' and Principal Nick Leonardos' concern that the current space limits teachers' science and English language arts instruction. Research indicates the value of outdoor, hands-on learning. Teachers' experience at other Cambridge public schools confirms that with adequately developed space, the learning garden helps teachers meet their students' learning goals. Secondly, this project will address safety and ADA compliance issues in the current space by ensuring that the outdoor learning garden can safely hold a full class of elementary students, and that growing spaces and other instructional elements are accessible to all students.

On behalf of the Baldwin School, I appreciate your consideration of this request for funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane S. Hirschi".

Jane S. Hirschi
Executive Director

cc Nicholas Leonardos and James Maloney

Preval, Karen

From: Peterson, Lisa
Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2014 5:02 PM
To: Jennings, Taha; Pierre, Angela; Preval, Karen
Subject: FW: CPA request
Attachments: CPA Statement on Silver Maple Forest- 8-11-11 .pdf; CPA Questioning of refusal to consider silver maple open space funding 10-31-11.docx; CPA Questions from Environmental Groups 10-30.docx

From: Ellen Mass [<mailto:emass73@gmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2014 4:07 PM
To: Peterson, Lisa
Subject: CPA request

Dear Lisa,

For tomorrow's CPA meeting, and in terms of "Open Space" allocations, we are still using the 2011 State CPA guidelines as support for our request.

We propose, once again, to use the funds for the silver maple forest purchase which would be supplemented by Belmont and Arlington.

The funds would be placed aside until such a package was bundled.

And if this is not to be, funds would be open for other request locations.

Ellen Mass
Friends of Alewife Reservation

Statement to the Community Preservation Act Committee at the June 21, 2011 Hearing

by Quinton Y. Zondervan
Cambridge Resident, speaking for himself and as a representative of:
Green Decade/Cambridge, President
Cambridge Climate Emergency Action Group, Co-Coordinator

Also serving as Vice Chair of, but not speaking for, at this hearing, the Cambridge Climate Action Protection Committee (CPAC) advising the City Manager on Climate Protection Issues.

Dear Members of the Committee,

This statement is in support of applying CPA funding to a future opportunity to purchase the floodplain land currently slated for development variously known as the Belmont Uplands or Silver Maple Forest (approximately 15 acres), which lies adjacent to the Alewife Reservation and represents a tremendous opportunity for all of us in Arlington, Belmont and Cambridge to protect our communities from flooding, prepare ourselves for the inevitable changes from a warming climate and protect an important urban wilderness for current and future generations of animals and humans.

Specific Benefits of preserving the Silver Maple Forest include:

1. Reduced flooding during heavy and or frequent rainstorms due to natural absorption of the water by the forest. The area slated for development lies in a FEMA designated flood plain. Ideally no development should take place there at all, because any development would almost certainly increase flooding problems. Cambridge and Belmont participate in the FEMA flood insurance program and therefore are required to comply with FEMA regulations.
2. Reduced pollution from storm water run-off due to the natural filtering of the water by the forest. Storm water run-off is a serious pollution problem for our rivers and streams. It makes no sense to add to this problem by replacing the naturally filtering forest with more impermeable surface area. Many local organizations including the Mystic River Watershed Association and Friends of Alewife Reservation, have spoken out strongly against the planned uplands development due to the certainty that it will worsen the water quality in Little River, Little Pond and ultimately the Mystic River (which received a D- rating in 2010).
3. Increased educational and recreational opportunities for enjoying the urban wilderness. The Alewife reservation is easily accessible to residents and school children in Cambridge and surrounding towns, including via public transportation. It is a unique opportunity to preserve a highly accessible wilderness for our community. It provides a rare and unique educational opportunity that our children and future generations can benefit from forever.
4. Preservation of habitat for many animal species living among us and benefiting our lives daily, including birds, insects, reptiles and mammals. We depend on the natural world to make the oxygen we breathe, pollinate the vegetables we eat, filter the water we drink and swim in, etc. These benefits are difficult to quantify in dollars, but what is certain is that the more we destroy of the natural world the greater the value of what remains. Destroying this forest is surely a cost we cannot actually afford.
5. Preserving this habitat is an important step in protecting our community from the inevitable climate changes brought on by the warming of the Earth's atmosphere. The Silver Maple Forest provides protection by naturally sequestering carbon, naturally cooling the area through the absorption of heat from the sun, and by naturally buffering the surrounding communities from increased flooding. It is predicted that the New England area will receive heavier rainfall than in the past due to climate change, and recent years are confirming that trend.
6. On June 6, 2011, the Cambridge City Council unanimously adopted a policy order resolution directing the City Manager to inquire with other state and town officials whether the property can be purchased and to determine how the city of Cambridge could contribute financially to such a potential purchase. The Community Preservation Act was created for just this purpose and it is highly appropriate that the Committee, for the next five years, set aside at least the 10% required to be spent on open space preservation for the purpose of contributing towards a future purchasing opportunity of the Silver Maple Forest.
7. Preservation of the Silver Maple Forest is consistent with the goals of the City of Cambridge's 2010 Open Space and Recreation Plan (2009 - 2016), which specifically mentions the needs to protect against flooding, storm water runoff and floodplain development in the Alewife Reservation area and to protect wildlife habitat and urban wilderness in Cambridge, specifically in and near the Alewife Reservation. The plan also specifically mentions the need to protect urban wilderness areas as part of climate protection.

Attachments and References

Cambridge City Council Resolution, June 6, 2011: http://www2.cambridgema.gov/cityclerk/PolicyOrder.cfm?item_id=32252

City of Cambridge 2010 Open Space and Recreation Plan:
http://www2.cambridgema.gov/cdd/cp/parks/osplan/osplan_2010_complete.pdf

Official Report on Belmont Silver Maple Forest from Normandeau Associates (2006, updated 2010):
<http://friendsofalewifereservation.org/2010-12-14-patrick-fairbairn-report.htm>

Mystic River Watershed Association Statement (2007): <http://friendsofalewifereservation.org/2007-08-13-mystic-river-watershed-association.htm>

Additional documents, reports and details are available from the [Friends of Alewife Reservation website](http://friendsofalewifereservation.org):
http://friendsofalewifereservation.org/search/search.php?zoom_sort=0&zoom_query=silver+maple+forest&zoom_per_page=10&zoom_and=0

Personal Statement

First, you should know that I am a businessman and entrepreneur. I currently work as the CEO of a small biotechnology company that is developing new therapies against infectious diseases. Previously I was the Chief Technology Officer at an internet start-up company, and prior to that I worked as a software architect at Lotus/IBM. I am neither anti-business, nor anti-development, and I deeply respect the rights of private property owners. That is why I'm very much in favor of purchasing conservation land as a win-win solution for all parties.

A few weeks ago I had the opportunity to visit the Silver Maple Forest, for the first time, with my 11 year old daughter. True to form she demurred at my invitation, un-interested in my proposition to take the subway to Alewife, trudge through the mud and rain, just to see yet another piece of urban wilderness. She feared boredom and endless lectures by her father along the way. Yet we had hardly exited the train station at Alewife when her mood improved considerably upon seeing a river swallow from the bridge over Little River. She spent the next hour enthusiastically cataloging the dozens of species of birds we could hear and see as we walked all the way to Little Pond and back. The value of this experience to me, as a father, is not describable in words. To cut down even one tree on that property for more development is a crime against her and all current and future residents of Cambridge and surrounding towns.

It is very clear to me that there is a strong consensus in the community that this property should not be developed, including 8 prior city council resolutions. I hope you will recommend to set aside no less than 10% of the CPA funds every year for the next five years for the purpose of contributing to purchasing this land. If an opportunity to purchase does not arise, the funds can of course be applied to other open space preservation projects in the future.

Thank you.



Quinton Y. Zondervan
235 Cardinal Medeiros Ave.
Cambridge, MA 02141



ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS REQUEST RECONSIDERATION OF CPA FUNDING:

Friends of Alewife Reservation, Green Cambridge, CCEAG, Coalition to Preserve Belmont Uplands, Sustainable Arlington and Sustainable Belmont all request Cambridge to consider setting aside a part of the CPA Open Space funding in order to carry out the MGL Chapter 44B laws which pertain to natural resources areas, such as what exists in northwest Cambridge at the Alewife Reservation, where private property cuts into the core of the urban wild and wildlife refuge.

The request to purchase a part of our urban wild which extends into Belmont is in accord with the laws and covers 7 of the 8 requirements for Open Space funding and MGL chapter 44B. There is no other spot in Cambridge which does so.

The owner of the land is presently divesting some of his small properties, and our teams feel that owner's land, recently valued at 1 million dollars an acre, by one appraiser, could be offered to the developer for considerably less with major tax reductions of up to 75 percent that he may receive if he chooses to go with 61B law which gives the town or city the "Right of First Refusal" i.e. if Belmont Uplands is placed on the market, the city would have a right to bid with priority, and the owner would have a 75 percent tax deduction. This is our understanding from Mass Association of Conservation Commissions professionals at their annual Fall conference. See description attached.

The 7 requirements for Cambridge Open Space funding are as follows:

- Watershed lands
- Grasslands, Fields and Forest Land
- Marshes and other wetlands
- River, Stream, Lake and Pond Frontage
- Lands to Protect Scenic Vistas
- Land for wildlife and nature preserves

We ask that the city refrain from using these funds for non legal purposes, although community gardens and parks are highly worthy for general open space funding, but not CPA Open Space funding.

It is specifically stipulated that Open space funds may not be used for recreational purposes (passive and active), parklands, playing fields, playgrounds, community gardens, trails.

Please reconsider how the city will use these funds.

Our floodplain forest with 3 municipalities using it for environmental learning and flood retention are highly worth goals for 2012 CPA Open Space funding.

The request of Mr. Quinton Zondervan to set aside monies for this endeavor continues to be made.

Ellen Mass Friends of Alewife Reservation
Quinton Zondervan- Green Cambridge, Cambridge Climate Emergency Action Group
In behalf of the Team members

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Quinton Zondervan- Green Cambridge, Cambridge Climate Emergency Action Group
In behalf of the Team members

Preval, Karen

From: Peterson, Lisa
Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2014 8:17 PM
To: Preval, Karen; Pierre, Angela; Jennings, Taha
Subject: Fwd: Playground at Cambridgeport (lisap@cambridgema.gov)

For CPA

Lisa

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Patricia Wong (via Google Docs)" <pwong@cpsd.us>
Date: June 18, 2014 at 12:32:04 PM EDT
To: "Peterson, Lisa" <lisap@cambridgema.gov>
Cc: "kcharner-laird@cpsd.us" <kcharner-laird@cpsd.us>
Subject: Playground at Cambridgeport (lisap@cambridgema.gov)

Attached: Playground

June 18, 2014

PETITION FOR A NEW PLAYGROUND AT THE CAMBRIDGEPORT SCHOOL
To Whom It May Concern:

As a pediatric physical therapist and occupational therapist at the Cambridgeport School, we are writing to share with you our opinions regarding the Cambridgeport Playground. Both of us work with both the Special Start Preschool Classrooms as well as the K-6 grades at the Cambridgeport School.

Playgrounds are places where children's play flourish. On well designed playgrounds, children can challenge their bodies, explore and experiences varied movement and have fun at the same time. Playgrounds give children the opportunity to develop large and small muscles and motor skills; gain important sensory input as well as increase cardiovascular endurance. Playgrounds are also an important part of the school day, providing students with much needed breaks for movement and an unstructured time for students to explore and create play schemes.

The little playground (used by preschoolers and kindergartners) is not age appropriate for this age group. The little playground currently is designed more for infants and toddlers since it has small steps, crawling tunnels and very low climbing areas. Preschoolers and kindergartners should have access to higher climbing ladders, balance bridges, slides as well as swings so as to strengthen their bodies and improve their balance. A variety of sloped areas help children learn to adjust their balance on differing surfaces. Although it is important to encourage specific motor skills such as fine and gross motor development, it is also important to support the development of the brain and nerve functions and growth. Therefore, activities like crawling, running, climbing, and swinging are all critical activities for young children.

The large playground currently is divided into 2 sections with a large basketball court in the middle. The large playground is currently used for 1st to 5th graders. This playground is also not age appropriate for the older children. Like the little playground, the large playground should provide access to a larger variety of playground equipment such as corkscrews, fireman poles, slides and swings. The small size and variety of the equipment limits the play opportunities for students, as there is just not enough equipment. Currently, there is one tire swing for each grade to use at recess. As well, the position of the basketball court in the center of the playground is a safety concern when children have to cut through basketball games to get from one side to the other.

A playground is an important aspect of the school environment and recess is an important part of the student's day. We support new playgrounds at the Cambridgeport School and would be happy to help with ideas for design and activities.

Alicia Zeh-Dean, MS, OTR/L
DPT
Occupational Therapist

Patricia Wong, MSPT,
Physical Therapist

Google Docs: Create and edit documents online.

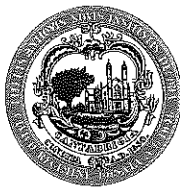


<<< Attachments were removed because of an administrator policy. >>>

Talking Points for Community Preservation Meeting- June 19th

1. I'd like to paint a picture for those of you who may not know the Cambridgeport playground well. In the center of the playground there is a large basketball court. It takes up about half to 2/3rds of the playground. Last fall, I decided to gather some data about playground usage. I went outside during 1st and 2nd grade recess, where there were about 80 students on the playground. On this particular day, there were 7 students on that basketball court. The other 70+ students were joyfully climbing all over the remaining two structures. Kids are resilient, they do learn to work with what they have. But when I saw this I couldn't help but think—there's not enough space, the space that exists is designed for older students, and with this many students on the structures that may well be developmentally appropriate for the age, safety issues are sure to arise. Two years ago with the Innovation Agenda, Cambridgeport went from a K-8 school to a PreK-5th grade school. We now have more than half of our population under the age of 8. The Cambridgeport playground was designed for older students. The primary feature of the playground is a basketball court. I would like for the Cambridgeport playground to more appropriately match the play desires of our current age group.
2. In addition to the overall design of the playground being developmentally inappropriate, the structures themselves are in need of updating. They are roughly 14 years old at this point, and in need of updating. A student recently got his finger stuck in a hole left when a cable was ripped out.
3. Finally, I want to speak to the symbolic importance of playgrounds in our community. I frequently have the opportunity to talk with prospective families who are touring the school in preparation for the Kindergarten lottery. Time and time again, I have heard chagrin about the state of the playground. Families like what they see at Cambridgeport, but don't like the thought of their five year old having so little space for play. As a city, we have a dilemma with regards to school choice. There are fewer K seats North and West of Harvard Square than children who live there. In order for our choice system to work, families from the North and West side of Cambridge have to want to cross the city to go to school. I know that I work hard every day to make Cambridgeport a school that people from all over the city want to come to. I request your help ensuring that our facilities as well as our academic program draw families from across the city.

I stand here with parents (and teachers?) from the Cport community asking you to please fund the construction of a new playground that will be developmentally appropriate and meet the needs of our PreK to 5 student population.



CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.
City Councillor

June 19, 2014

RE: Suggestions for Community Preservation Act Funding

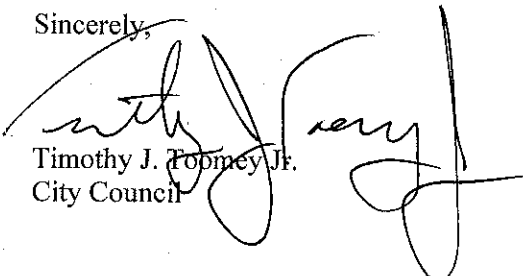
To Members of the Committee,

I would like to suggest and lend support for two possible projects for Community Preservation Act funds. The first is for the renovation of the **Cambridgeport School playground**. Our school playgrounds should reflect the population of the students that attend the school. With the recent changes in the school system, many feel the play equipment is geared more towards the previous population of older middle school students. With a now younger population the city should consider changing the play equipment to something more suitable to the younger grades that now solely populate the building.

Additionally, the committee should look for ways in which the CPA money could further the goals of creating the **Grand Junction Multiuse Path**. This path is an important piece of transportation infrastructure that we as a city should be finding ways to make a reality. I believe the CPA committee could creatively find ways to help advance this projects many needs.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I hope you will consider these two needs of the community as you make your decisions.

Sincerely,


Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.
City Council



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
Community Development Department

JUL 28 14 AM 11:14 City Manager

BRIAN P. MURPHY


*Assistant City Manager for
Community Development*

IRAM FAROOQ

*Acting Deputy Director for
Community Development*

Memo:

To: Lisa Peterson, Deputy City Manager; CPA Committee

From: Stuart Dash, Director of Community Planning, Community Development
Department 

RE: Additional Funding Request

Date: July 23, 2014

To the CPA Committee,

This past fall the Haggerty School was prioritized for school playground renovation, after a number of years of concern from both parents and the school administration. In September 2013, based on the recommendation of the Community Preservation Act (CPA) Committee, the City approved the allocation of \$600,000 in CPA funding for the renovation of the park. In order to have the project underway this coming spring and summer to be complete by fall of 2015, the Community Development Department worked with the Department of Public Works (DPW), the Department of Human Services Programs (DHSP) and the School Department to complete a very robust planning and design process to come up with an excellent design for the tightly constrained site (see attached concept plan). Unfortunately, despite cost saving modifications to the design such as reducing the amount of play equipment, park furniture, and rubber surfacing, the constraints of the site also have driven expected costs above the amount previously allocated for this project. In seeking additional funds that would be available in time for the contract to be signed this fall, we are requesting an additional \$175,000 in CPA funding, to offset an expected short fall in the Haggerty School Playground project budget.

Historic Preservation Letters

CNA
Cambridgeport
Neighborhood
Association

21 June 2014

Lisa Peterson, Deputy City Manager and Chair
Community Preservation Act Committee
795 Massachusetts Ave.
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Lisa and the CPA Committee:

The Cambridgeport Neighborhood Association requests \$56,500 of Open Space and/or Historic Preservation funds to update and complete Phase II landscape plans for the western part of Magazine Beach Park. In 2007, after extensive public process, landscape designers Crosby, Schlessinger Smallridge (CSS) developed plans for Magazine Beach Park. Part of the plans were executed as part of Phase I improvements in 2009. Plans for the western part of the park were never completed. DCR Sr. Planner Rick Corsi, who is responsible for Magazine Beach Park, estimates that it will cost \$113,000 to engage CSS, or a comparable landscape architectural firm, to update and finish the existing plans. The footprint of the pedestrian footbridge has changed (it was replaced in 2011) and the plans need to accommodate this. Also, they do not include the Powder Magazine structure, which will be restored this year as the focal point for the park. The political and social climate in Cambridge has changed over the past decade and the consensus is that the park should be finished. It is an important open space resource for the City of Cambridge.

The City of Cambridge should fund this project for seven reasons:

Restoring Magazine Beach would be a transformative project. It is Cambridge's second largest park—fifteen acres—containing the historic powder house, the oldest structure along the Charles River, and offering dramatic water views. Despite its potential as one of Cambridge's iconic open spaces, it is underutilized today because it is in derelict condition. The powder magazine is covered with graffiti and its roof is full of holes. The surrounding park has a broken wading pool, broken benches, sunken pavement and no playground. Its 50-year old jungle gym—a hazard and eyesore—was hauled away last fall.

This is a social justice issue. Even in its derelict condition, Magazine Beach Park attracts residents without the means to vacation away. It is popular for picnicking and it attracts large numbers to its free pool. The Cambridge families and youth for which it is a vital recreational facility deserve more than a decaying park.

Cambridgeport Neighborhood Association, a 5013c Non-Profit Organization

11 Florence Street, Cambridge, MA 02139 (617) 951-9909

Directors: Bill August, President, Marge Amster, Colleen Clark,
Olivia Fiske, Clerk, Leslie Greis, Jay Shetterly, Treasurer and Cathie Zusy

We have already invested in it and we are making progress. Thanks to the City of Cambridge, Phase I improvements were made to the eastern part of the park in 2009. In 2012, the City invested \$25,000 (of historic preservation CPA funds matched with \$67,500 of DCR dollars) into an historic structure report for the 1818 powder magazine and, in 2013, \$100,000 (of historic preservation CPA funds, matched with \$200,000 DCR dollars) to stabilize the powder magazine.

This summer the powder magazine will get a new roof, doors, windows, security lighting and have its masonry re-pointed. Now this historic structure—the oldest building on the Charles River—will be stabilized. And thanks to State Senator Anthony Petrucci and State Rep. Jay Livingstone, the powder magazine will also be added to DCR's historic curatorship building this summer. That means that DCR will be looking for a concession to move into the magazine that will convert it to its next use in exchange for a long-term lease. This focal point for the park is on its way to being reactivated and reactivating the park in turn.

The Magazine Beach Committee of the CNA, a group with a track record of success, is on the case. While volunteers, we have professional experience in architecture, design, project management, fundraising, publicity, photography and event planning. Over the past three years we have worked well with DCR and produced results.

In 2014, we are planning Friday evening concerts and Saturday morning yoga at the park, among other activities. Magazine Beach could be a much needed, green destination for all within our wonderful and densely populated City!

There's great public support for this project. Over 100 individuals have donated money towards park improvements (adding up to about \$12,000) and hundreds more have participated in park cleanups and celebrations. Over 350 are on our list, and our blog (magazinebeach.org) has attracted almost 20,000 hits.

DCR can't do it without us. DCR has had its budget slashed by 30% since 2009.

DCR will match Cambridge's CPA funds 1:1. We have applied for DCR matching funds to update and complete Phase II plans so that they will be shovel ready and rise to the top of the pile. The Magazine Beach Committee of the CNA is committed to continuing to work with DCR to raise money to implement these plans. We will see this project through.

Thank you for your attention. Please let us know if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Cathie Zusy,
Chair, Magazine Beach Committee, Cambridgeport Neighborhood Association, Inc.
617-868-0489



Saint Peter's Episcopal Church

Serving God and God's People since 1842

838 Massachusetts Avenue at Sellers Street
Cambridge, MA 02139
www.saintpeterscambridge.org
617.547.7788

RESTORATION

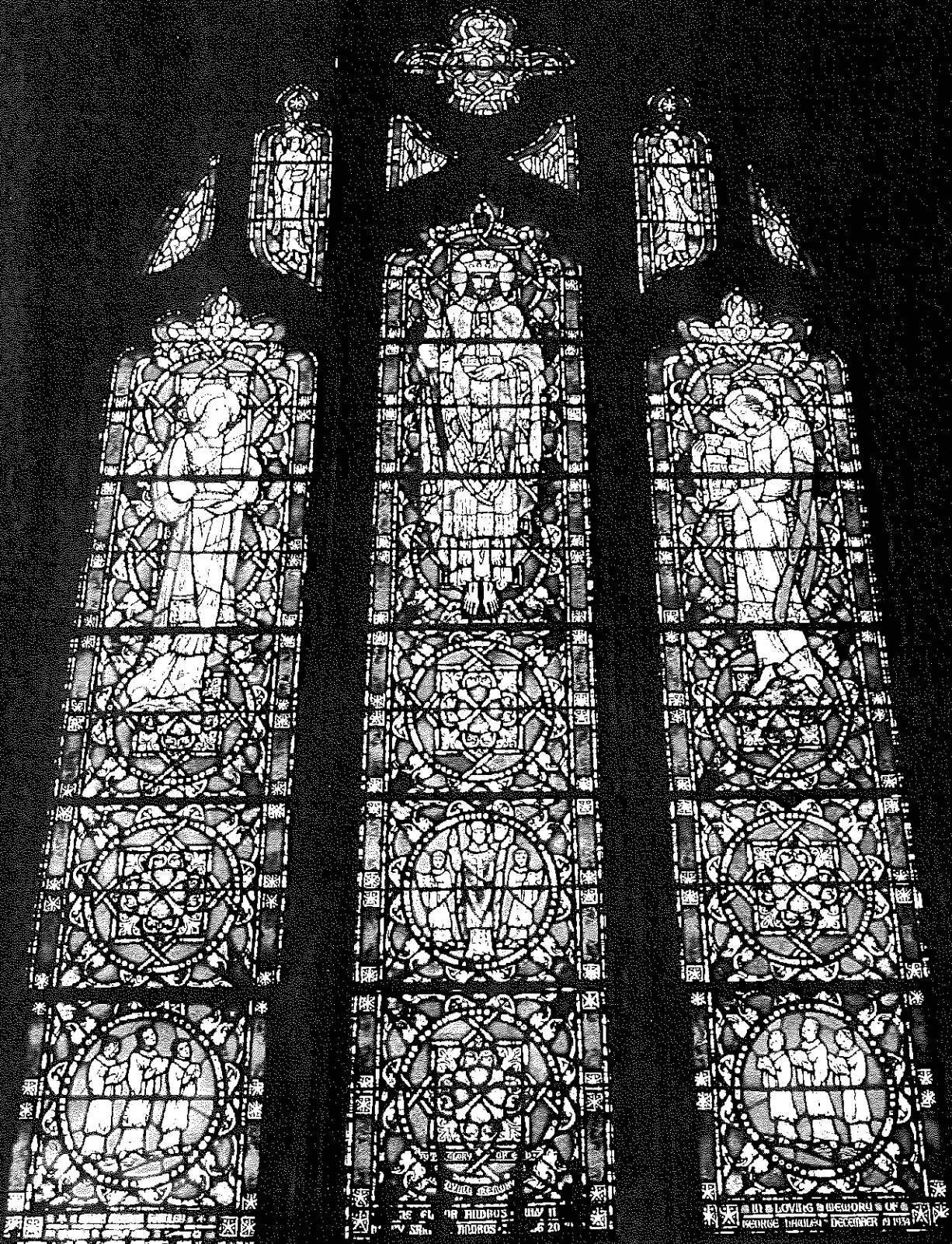
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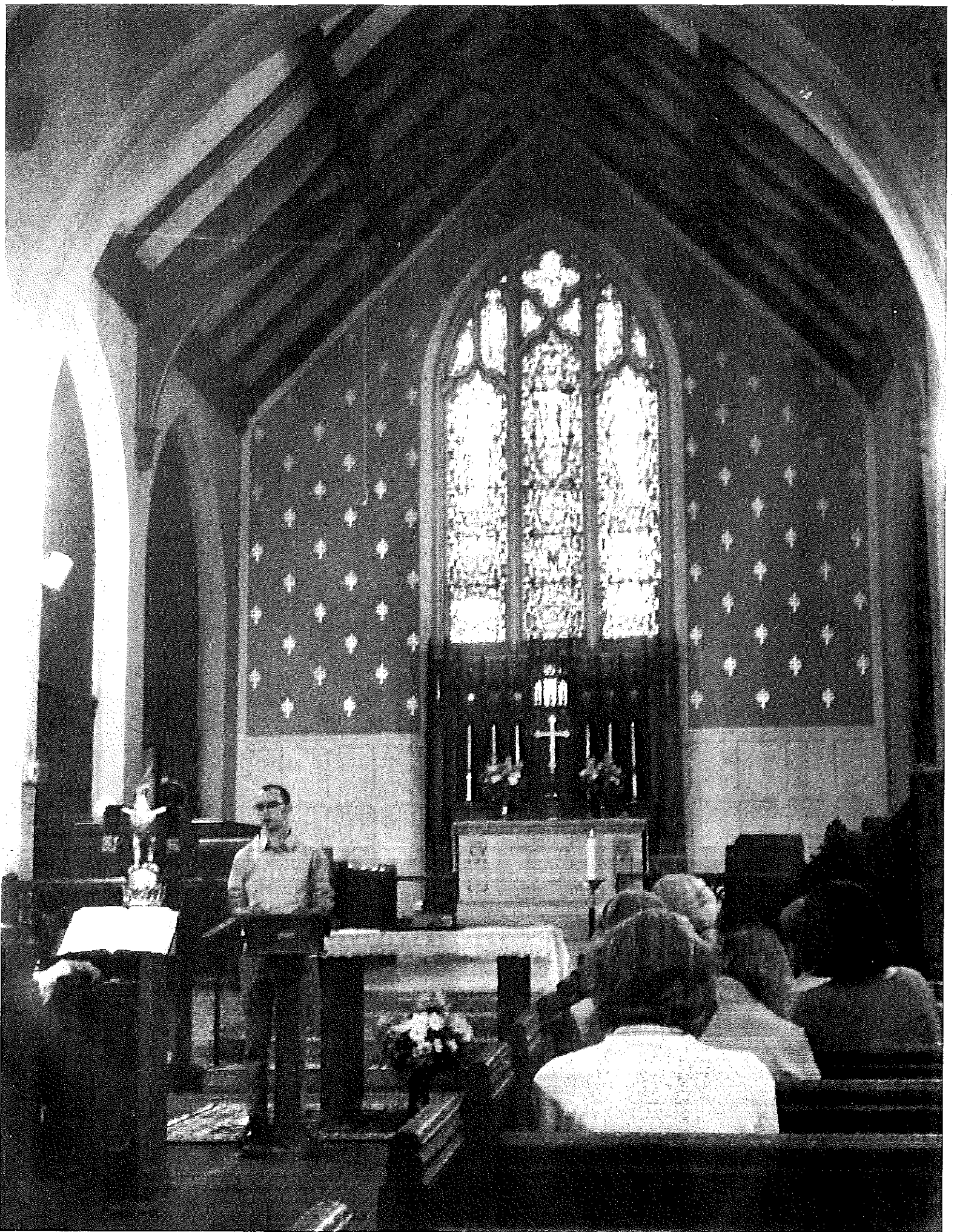
FUTURE

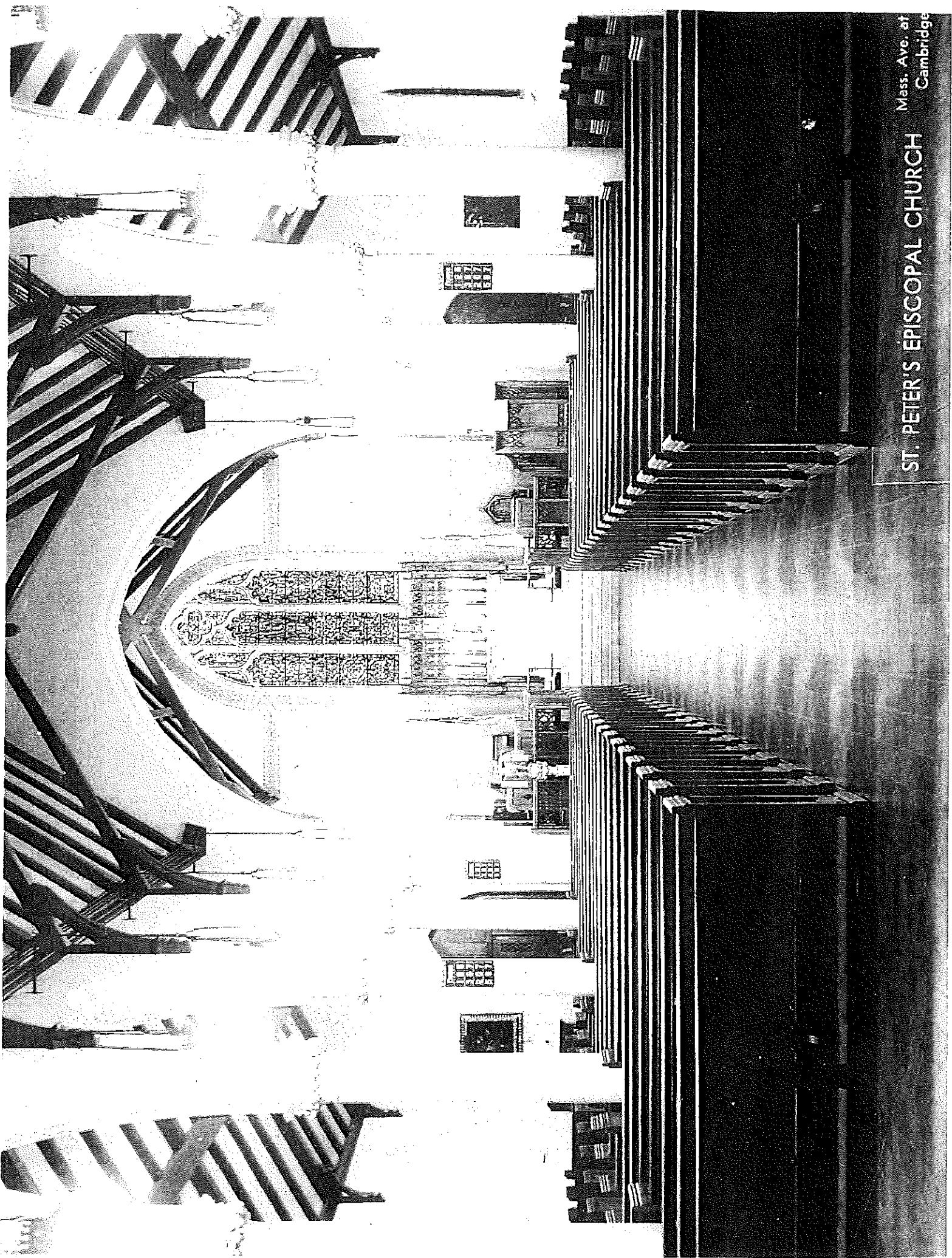
GENERATIONS

IN

CENTRAL SQUARE, CAMBRIDGE







Mass. Ave. at
Cambridge

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

