

Francesca Gordini's Suggested Edits to ECNCD Goal Statements (for discussion on August 18<sup>th</sup>)  
(reformatted for clarity)

Suggested edits **in red**:

The East Cambridge Neighborhood Conservation District is an instrument of cohesiveness that aims at protecting not only historically valuable architecture but also the layering of social fabric that proves how immigration and integration permeated the neighborhood and successfully created a valuable community. As a collective voice of the neighborhood, the goal of the ~~East Cambridge Neighborhood Conservation~~-District is to conserve the character, variety and scale of the district's streetscapes and architecture and to support the livability, vitality and socio-economic diversity of the district for its residents and the public at large while acknowledging changing housing demand and conditions in the neighborhood. The East Cambridge Neighborhood Conservation District Commission will seek to conserve significant structures and features where they exist while allowing for architectural diversity and individualized alterations that respect the ~~current~~-vibrant and eclectic character of the neighborhood. The Commission will seek to maintain the present diversity of development and open space patterns (including green canopies whereas possible) and building scales and allow for more density where appropriate while preserving the existing housing stock of the neighborhood.

Secondary goal suggested edits **in bold**:

- 1) Conserve the diverse architectural character of the district **by retaining historic structures**, including its modest 19<sup>th</sup> century workers' housing **and valuable architectural examples of the diverse social fabric characteristic of the neighborhood**. Protect significant civic and institutional buildings.
- 2) Allow for architectural diversity and individualized **contemporary alterations or additions** while respecting the traditional housing stock of the neighborhood **and preserving visual corridors through yards and between houses that characterizes streetscapes while respecting the residential privacy of individual properties**.
- 3) Retain significant architectural features, **particularly visible from main/front streets** (pedestrian viewpoints), including but not limited to roof pitches, historical archit. Elements, and **traditional solid vs void volume configurations**.

- 4) Allow and encourage additional housing construction and density **when appropriate, based on the nature and size of the lot, its surroundings and a thorough analysis of pedestrian footprint, traffic, and impact on parking.**
- 5) Encourage contemporary design that respects surrounding context yet differentiates itself as belonging to the period in which it is being designed. *No changes.*
- 6) Sustain the vitality of the commercial environment of Cambridge Street by preserving architecturally significant or original building fabric. When this is not possible or appropriate, support creative, contemporary design for storefront alterations and new construction. **Maintain consistent height for storefronts to match existing average heights and proportions.**
- 7) Encourage higher density projects on Cambridge Street, especially in mixed-use buildings, and support existing and future residential uses there. *No changes.*
- 8) Encourage trees and greenery (**especially vines and pergolas, typical of the history of the neighborhood**) while limiting new impervious paving to enhance the landscape amenities and mitigate negative climate impacts on the neighborhood. **Encourage maintenance of brick pavers and stone retaining walls, as well as historic lighting fixtures such as gas lights. Promote the addition of public occasion for seating (ex: benches) both as a symbol of how the streets used to double as backyard and enhance the opportunity for neighborhood interactions.**
- 9) Encourage low fences to protect views of houses and through yards, while permitting flexibility to enhance privacy and minimize the adverse visual effect of trash containers and mechanical equipment. *No changes.*

Cambridge Historical Commission  
August 13, 2021