

Cambridge Highlands Neighborhood Study Update 2011
Public Meeting 1 Comments
3/3/11

Land Use and Zoning

There is concern about backyard development potential in the residential area of the neighborhood.

Neighborhood offers abundant city services with a suburban feel. The current character and size of the residential area which features single family and duplex homes is appreciated.

There are concerns regarding residential dwellings that are becoming too large or being redeveloped into multifamily condominiums.

Concord Avenue might be appropriate and nice for affordable housing.

Does the zoning in the Quadrangle allow for housing to be built?

There should be mixed uses along Concord Ave including housing.

There is concern that new residential developments in the Quadrangle will put additional pressure on the resources at Fresh Pond.

There should be more artist space, i.e. live, work, studio space.

More buffers are needed between residential and industrial uses.

Energy and Environment

How are stormwater issues in the Alewife area going to be addressed?

How does the golf course at Fresh Pond use water (lawn maintenance, run off, retainage, stormwater)?

What is the contract status of Blair Pond?

Does the City contract with developers regarding energy plans?

Does the State offer tax credits to homeowners in order to encourage energy efficient upgrades?

The tree canopy should be preserved and there should be adequate tree maintenance in the Wheeler Street area.

There are sink holes where Griswold Street enters onto Concord Avenue.

There should be upkeep of water drainage and storm water retention systems.

The improvements at Fresh Pond Reservation and on the Alewife Reservation bike path are good.

Transportation

The roundabout design on Grove Street is problematic and may not last long because trucks frequently drive over it.

There are issues with traffic at Griswold Street where it enters Concord Avenue. The new condominium development on Loomis Street will create an even larger backup. Consideration should be given to reducing approximately 4 parking spots on each side of the street to address the issue.

Better traffic patterns should be developed to separate local from regional traffic especially on internal streets.

Will there be sidewalk reconstruction from Burger King to rotary?

Will there be a cycle track on both sides of Concord Ave?

There should be traffic calming on Concord Avenue to slow vehicle speeds.

City traffic signals should all be converted to LED lighting.

Streets should be made safer and include landscape improvements.

There should be more access to public transportation.

There should be residential permit parking in the neighborhood to help address concerns.

The bike lanes on Concord Avenue are very nice.

Bike sharing should be explored.

There is some concern about traffic increase and the impact on the Upland Silver Maple Forest.

Economic Development

There is concern regarding the vacancy rate along Concord Avenue and the loss of businesses in the area.

Eateries are almost nonexistent in the neighborhood; there should be an additional full service restaurant.

What is the status of the former Fresh Pond Fish site?

More coffee shops, and similar types of establishments in walking distance would be great.

A mailbox for the neighborhood is needed.

Open Space

There should be better access between Rafferty Park and the residential neighborhood.

The walking path which goes through Rafferty Park does not feel safe.

There should be a green buffer and connection extending between Blair Pond and Fresh Pond Reservation, especially abutting the Sand and Gravel area to help address noise and quality of life issues.

There should be additional green connections throughout neighborhood.