



## CAMBRIDGE HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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June 13, 2007

To: Property Owners in the Proposed Lower Common Neighborhood Conservation District  
Members of the Cambridge Historical Commission

From: Charles Sullivan, Executive Director

Re: Recommendations of the Lower Common NCD Study Committee

The Cambridge Historical Commission will hold a public hearing at 6:00 PM on Thursday, June 28 at the Cambridge Senior Center, 806 Massachusetts Avenue, to consider the latest recommendations of the Lower Common Neighborhood Conservation District (NCD) Study Committee.

The Lower Common NCD Study Committee was appointed in January 2005 in response to neighborhood concerns about inappropriate rehabilitation of older houses and the future of the Radcliffe Quad. The Committee met in public sessions on about 40 occasions, held seven advertised public information sessions and a walking tour, and published a newsletter. In November 2006 the Committee voted to recommend the adoption of a neighborhood conservation district that would regulate demolition, new construction, and other significant publicly visible exterior alterations in the area roughly bounded by Chauncey, Garden, and Linnaean streets and Massachusetts Avenue. That recommendation was published in the report of the Study Committee, which is available at [http://www.cambridgema.gov/Historic/lowercommon\\_study.html](http://www.cambridgema.gov/Historic/lowercommon_study.html).

The Cambridge Historical Commission held public hearings on the proposal in February and March 2007, and in response to public comment requested that the Study Committee re-evaluate its recommendations with regard to jurisdiction and consider certain changes to its report.

The Study Committee met three more times, and on May 30 decided unanimously that it could no longer recommend the adoption of the proposed district because of insufficient public support. Many of the members felt that the Committee's recommendations were sound, but that the time was not right. They recommended that the Cambridge Historical Commission continue to post the Report on its website, not only because of its excellent history of the development of the Lower Common neighborhood, but also because of its valuable suggestions and guidelines for owners wishing to make alterations to their properties.

Thank you for participating in the discussions by the Study Committee and the Historical Commission about the future of the Lower Common neighborhood. I am sure that the neighborhood will benefit in the long run.