



## **AGASSIZ COMMITTEE ON THE IMPACTS OF DEVELOPMENT**

### **A Summary Chronology of Activities *September 2001 to November 2003***

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Members of ACID have held countless meetings with Agassiz residents, Harvard officials, City staff, and local politicians over the past two years. Here are some of the highlights:

#### **2001**

##### ***September - December***

Agassiz Committee on the Impacts of Development (ACID) is formed – a community-based committee organized by Agassiz residents who are concerned about the myriad of development projects proposed by Harvard University and other entities over the next several years. Proposed Harvard projects include removing the cyclotron, new underground garage, multiple new science buildings, Law School expansion, etc. – *a total of 1.6 million square feet of new construction in FAS and Law School campuses.*

#### **2002**

##### ***January - February - March***

Series of meetings is held between ACID and Harvard regarding size/scope of Harvard's proposed FAS and Law School development projects, especially the next project on Harvard's schedule – the new underground garage at Oxford/Hammond Streets.

##### ***March***

ACID presents its concerns regarding short- and long-range Harvard development to Henrietta Davis and David Maher of Cambridge City Council at 3/19/02 Agassiz Neighborhood Council (ANC) meeting.

##### ***April - May***

ACID conducts 1<sup>st</sup> Neighborhood Survey via *ANC Whistler* newsletter, mail, and email. More than 110 responses are received.

##### ***June***

ACID presents its concerns to the Cambridge City Council at City Hall. The City Council orders City Manager to request that Harvard present a "comprehensive planning document on the North Campus." City Staff agrees to help the neighborhood deal with expansion issues.

ACID meets separately with City Manager and presents its case. City Manager agrees to set up an Agassiz-City-Harvard "Working Committee" comprised of ACID, City, and Harvard representatives.

A community vote is taken at 6/18/02 ANC Meeting to gauge community support for filing a "moratorium" to delay Harvard expansion. The tally of Agassiz residents in attendance: 24 votes in support of the concept of a moratorium, 1 against, and 2 abstains.

##### ***July - August - September - October - November***

ACID holds various meetings with City, Harvard, and Agassiz community exploring Harvard's proposed "framework" for North Campus expansion. ACID "Wish List" begins to be drafted.

Harvard obtains building permit for new 731-car underground garage at Oxford/Hammond Streets (site of old Cyclotron etc.). Harvard agrees to mitigation requests made by ACID.

The Agassiz-City-Harvard "Working Committee" begins its meetings.

### ***December***

ACID presents its initial "Wish List" to the community at 12/17/02 ANC meeting. A community vote is taken in unanimous support of ACID's efforts to continue discussions with Harvard. The tally of Agassiz residents in attendance: 45 votes in favor of allowing ACID representatives to continue their discussions with Harvard, 0 against.

## **2003**

### ***January – February***

ACID conducts 2<sup>nd</sup> Neighborhood Survey via *ANC Whistler* newsletter, mailings, and email. More than 100 responses are received.

### ***March***

The ACID "Wish List" is finalized and presented to community at 3/18/03 ANC meeting, reflecting various changes per the 2<sup>nd</sup> Neighborhood Survey.

A community vote is taken at ANC meeting in unanimous support of the March 18 ACID Wish List. The tally of Agassiz residents in attendance: 21 votes in favor of the Wish List, 0 against.

The 4 Agassiz representatives original authorized to negotiate the Wish List with Harvard are also reconfirmed to continue their discussions with the institution.

### ***April***

Harvard presents its plans to the Agassiz community regarding the next project on the institution's timetable – the proposed expanded underground BRI vivarium. Harvard also presents its initial plans regarding potential Law School development.

A community vote is taken at 4/15/03 ANC meeting in unanimous support of: (1) ACID's continued Wish List negotiations with Harvard on all development issues, and (2) to not obstruct or oppose the proposed BRI project in the spirit of continued good faith discussions with Harvard on the ACID Wish List. The tally of Agassiz residents in attendance: 24 votes in favor, 0 against.

### ***May***

Harvard presents its initial Law School plans to both Agassiz and Neighborhood Nine/Peabody neighborhoods.

ACID conducts 3<sup>rd</sup> Neighborhood Survey via *ANC Whistler* newsletter, mailings, and email. This survey focuses exclusively on Harvard's Law School/Mass Ave plans. More than 95 responses are received.

### ***June***

ACID updates Agassiz community at the 6/17/03 ANC Meeting (last meeting before summer). Harvard also presents its plans for the third project on its timetable – the proposed new LISE lab building on lower Oxford.

A community vote is taken in unanimous support of continuing of the ACID discussions with Harvard as conducted by the four community-appointed ACID representatives. The tally of Agassiz residents in attendance: 27 votes in favor, 0 against. The community expresses unanimous support of ACID's work with the following qualifications:

- Make sure the Mitigation Package allows for a process that addresses the environmental, noise, traffic, and other impacts of each project on an individual project basis.
- Present the Mitigation Package in the fall but give the community a "look and see" period before taking a vote on it.

### ***September***

ACID presents a Summary of the proposed Mitigation Package at the September 16 ANC community meeting. As outlined in the 9/16/03 “Summary Memo,” the proposed Mitigation Package consists of two documents:

- (1) Memorandum of Understanding outlining general principles of the relationship.
- (2) Letter of Implementation outlining the specific mitigation measures for phase one of Harvard’s proposed build-out (phase one consists of three buildings – BRI, LISE Lab, and North Lab).

Broad community discussion ensues regarding the four areas outlined in the Mitigation Package: Impact Mitigation, Community Enhancement, Build-Out Predictability, and Structure for a Continuing Relationship.

Harvard also re-presents its plans for the third project on its timetable – the proposed LISE lab building on lower Oxford.

The community agrees that before the November 18 ANC community meeting, ACID should distribute the proposed Mitigation Package in full – the complete agreement – so community members will have a chance to review it prior to meeting on November 18th. The vote on the agreement is still scheduled for the December 16 ANC meeting.

### ***November***

The complete proposed Mitigation Package is presented and distributed at two public “roundtable” meetings on November 10 and 12, where it is discussed at length. The complete Mitigation Package is also made available at ANC office and online.

The community continues its discussions on the complete Mitigation Package at the November 18 ANC community meeting, where various aspects of the agreement are reviewed and debated.

The community confirms that the vote on the agreement will be held at the December 16 ANC community meeting.