

Reminder & Updated Research for Sacramento Field Meeting

Following up on previous discussions of the renovation of Sacramento Field, Agassiz Neighborhood Council and the City of Cambridge will co-host a special meeting.

When: Wednesday, November 9, 7:00-8:30 PM (please note the meeting start-time)

Where: Maria L. Baldwin School, Cafeteria, 85 Oxford St., Cambridge

Updated Background Report

Last Friday, Cambridge Commissioner of Public Works Owen O'Riordan, Baldwin School representative Andrew Jankowich, ANC member Danny Hillis, ANC Community Liaison Phoebe Sinclair and ANC Moderator Fred Meyer toured **natural areas and paths** at (1) **Amory Field/Hall's Pond Sanctuary**, off Amory St. and Ewe Streets in Brookline (2) **Longfellow House/Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site**, 105 Brattle St., Cambridge, and (3) the new section of **Fresh Pond Reservation** south of Neville Place Assisted Living, 650 Concord Avenue, Cambridge.

Below find information provided by Fred Meyer, Agassiz Neighborhood Council Moderator, for review in advance of tomorrow's meeting.

After visiting the first two, Commissioner O'Riordan demonstrated the city's latest 'trail trial': a natural crushed-granite-stone path, employing a newly-patented natural adhesive called '**StaLok**', now undergoing a very successful trial at the Fresh Pond location (south of the parking lot serving Neville Place). For additional information please view the accompanying photos, specifications and location map, given us by the City.

Michael Muehe, Executive Director of our Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities, has already pre-approved Stalok as natural, accessible, material...suitable for persons with disabilities.

If you have the time and interest, you might enjoy visiting some or all of these three areas yourself, before tomorrow's joint meeting by ANC and the City of Cambridge. If any of you could do that, it would add significantly to our community discussion.

Yesterday, I had a productive telephone talk with Stuart Dash, Cambridge's Director of Community Planning, about ways (illustrated in the places we visited) to better restore and preserve some of our rare pre-historic natural space off the proposed circumferential new StaLok path. While natural preservation is not a pressing issue for some in our neighborhood and school community, it is extremely important to others. Is any compromise acceptable to all possible tomorrow? That is our question.

For the newest ideas re: the biological (not just historical and aesthetic) importance of preserving 'dirty' areas, see the Wall Street Journal's current article, "Get your

children good and dirty": <http://on.wsj.com/2fv09tq>. (Only you can judge whether or not you think that article is relevant to you and yours.)

Finally, a suggestion for our discussions tomorrow has come via an email from our longtime ANC Member and former Meeting Chair, William Bloomstein:

Unfortunately I will be out of town next week and will miss this meeting. I am glad the City extended 30 days as we requested and I hope a compromise can be reached where both sides find common ground and can live with a less-than-perfect settlement (which is, of course, what a compromise is).

Regardless of the outcome, I hope the tone and dialog is cordial and respectful. We have enough acrimony at the national level, please, can we not exude it at a city level too!!!

Cheers, Willie

Your current moderator strongly concurs with these apt thoughts from an honored predecessor, who, years ago, led negotiations with Harvard to preserve the large area between Mass. Ave. and Oxford St. from being absorbed into a then-rapidly-expanding University campus.

I hope that, now, we may all enjoy a much-deserved post-national-Election respite... in a friendly little community gathering...following our long tradition of productive New England town meetings, dating back to our 1600s Colonial past.

We've witnessed a huge amount of progress for our Agassiz Neighborhood recently, under the leadership shown by our new Acting City Manager Lisa Peterson, our Commissioner of Public Works Owen O'Riordan and our Director of Community Planning Stuart Dash. Many community members and Agassiz Baldwin Community and City staff have worked hard and significantly as local change agents. We need to thank particularly (in alphabetical last-name order) Willie Bloomstein, Jack Chun, Mary Jo Clark, Astrid Dodds, Joshua Fay, Kate Frank, Danny Hillis, Andrew Jankovitch, Maria LaPage, Taylor Milsal, Bob Neer, and Anne Marie Reardon, Susana Segat, (last and most-certainly not least) Phoebe Sinclair.

We're had a lot of lucky good news from the city lately. Now, let's continue our communal work, in a respectful and joyful meeting tomorrow.

See you soon,
Fred Meyer
ANC Moderator