

# the Whistler

Newsletter of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council

Special Edition!

December 2018-February 2019

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## NOTES FROM THE NOV 26 SPECIAL MEETING

### Development at 74 Oxford St.

On Monday November 26th, ANC members gathered for a special meeting to hear updates on the project at 74 Oxford Street, consider, and



possibly support one of two plans proposed by the developer, William Senné of Senné Residential. Steve Hiserodt of Boyes-Watson Architects attended the meeting representing the development and bringing with him detailed visuals for both proposals.

At the time of the meeting, Mr. Senné had already submitted a proposal to the Cambridge Board of Zoning Appeals to turn the building into nine residential units. However, as ANC founding member Joel Bard explained, Mr. Senné would withdraw that proposal and substitute one featuring four larger units if ANC collectively supported that alternative.

Time was a driving factor in the vote that

## ANC News

### EDITOR'S NOTE

Following, please find minutes from community meetings, December 2018 through January 2019, in chronological order. *The Whistler* newsletter team appreciates everyone who helped organize community efforts, attended meetings, and lent your voice or expertise. **Thank you.**

Phoebe Sinclair, Community Liaison  
Jessica Leach, ANC Scribe

### NEXT ANC MONTHLY MEETING



**FEB. 12 - 7:30 PM**  
Maud Morgan Arts  
20A Sacramento Street  
2D Studio

### Agenda:

- To Be Determined

evening, as Mr. Senné was scheduled to meet with the Cambridge Historical Commission and the Cambridge Planning Board in early December. The hearing with the Historical Commission marked five months since demolition was delayed, at which time an update on the project was required. Mr. Bard shared that the Commission would most likely vote to begin a landmark study in order to further delay demolition.

“There is no rush from [ANC’s] point of view, but there is a rush from the developer’s,” Mr. Bard said. “He’s driving the bus [so to speak].”

When ANC members began asking specific questions about what could be altered in the presented plans, Mr. Hiserodt emphasized that he was just looking for “a direction” that night.

“There are a bunch of smaller decisions we can make along the way,” he added.

Mr. Hiserodt began his presentation with renderings of the nine-unit scheme, which contained two 2-bedroom units in the basement; two studio apartments and two 1-bedroom units on the first floor; and three multilevel 2-bedroom units that utilize space on the second and third floors. This option also included five parking spaces on the property and at least nine air-source pump units for heating and cooling the residences.

“The nine-unit proposal is more likely to succeed [with the Zoning Board],” Mr. Hiserodt said.

Attendees were concerned about the number of air-source heat pumps associated with this plan, citing noise and appearance. Mr. Hiserodt assured that the heat pumps would be spread out around the perimeter, dispersed to be as inconspicuous as possible.

“They’re quite quiet,” he said. “They don’t aggregate much sound when set at a distance.”

Next, Mr. Hiserodt displayed renderings of the four-unit design. In this scheme, there would be

a 900 square-foot extension on the north side of the property to gain enough ground floor space for the first level units. The extension would reduce the distance to the abutting building to around 18-20 feet. The four-unit version of the building would sit 13.5 feet from the property line.

A major concern related to the four-unit option was the placement of parking spots. The illustrations showed that there would be at least one car prominently visible in front of the building on Oxford Street. ANC Meeting Chair and Moderator Fred Meyer pointed out that the Historical Commission might not approve of having a parking spot in front.

Before deciding between the two plans, some attendees in favor of four units explained that the plan brought them a feeling of stability, consistency, and the hope that it would attract families to the neighborhood. However, there remained some concerns, particularly regarding paving, green space, and the proximity of the building to neighboring properties.

Those in favor of nine units noted that smaller units are comparatively more affordable, would add a more diverse stock of housing to an already desirable neighborhood, and preserve the exterior of the house. Those opposed took issue with the possibility of residents in smaller units leasing them as short-term rentals, such as with Airbnb.

Ultimately, Council Members moved to support a proposed four-unit plan with 11 approving and 5 opposing. It was noted that a number of attendees left prior to the vote, including some abutters who had expressed support for the four-unit alternative.

#### **Q&A**

**Q:** What is the sound level of the heating units?

**A:** 50 decibels. It will sound like average city background noise.

**Q:** Why is more space required for four units?

**A:** With large units at the price-point Mr. Senné

hopes to sell, it's more economically feasible to build four units instead of three. According to Mr. Hiserodt, ground floors are critical and the four-unit plan makes better use of that space.

**Q:** How much can the city influence the selling price? How many units will be affordable?

**A:** To the best of Mr. Hiserodt's knowledge, the city cannot influence selling price. There is no requirement for affordable housing for buildings with less than 10,000 square feet and less than ten units.

**Q:** What are some ways you can envision omitting the front parking space?

**A:** There is limited space on the site, given Cambridge's requirements for backup space and parking space size. Mr. Hiserodt didn't see many opportunities to remove the front space. [Neighbors expressed the belief that alternatives exist.]

**Q:** What is the intention for trees?

**A:** The ultimate goal is to keep all the healthy greenery intact. Trees on the north side are likely to be retained, and they're willing to relocate window wells to make sure trees are preserved.

## **NOTES FROM THE DEC 11 MEETING**

### **City-Based Tools & Strategies for Neighborhood Preservation**

New construction is often the topic of discussion for the Agassiz Neighborhood Council. To help the neighborhood understand different approaches to playing a more active role in determining its future, representatives from the city's Historical Commission (CHC) and Community Development Department (CDD) spoke at the December 11th ANC meeting.

Charles Sullivan, Executive Director of the CHC, shared a number of steps neighborhoods can take

to protect many of the old buildings that make Cambridge such a unique city.

One approach, a Demolition Delay, is a familiar tool to the Agassiz neighborhood, as it's currently being used in an effort to preserve the house at 74 Oxford Street. These delays typically postpone demolition up to six months, at which point the Commission receives an update on the project and might then begin a landmark study, which could add another twelve-month delay.

Another option is to designate a Historic District, which is exemplified in the Old Cambridge Historic District in Harvard Square and Fort Washington Historic District in the Cambridgeport neighborhood. This designation means that all publicly visible alterations are subject to review. A third option are Neighborhood Conservation Districts, which focus on addressing particular threats facing a neighborhood, such as the issue of infill. Nearby to Agassiz, Mid-Cambridge has a Neighborhood Conservation District overseen by a City Manager-appointed Commission. Unlike Historic Districts, Conservation Districts do not impact such details as paint colors.

Mr. Sullivan noted that, comparatively, the Agassiz neighborhood had faced relatively few development threats in recent years. In more than twenty years, there had been only two applications to demolish significant buildings in the neighborhood, one of which was the carriage house on the present site of the Maud Morgan Arts Center. Except for the construction on Hammond Street, Mr. Sullivan said he was aware of few disfiguring alterations.

Mr. Sullivan, who is the co-author of a book on architecture and development titled *Building Old Cambridge*, also shared that education plays a part in preserving historic buildings. CHC helps property owners post plaques detailing the significance of the building in addition to publishing oral histories and distributing guides to maintaining old homes.

After Mr. Sullivan's presentation, Jeff Roberts, Zoning and Development Director with CDD, explained that the Cambridge Zoning Ordinance approaches neighborhood development from the perspective of what owners are allowed to do with land and how it fits within a larger framework for the city's plan.

"Zoning looks to the future," he said. "What shape does the city want to take as it evolves?"

Mr. Roberts supplied ANC with zoning maps to give the group a sense of how the city breaks down into different types of districts.

"The way zoning works is by carving the city up into different districts by land use, character, and urban development. It applies uniform regulations," he explained. "Zoning is, by law, meant to apply uniformly to all the lots within a particular district."

Much like establishing a Historic District, Mr. Roberts shared, zoning changes have a significant impact on all property owners, not just the few lots that are of particular concern. The process to re-zone is lengthy as well, requiring a petition to Cambridge City Council from ten Cambridge-registered voters, hearings by the Planning Board and City Council Ordinance Committee, another visit to the City Council for a decision within 90 days to either adopt the change as-is, alter the wording, amend the proposed change(s), or vote the zoning change(s) down.

Because rezoning is an arduous process that makes such a large impact, Mr. Roberts advised ANC to think beyond what's undesirable in the neighborhood.

"I always think of zoning in light of not just trying to stop the things we don't want to see but to also encourage the things we do want to see," he said. "Ultimately, what zoning comes down to is choices. You put the requirements in place, and property owners have to then make choices. Zoning

provides guidance on what kind of choices the city wants to encourage."

Learn about the Cambridge Historical Commission's tools online at: <https://www.cambridgema.gov/historic>. Mr. Sullivan can be contacted at [csullivan@cambridgema.gov](mailto:csullivan@cambridgema.gov).

Learn about the Cambridge Planning Board at: [http://bit.ly/cambridge\\_planning\\_board](http://bit.ly/cambridge_planning_board) Mr. Roberts can be contacted at [jroberts@cambridgema.gov](mailto:jroberts@cambridgema.gov).

### Q&A

- Q:** When you landmark a building, how do you decide what phase of its existence is land-marked?
- A:** A structure is landmarked as it is at present. Changes [made prior to landmarking] become part of its history. A commission would conceivably encourage [restoring to an older version], but it's not a requirement.
- Q:** When was city planning first instituted here?
- A:** In 1914. Before that, planning was mostly done by the Cambridge Park Commission, doing mostly open space planning.
- Q:** Is a Conservation District appropriate in Agassiz?
- A:** Sullivan: "I have doubts that that is the way to go because I don't see a rash of development in the Agassiz neighborhood. A Conservation or Historic District shouldn't be taken lightly. It's a major imposition on property owners. Conservation Districts require a lot of political footwork. This is no small feat [to get the neighborhood to come to a consensus on this]."
- Q:** Is the zoning field thinking about changes in terms of global warming? What's happening with regards to protecting the Earth?"
- A:** Zoning always starts the planning. There have been many planning efforts in Cambridge over many decades to address climate change

. . . [such as] the Net Zero action plan, which essentially means trying to get net zero greenhouse gas emissions. Much of the emissions in the city come from buildings. [Zoning regulations help] ratchet up standards for efficient building design . . . these development standards apply primarily to new development, though.

- Q:** The parking lot on Sacramento Street next to the Guidance Center/Riverside Community Care was once a park. Harvard University now owns that property, and other property nearby. When the city was doing renovations on Sacramento Field, Harvard paved the Guidance Center's parking lot with asphalt. How could they do that? Where does zoning kick in? How about community participation?
- A:** Zoning has regulations for green space, open space, and permeable surfaces . . . it depends on the district. It's possible that this is a case where, because the parking lot was a pre-existing condition and paving the lot was an alteration to preserve it, it didn't trigger any regulations regarding permeable surface.

## **NOTES FROM THE DEC 17 SPECIAL MEETING**

### ***Upcoming Renovations to Andover Hall at Harvard Divinity School***

On December 17th, Harvard University introduced to Agassiz Neighborhood Council its plans to renew Andover Hall, which is part of the Divinity School. Thomas Lucey, Harvard's Director of Public Affairs and Communications, described the building as "the workhorse" of the school, illustrating how many students and faculty members use the space on a daily basis. As important to the school as Andover Hall is, it has



yet to undergo a full renovation since being constructed in 1911.

"It was built for a student and faculty population that's a quarter of what [Harvard] has now," said David Hempton, Dean of the Divinity School.

Andover Hall is a unique structure on campus. Its interior is laid out in the style of a typical theological seminary, according to Dean Hempton, and its exterior is the only one at Harvard to adhere to a gothic style.

"We're mindful that we have a distinguished heritage," he said.

In their presentation of the project, Mr. Lucey, Dean Hempton, and Director of Operations Ralph DeFlorio outlined the five main reasons why renovation is necessary for the Divinity School's programs. These reasons all in some way touch on the fact that Andover Hall no longer reflects the student body it currently serves.

"We're a multi-faith school with diversity and more religious traditions represented in our student and faculty population," Dean Hempton said. "The chapel is not friendly to those with different religious backgrounds. Increasingly, we need to recognize that fact."

He also explained that the building was not designed to accommodate common spaces for students and faculty to meet and discuss, and the existing classrooms also lack up-to-date technology, which is a frequent constraint on lesson plans. Part of the Divinity School's goal is to be able to engage in meaningful discourse with those outside of the school, whether from other parts of Harvard or all over the world. The renovation would make space for large gatherings possible.

Andover Hall's maintenance expenses and carbon footprint are also major factors. After renovation, the building would not only be more cost-effective to manage and safer overall but environmentally- and disability-friendly as well. Plans include adding central air conditioning so window units

no longer have to be installed every summer, and adding a sprinkler system.

Mr. Lucey, Mr. DeFlorio, and Dean Hempton emphasized that they are open to community feedback, and neighbors and Cambridge residents voiced various concerns about the project, such as the noise pollution and potential damage to nearby properties.

“As a longtime resident, I really dread yet another construction project and hope the Divinity School will work closely with its neighbors to reduce the impact, particularly noise pollution,” said a neighbor to Andover Hall.

One of the biggest drawbacks for the community, however, was the destruction of a nearly 200-year-old red oak tree that would be cut down to make room for an extension of the building’s cloister link.

Susan Ringler, a Cambridge resident and Harvard alum, spoke passionately about why she felt it was important to preserve the tree, correlating the loss of mature trees with impending effects of global warming.

“Every mature tree is important now,” she said. “There must be a moratorium on tree cutting in Cambridge.”

“We always have choices, a chance to do something else,” said Shane Brodie, a Divinity School graduate student who brought with him a poster urging Harvard to “Save the Tree.”

Mr. Brodie spoke on his efforts to gain momentum for the cause with his fellow Divinity School students but said he felt discouraged by the Dean. There is a Facebook page dedicated to the tree where “graduate students, neighbors, and tree activists” can voice their support and share resources in favor of saving it.

The next step for Harvard will be to re-engage with the Agassiz neighborhood. Mr. Lucey

re-emphasized that Harvard’s goal in planting new trees is to replace both the canopy and caliber of any mature trees they remove. At the end of the meeting, one attendee said she hoped the team would be able to create an alternative plan that meets the school’s needs while saving the tree.

For more information, contact Mr. Lucey at [thomas\\_lucey@harvard.edu](mailto:thomas_lucey@harvard.edu).

Learn more about community organizing efforts around the Divinity School red maple on Facebook at <http://bit.ly/fb-divinity-tree> and on WBUR <http://bit.ly/divinity-tree>.

### Q&A

**Q:** When is major construction meant to start? How long will it last and how much will it cost?

**A:** Construction will be underway in the summer, if everything goes well with getting permits. It should be an 18-month project. If Harvard follows that schedule, renovations would be completed in December of 2020 or January 2021. Mr. Lucey and Mr. DeFlorio stated that they generally don’t discuss cost but that the budget includes a full renewal of the building.

**Q:** If not cost, then can you give another representation of what “full” means?

**A:** It means mechanical, electrical, plumbing, work on the roof, on the building’s envelope (exterior), and all windows. There are approximately 391 windows in the building, all different types, that need to be replaced. This is an area that’s been tremendously challenging -keeping the windows looking the same [as their originals] while being energy efficient.

**Q:** Were there any efforts to look at how the building might coexist with the tree marked for removal? Can you speak to the drawbacks?

**A:** Harvard is not able to add onto the East or West side of the building’s lot, or build

higher due to historical limitations. Some of the goals discussed earlier, such as having the right size classrooms, wouldn't be possible if they weren't able to increase the notch area. The Divinity School has had numerous (inter-school) community meetings, and this question has been brought up. The school listened very carefully, went back to the architects, reviewing to see if there were alternatives [to the plan], and there really weren't.

**Q:** Could the addition be made around the tree?

**A:** Harvard consulted a landscape architect, who indicated that the tree would not survive construction around it.

**Q:** If this tree were to be removed, when would it be cut down?

**A:** If everything went according to the proposed timeline, the tree would be removed sometime in June. There is no intention of cutting the tree down any sooner than that.

**Q:** Does six months give you enough time to consider other options?

**A:** The purpose of this meeting was to introduce the project and get community feedback. The timeline was a projection based on whether everything went according to current plans.

## **NOTES FROM THE JAN 8 ANC MEETING**

### **Community Members Advocate For Harvard Divinity School Red Oak**

Since the special meeting at Harvard Divinity School's Andover Hall on December 17th, there has been a lot of conversation and community interest surrounding a large red oak tree on its lawn. A Facebook page was created in its honor, and WBUR picked up the story on efforts to keep the oak from being cut down.

The conversation continued at the January 8th Agassiz Neighborhood Council meeting, where neighbors, Divinity School student(s) and tree

supporters from as far as the city of Arlington discussed different ways to advocate for saving the tree. Among them was Vice

Mayor Jan Devereux, who recently sat down with Tom Lucey, Director of Communications at Harvard; David Hempton, Dean of the Divinity School; and Patricia Byrne, Senior Advisor to the Dean, to urge them to rethink the building design.

"[After the meeting], I got an email back from [Mr. Lucey] that said 'thank you, you've given us a lot to think about,' and that's all I've heard," Ms. Devereux said. "I think they're definitely feeling the public pressure."

The discussion then turned to different possible solutions that would both save the tree and satisfy the Divinity School's need to expand and update Andover Hall, which hasn't undergone a full renovation since it was constructed in 1911.

One possible solution proposed at the meeting was inspired by a design at Portland State University, where they successfully constructed curved glass around an old copper beech tree. Divinity School student Shane Brodie said he believed the same could be achieved here.

Outside of design changes, meeting attendees also discussed the Ordinance Committee hearing on tree protections that was scheduled for the following evening on January 9th. However, Ms. Devereux pointed out that these meetings cover a fairly narrow and specific scope.

Another strategy mentioned was relocating the tree. David Meshoulam, Director of Speak for the Trees, a local organization, had already explored this option and learned, unfortunately, the red oak is "too big."



A neighbor brought up the mention of zoning issues in the WBUR article and asked about how those might factor in to the fate of the tree.

“It’s a total red herring,” stated Vice Mayor Devereux. “They’re not seeking variance [as far as I know], and there’s no zoning involved in renovating the interior of a building.”

If zoning and design were so challenging, some wondered if the school could potentially repurpose another space on Harvard’s campus to fulfill their need for a large meeting and gathering room.

“The surprising part is that the net gain and square footage [with this expansion] is less than 4,000,” Ms. Devereux said. “This is not a big part of their project and it’s not that much additional space. We urged them to think creatively about where else you can put this space.”

Those familiar with Harvard highlighted some issues with this approach: the schools comprising the University operate as separate entities, and this addition, though seemingly small, may ultimately be about elevating the Divinity School’s profile in the larger divinity school community. The goals outlined by Harvard in their presentation of the plan emphasized a desire to have Andover Hall be the gathering place for different theology schools to come together.

The neighbors also discussed the tree’s health, as this is often evaluated by an arborist before a tree is identified for removal.

“All I’ve heard is that it’s in decline, which is nonsense,” said Mr. Brodie. “An arborist has not evaluated it... [students] have had contact with arborists, but for us as students, it’s really, really expensive. We couldn’t afford it.”

Others emphasized that healthy or not, the tree still deserves care and protection.

“[Trees are] such an important component to our city,” said Steven Nutter of Green Cambridge,

a tree advocacy group. “Can you even imagine the city with two-thirds less trees? It wouldn’t be Cambridge.”

After these discussions, many wanted to know how to best get involved or reach out to make their voices heard on the matter. Leigh Meunier asked specifically how to best communicate with Harvard.

Following the meeting, Mr. Meshoulam, Mr. Brodie, Mr. Nutter and Ms. Meunier prepared a letter that could be sent to Dean Hempton and the President of Harvard:

“As a concerned resident who values the aesthetic and environmental benefit of trees, I am writing in concern over the proposed removal of a 150-year-old red oak on the campus of the Harvard Divinity School. As the Boston area faces the effects of global warming and Cambridge is rapidly losing its urban forest, the preservation of every tree is critically important.

I appreciate the efforts that the school has undertaken to make a more environmentally sustainable and ecumenically inviting space. However, I do not believe that this should come at the cost of removing this tree - a tree that has been inhabiting its current location for longer than the building itself. I urge school leadership and its team of architects to develop an alternative design that meets the needs of the school AND preserves the tree. By demonstrating that tree preservation and development can go hand-in-hand, Harvard Divinity has an opportunity to be a national leader on environmental stewardship.”

Letters can be sent to:  
Harvard Divinity School Dean David N. Hempton - [dhempton@hds.harvard.edu](mailto:dhempton@hds.harvard.edu)  
Harvard President Lawrence Bacow - [president@harvard.edu](mailto:president@harvard.edu)

To publicly post letters to the related Facebook page, email a copy to: [sbrodie@hds.harvard.edu](mailto:sbrodie@hds.harvard.edu).

Those interested can also contact Julie Coop, the program director of the MA Legacy Tree program, in support of an application on behalf of the Divinity School's red oak: Julie.Coop@state.ma.us



## Community

### THANKSGIVING POTLUCK RECAP

For nearly 50 years, members of our community have contributed favorite family Thanksgiving dishes, sides, drinks, and desserts to the annual neighborhood potluck. We feel ever so lucky!



ABC extends a special thanks to this year's six chefs, two expert carvers, Agassiz Baldwin staff, Maria L. Baldwin School custodial and kitchen staff, and all who donated a dish and contributed company and conversation. We're also grateful for everyone who donated to the Equity and Access Scholarship Funding Initiative; we raised \$161!

We look forward to seeing everyone at next year's 48th annual event!

See photos online at:

<http://bit.ly/thanksgiving-potluck-photos-2018>



### KIDS ONLY! HOLIDAY SALE RECAP

The 2018 Kids Only! Holiday Sale ran Thursday, December 6 through Saturday, December 8 in a new location at the North Hall Community

Room on Wendell St. Teen volunteers and after-school staff assisted children in choosing gifts, as well as helped them at the gift-wrapping station. The event raised \$1,238.20 in support of Children's Program scholarships.



Thank you to all young shoppers and their families! We look forward to seeing returning and new faces next year.



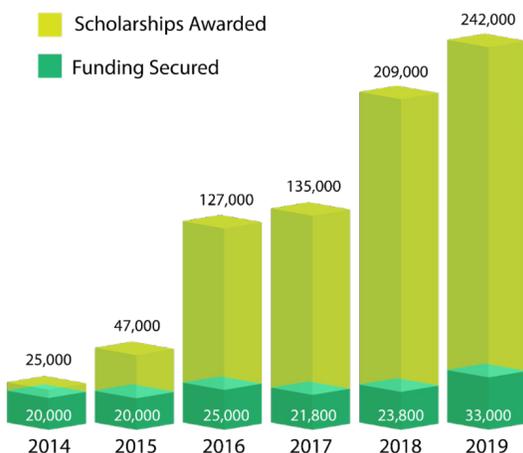
Kids Only! Holiday Sale extends a

hearty thank you to Joie de Vivre and community members for donating items to this year's event.

### EQUITY AND ACCESS FUNDING INITIATIVE

Did you know that last year, ABC provided 8X more scholarship dollars than we did just five years ago? With only modest growth in our funding, we are struggling to keep up with increased demand for scholarships. We've already committed to providing these scholarships, but now we need the support of the community to make this sustainable.

Consequently, we're very excited to announce the ABC Equity and Access Scholarship Funding Initiative. 100% of all gifts to the annual appeal this year will support scholarships through this effort. Your gift will directly benefit Cambridge children, adults, and families living in poverty or in lower middle-income households. To ensure that income isn't a barrier to participation, and to maintain income diversity in all of our programs, this Initiative will provide scholarships to cover tuition for Sacramento Street Preschool, ABC Afterschool, Outback Summer Program, classes at Maud Morgan Arts, and the Living Well Network.



Cambridge is rich in resources and yet there are many people living in this city who struggle just to get by. At ABC we value diversity and strive to welcome and include everyone, as stated in our mission. The Equity and Access Scholarship Funding Initiative is one major step towards fulfilling this commitment. We expect to distribute \$242,000 in scholarships this year alone and we need funding.

Donate online at: <http://bit.ly/donate-to-ABC> or send a check to Agassiz Baldwin Community, 20 Sacramento St., Cambridge, MA 02138.

Please join us in this effort to keep our doors open for those who are unable to afford tuition but value high-quality programs and a place to belong. Your generous contribution to the Equity and Access Scholarship Funding Initiative will support fellow members of the community and help keep ABC a vibrant, joyous, and welcoming place!

## **CONSIDER JOINING OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

If you feel a connection to the mission of ABC and are looking for meaningful volunteer work, consider joining the ABC Board of Directors. ABC plays an important role in the community and the Board helps to ensure the long-term success, sustainability, and viability of the organization.

### **Position**

The Board supports the work of ABC and

provides mission-based leadership and strategic governance. While day-to-day operations are led by ABC's Executive Director (ED), the Board-ED relationship is a partnership, and the appropriate involvement of the Board is both critical and expected.

### **Qualifications**

Who should join the ABC Board?

- Parents of children in ABC Children's Programs or Maud Morgan Arts classes
- Adult participants of Maud Morgan Arts or Living Well Network
- Agassiz Neighborhood residents
- Local business leaders with an interest in community
- Community members committed to the mission of ABC and interested in visual, arts, community building, children's programming, aging-in-place, issues of equity and access, anti-racism, or non-profit governance and fundraising

### **Board Terms**

The ABC Board slate is approved annually by the Agassiz Neighborhood Council at the May Annual Meeting. ABC's Board Members are elected for two-year terms, and officers (Chairs, Treasurer, Clerk) are elected each year. There is no term limit and terms begin in September.

### **Schedule**

Board Meetings are generally held from 6:00-7:30 PM on the second Wednesday of the month from Sept-June. Additional committee meetings may be scheduled as needed. Board members are expected to attend 75% of the monthly meetings.

### **Apply**

To apply, review the complete position description at <http://bit.ly/abc-board-posting> and please send a statement that explains your interest in the Board as well as relevant experience and a résumé (optional). If you have questions or are wondering if the ABC Board might be a good fit for you, contact ED Maria LaPage. She can be reached at [mlapage@agassiz.org](mailto:mlapage@agassiz.org) or (617) 349-6287 x17.

## REMEMBERING ERIC DELISLE

Eric H. Delisle, who was employed initially as an Administrative Assistant and later as an Executive Assistant at Agassiz Baldwin Community, passed away in December 2018. He was well known for his excellent organizing and communication skills, his sparkling press releases for all programs at ABC, and his friendly and welcoming nature.



In addition to his tenure at ABC from 2012 to 2018, Eric was a co-initiator of ABC's current anti-racism effort and completed project-work for the Cambridge Agassiz Harvard Fund (CAH). Eric is sorely missed by the Agassiz Baldwin Community team. Below find his self-penned obituary and an opportunity to support an important cause in his honor.

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Born Emily Hopkins Delisle in Portland, OR, Eric transitioned to male at age 20. He co-founded the Bromfield School Gay-Straight Alliance (Now the Gender and Sexuality Alliance) in Harvard, MA in 1997 and co-founded the Agassiz Baldwin Anti-Racism Committee in Cambridge, MA in 2017.

Eric loved libraries, telling the same jokes over and over, musical theater, writing, painting, gardening, and small, creepy creatures. His Halloween parties were the stuff of legends. He was always surrounded by love, even when he didn't realize it.

Six-Word Autobiography: Hate change, adapt, love life, repeat.

“. . . when you live in a world /it gets in to who you thought you'd be" from "After All" by Dar Williams, singer-songwriter.

Eric is survived by his partner, Evan Rockefeller; their fuzzy family, Sachiel, Timothy and Fig Newton; his parents, Heidi and Norman Delisle; his sister, Rain Delisle; her boyfriend, Cory Gehrlich; his dear friends Amanda Cadogan and Randy Furash-Stewart; and his in-laws, Barbara, Larry, and Gabriel Rockefeller.

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In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Agassiz Baldwin Community at <http://bit.ly/donate-to-ABC>. Please choose "Anti-racism work" from the drop-down and indicate that you want your donation dedicated in memory of Eric Delisle.

## 23RD ANNUAL HIP HOP FESTIVAL FOR KIDS

Clap and dance along to an energetic show of hip hop dance and music performed by local professional and youth performers.

- When:** Thursday, February 21st, 2:00-3:00 pm
- Where:** Maria L Baldwin School Stage-basement level, 85 Oxford Street, Cambridge
- Tickets:** \$5 per family suggested donation, FREE for afterschool groups (RSVP with the name of your program, the number of children and number of adults planning to attend to Ana Balbino at [abalbino@agassiz.org](mailto:abalbino@agassiz.org))



## **SPACES AVAILABLE IN AGASSIZ BALDWIN AFTERSCHOOL**

Agassiz Baldwin Community's Kindergarten and 1st-5th Grade Afterschool Programs have space available for the remainder of the 2018-2019 school year. Join our community and enroll your child today in choice-based programming that adapts to children's interests, extends learning through play, and develops social-emotional skills through the Nurtured Heart Approach.

Interested families should contact our Registration Coordinator to schedule a visit and learn more about enrollment and financial aid options.

Visit: [agassiz.org/childrens-programs](http://agassiz.org/childrens-programs)  
Contact: Registration at [registration@agassiz.org](mailto:registration@agassiz.org)  
or (617) 349-6287 x28



## **THE BEAST AND ME: LESLIE SCHOMP, MARY KENNY, ANDREA OLMSTEAD AT CHANDLER GALLERY**

**Show dates:** January 14 - February 8, 2019  
**Workshop:** "Beast and Me", Saturday, January 26, 10:30 AM- 12:30 PM

For centuries humans have imagined creatures that combine human and animal characteristics such as sphinxes, centaurs, and mermaids.

"The Beast and Me," at the Chandler Gallery, is replete with scenes of a child's imagination. In their execution, the sculptures and drawings by Leslie Schomp, Andrea Scofield Olmstead and Mary Kenny feel lifelike, but their subjects are touched with the whimsy, curiosity, and tenderness common in childhood fantasies.

Learn more at <http://www.maudmorganarts.org/chandler-gallery/>



## **CALL FOR ARTISTS: SMALL WORKS SALON 2019 - INTERIOR SPACES**

**Show dates:** March 25 - April 19, 2019  
**Entry deadline:** February 3, 2019  
**Juror:** Hilary Tait Norod

The Chandler Gallery invites artists to submit work inspired by interior spaces both physical and cognitive. Artists may interpret the idea in many ways and make work that is not necessarily literal but uses the ideas of interiority, home, and private spaces metaphorically.

Any 2D or 3D techniques including works on paper, prints, drawings, photographs, collages, books, paintings, and sculpture are eligible. Work should not exceed 24 inches on the longest side.

**Eligibility:** Open to artists in the greater Boston area.

For more information visit:  
<http://bit.ly/small-works-salon>

## City Wide

### **NEW SHOP, EAT & ENJOY MASS AVE MAP**

Prepared by Ruth Ryals, PSNA

A beautiful new edition of the PSNA “Shop, Eat & Enjoy Mass Ave” map and business directory is now available.



The map showcases businesses (retail and restaurants), as well as our institutions, art galleries, historical buildings, on or near Mass Ave from the Cambridge Common to the Arlington line.

Copies of the maps can be found at 20 Sacramento Street, as well as at most businesses along the Avenue.

“Shop, Eat & Enjoy Mass Ave” is produced by the Porter Square Neighbors Association (PSNA), with the generous support of Lesley University and Agassiz Baldwin Community. What a great combo!

You can view the new map online at: <http://www.portersquare.net/map> where every effort will be made to keep it current. If you spot a new place or a newly empty place PSNA hasn't noticed, please let us know.

### **CAMBRIDGE DIGS DEEP**

Cambridge Digs DEEP is an initiative launched by Mayor Marc McGovern and Councillor Sumbul Siddiqui to engage the community in conversations about equity, privilege, diversity,

inclusion, and race in a series of forums and workshops.

Mayor McGovern and Councillor Siddiqui's Offices have partnered with Dr. Darnisa Amante, CEO of the Disruptive Equity Education Project (DEEP) to co-design and facilitate these conversations. DEEP is an organization focused on changing mindsets around equity and dismantling systemic oppression and racism.

The series kicked off with a city-wide Community Forum held on November 28, 2018, at the Fletcher Maynard Academy. Over 150 attendees gathered for a conversation facilitated by Dr. Amante to establish norms, share feedback, and engage in dialogue about equity. Feedback from this first session will be used to inform future sessions.

The following events have been scheduled for 2019:

**Thursday, Feb. 7, 2019, 6:00-8:00 PM,** presented by the City of Cambridge and Cambridge Public School Department, Cambridge City Hall, Sullivan Chamber, 795 Mass Ave

**Thursday, Mar. 21, 2019, 6:00-8:00 PM,** facilitated by DEEP

**Saturday, Apr. 27 2019, 12:00-2:00 PM,** facilitated by DEEP

Learn more at:  
<http://bit.ly/cambridge-digs-DEEP>

Public service announcement on Cambridge Community Television:  
<https://vimeo.com/299705179>

# Community Calendar

## February 2019

<b>Tuesday, February 12</b>	<b>7:30-9:00 PM</b>	ANC Meeting (see page 1 for agenda) Maud Morgan Arts, 20A Sacramento St. All are welcome, please join us!
<b>Wednesday, February 13</b>	<b>6:00-7:30 PM</b>	ABC Board Meeting, 20 Sacramento St., 2nd Floor Public welcome
<b>Monday, February 18</b>		Presidents Day holiday, ABC School Programs & office, Maud Morgan Arts closed
<b>Thursday, February 21</b>	<b>2:00-3:00 PM</b>	23rd Annual Hip Hop Festival of Music & Dance for school-age children, Maria L. Baldwin School Stage, 85 Oxford St.

The Whistler is published monthly September - June by the Agassiz Baldwin Community, distribution 2,000. Call (617) 349-6287 to receive by mail or email. The newsletter is also posted each month online at [www.agassiz.org](http://www.agassiz.org). Items of interest to the neighborhood should be submitted for consideration no later than the 15th of the month prior to publication date.

## The Whistler December 2018-February 2019



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**DO NOT FORWARD**



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