Neighborhood Council Notes -

Notes from the March 14th council meeting

GENERAL BUSINESS: There was a meeting on Garfield St. to discuss the MBTA lot at Mass. Ave. Some of the alternatives for the lot include: Low income housing, business or open space/park. There will be a survey by Garfield St. residents to see what the residents feel the best use of the space will be. A second survey, possibly through the Whistler, will survey the Agassiz neighborhood for their ideas of uses. The main concern from Garfield St. is that the use does not generate more traffic. There will be another meeting for the neighborhood to discuss these issues. Another major issue for the meeting is the status of Russ’s Gulf station which is owned by Cumberland Farms. It has been rumored that a self service gas station/convenience store is being considered. A liaison was set up from Garfield St. to plan the April meeting.

Astrid Dodds contacted the council to see if we would be willing to offer ourselves as a pilot neighborhood for curbside recycling. We agreed to invite her to the next council meeting (4/11) to discuss this issue.

Parking complaints continue to be a problem. (enforcement of the parking laws and ticketing for violations.) Signs have been replaced by the traffic department, but enforcement is not strong enough. It was suggested that a letter be sent to City Councillor Ken Reeves, Agassiz resident, to see if he could help get some action on parking violation enforcement.

The question of the sewer separation project came up. It was agreed to find out the status of the project given that there is no state money available, and we had heard conflicting reports on whether or not the project was going to bid as planned this spring. (See sewer update below.)

Harvard Planning Group: Three representatives from Harvard attended: Kathy Spiegelman, Director of Planning; Harris Band, Assistant Director of Planning; and Marilyn O'Connell, Harvard Department of Community Government and Public Affairs. Although the discussions began with Harvard's acquisition of both the Bence Pharmacy block and the Quality Inn on Mass. Ave., now they wish to pursue an ongoing planning group to try to have the university neighbors and the university have a dialogue to share the planning process in a more open way. Agassiz is the first neighborhood Harvard has chosen to work with, but the intent is to work with all Harvard bordering neighborhoods.

next council meeting...

April Council Meeting

Wednesday April 11 at 7:30 p.m.

Agassiz Neighborhood Council
20 Sacramento St. (call 498-9066 for information)
7:30 p.m. General Business
8:00 p.m. Agassiz and curbside recycling - Astrid Dodds
8:30 p.m. Garfield St. Development - possibilities

For this first meeting Harris Band presented a brief history of the Agassiz neighborhood and maps designating zoning, land use, ownership (and control of sites within Harvard's schools and departments.) There was some discussion of the maps accuracies on zoning and use, and Harvard agreed to include the northern part of our neighborhood in its next maps.

We were advised that the Bence and Quality Inn sites were purchased for use by the Law School and that the Law School was about to embark on a large capital campaign for building expenses.

The owners of Central Barbershop and Three Aces Pizza were at the meeting. The rents have been raised, but the barbershop owner sent back his lease many months ago and had received no further word. The pizza shop said that he must pay a large deposit before his lease is renewed. Both businesses have been in the neighborhood for many years, and the residents were upset that these merchants have been treated so poorly. The Harvard representatives said they would contact Harvard Real Estate to find who is responsible for lease arrangements.

It was decided that a committee will meet with the members of Harvard Planning Group on the fourth Wednesday of each month. The next meeting will be held on April 26th.

Other Neighborhood Updates

Garfield Street Development Meeting

The next council meeting (4/11) will take up the question of what will happen on both Mass. Ave. corners of Garfield St. There are currently no formal plans for either site, but the neighborhood residents would like to be as well informed about the options as possible, so that they can be a useful part of the process when it takes place.

We will have representatives who can discuss the feasibility and the impact of the various options for those corners: commercial, open space (park), housing (cooperative or low income) or a mixture of uses.

All interested residents are urged to attend the council meeting on April 11. The meeting begins at 7:30 and this agenda item will begin at 8:30 p.m.

Sewer Construction Update

The council contacted Department of Public Works Commissioner William Sommers for an update on the Sewer Separation Project Phase VI. This project has been in the design phase for several years, and the first contract was scheduled to go out to bid this spring. This project would separate storm drains from sanitary lines in those areas where they have not yet been separated, and it would increase the size of the pipes from the Charles River at about the Weeks bridge north, under the MBTA, and up Oxford St.
Commissioner Sommers said that they will begin phase VI, but not until the new fiscal year. The cost for the project is now $34,000,000, and there are no state funds available. Therefore, the first contract which went from the Charles River under the MBTA to Broadway to Kirkland ($14,000,000) has been divided into two contracts. The first contract will be financed in the next city budget if approved. The funds must come from bonds, but the sewer rates have been approved so the Commissioner was confident that the expenditure will be in the budget. The city has stated that they support the project.

The new first contract for $7,000,000 will go out to bid after July 1—nothing begins until then. What this means to the Agassiz flood victims is that relief hoped for from this project will take even longer than the projected 5 years.

Curbside Recycling News

Saturday April 14, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. is the next drop off date. Bring your newspaper, glass, aluminum, plastic and returnable cans and bottles to either of the 2 drop off sites: (1) Sherman St. (behind St. Peter's Field) which runs between Walden St. and Ridge Ave; (2) the DPW Yard, 147 Hampshire St. "Cambridge Recycling" is a joint project of the Cambridge DPW and the Citizens Recycling Committee.

What to bring

Newspaper - Pack tightly in brown paper bags or tie with natural twine. No magazines, phone books or junk mail.
Plastic Jugs - White or clear milk, water and juice jugs rinsed out and crushed. Also colored HDPE containers (most colored HDPE containers are shampoo, laundry and household cleaner bottles. Rinse out very thoroughly. (All HDPE should have a 2 circled with diagonal arrows on the bottom.) Remove all caps.
Glass - Clean, clear, brown and green. Remove metal rings and caps.
Aluminum - Clean aluminum cans, trays and foil.
Lead - Remove from wine bottles and save in separate bag
Returnables - Clean bottles and cans. Remove caps. (Your donation of returnable bottles and cans pays for the publicity and education efforts of Cambridge Recycling.)

The March 10 Recycling effort: what happened? The previous records for most materials were set in January, so we'll juxtapose the March 10 figures with the January:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Material</th>
<th>January</th>
<th>March</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Newspaper</td>
<td>42.4 lbs</td>
<td>50.47 lbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glass</td>
<td>12 lbs</td>
<td>13.72 lbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aluminum</td>
<td>108 lbs</td>
<td>231 lbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lead</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7 lbs (first collection)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plastic</td>
<td>856 lbs</td>
<td>1650 lbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Returnables</td>
<td>$669.00</td>
<td>$899.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Perhaps the most impressive fact is that a total of 1759 vehicles came to the two sites during the 6 hour drop-off period on March 10, and it took 184 volunteers to unload their recyclables and process them.

Curbside Recycling needs more volunteers! To volunteer on April 14 at the DPW Yard site, call Dan Newberry at 498-9078; at the Sherman St. site, call Vici Casana at 547-4773. Shifts are 8:30-11, 10:30-1 or 12:30-3:30. To volunteer to help with responding to Recycling Hotline calls; call Paula Lenzi 491-7892. (The calls can be accessed from your home.)

Monthly Cambridge Recycling General Meeting: Tuesday April 17, DPW Conference Room, 147 Hampshire St., 7:30-9:30 p.m. New members orientation 7-7:30.

Curbside Recycling: Where? Where? Mayor Wolf reports that last year's City Council approved a pilot curbside recycling project and, as some of you may recall, asked in her response to the Agassiz Neighborhood Council's City Council election questionnaire: "Would the Agassiz neighborhood be interested in being the pilot project?" Our goal at the April 11 Neighborhood Council meeting will be to start answering that question.

"Cambridge Recycling" is a DPW advisory board. A year or more of very hard, mostly volunteer, work has gone into creating the success that is the second Saturday drop-off project. But the drop-off project is fast reaching its capacity to deal with the response. So the question is: what next?

Doug and Astrid Dodds will describe at the April 11 Neighborhood Council meeting their impression of where things stand now. But they are counting on a good turnout of neighborhood residents who have taken recyclables to either site, have had experience as a volunteer on a recycling Saturday, are already active in Cambridge Recycling, or are just interested in the subject.

If there is sufficient interest, perhaps a subcommittee can be formed to explore the possibility of bringing curbside recycling to the Agassiz neighborhood.

Cambridge Citizens for Liveable Neighborhoods

The council has followed with interest mailings from Cambridge Citizens for Liveable Neighborhoods. They are an organization made up of citizens from all neighborhoods in Cambridge and are "...committed to pursuing policies on growth and development that benefit the ordinary citizen first, and which do so by defending and enhancing the basic liveability of Cambridge's neighborhoods." They have received a favorable response from City Manager Robert Healy and have support from the city council.

Their mailings are informative and cover a variety of neighborhood issues including housing, development, environment and zoning. They meet on the first and third Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. For more information call 354-5670.

Agassiz School Auction on Saturday April 7

Come and join us at the Agassiz School AUCTION to be held on Saturday April 7th beginning at 6:30 p.m. There will be a silent auction between 6:30 and 7:30 p.m., and a regular auction will follow. Prizes are varied and include creative gifts and services from local businesses and Agassiz families worth anywhere from $5-$6000. Everyone is invited by the Agassiz School Community to come and support the fundraising efforts of the Agassiz School.

You may remember that the Agassiz Fall Fair was cancelled this October, so the auction will be Agassiz's main fund raising event. For information on the Auction call the Agassiz School at 498-9256.

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Special Cultural Activities

Four Agassiz School students (Isaac Eddy, Neil Kadagathur, Tamar Leffert and Tove Reiss Hermanson) performed in the Chekhov Theatre Company's production of

Thumbelina...And Maybe a Little Bit More

directed by Alexander Chirkov

a show for all ages based on a tale by Hans Christian Andersen with music by David Haas. The show will be performed on April 1 and 8 at 1 p.m. in Welch Auditorium at Lesley College. Tickets are $12; $10 for students and seniors, $7 for children. Call 547-8698 for group rates or more information.

Mural Donors

Additional to the community mural project since the last edition of The Whistler include:

William and Barbara August
Cafasso Family
Gundy Family
John Hancock Matching Gifts
Susan Keane/Richard Griffin
Selena McComas in memory of:
  Sylvia and Albert Kearney
Nick Natalie and Julian Peshek
Joel, Ada, Liana and Josh Snider

Your contributions are tax deductible. Contributors of $100 or more will have their names placed on a plaque near the mural.

Wen-Ti Tsai, mural artist will begin working on the project this month. For more information on the mural project or to donate contact the Agassiz Neighborhood Council at 498-9056 or 20 Sacramento St., Cambridge, MA 02139.

LESLEY COLLEGE News and Events

On Tuesday April 24 Lesley College will host a public hearing on the future of human services. State policymakers, human service professionals and educators will gather on the campus for "Redefining the Problem: Creative Visions for Human Services in the 21st Century."

Speakers will include Phillip Johnston, Secretary State Dept. of Human Services, Hubie Jones, Dean Boston U. Graduate School of Social Work, Clara Garcia, Executive Director, Iniquillo Borinquen Action; and Daniel Lam, Executive Director, Office for Refugees and Immigrants. Following testimony by speakers, a panel of human service practitioners will present an analysis of the critical issues facing the future of the profession.

The hearing is open to the Agassiz community, the human services community and the general public.

Mass ReLeaf Project

Last spring a new state policy to plant shade trees all over Massachusetts was announced by Governor DuKakis and Environmental Affairs Secretary John DeVillers at Agassiz School.

The Mass ReLeaf project solicits donations to pay for the planting of shade trees in Massachusetts cities and towns. The planting of shade trees slows the effects of global warming. They absorb carbon dioxide (released when we burn fossil fuel), help conserve energy, cut energy costs by providing shade, and take some heat out of urban "heat islands". Three properly planted trees around your home can cut air conditioning bills by 10-50%.

Mass ReLeaf is joining the worldwide effort to plant trees by becoming a partner with Global ReLeaf, a campaign sponsored by the American Forestry Association.

We contacted the Cambridge tree warden, Jack Kelly, who has applied to receive trees through this competitive grant program. Not only must a community want trees, they must care for the trees after they have been planted, and only communities who can prove this will receive trees.

A contributor may donate money toward planting trees in a specific community - as long as the targeted community meets the guidelines of the program. Individuals, groups and corporations are encouraged to contribute. For more information contact Mass ReLeaf/ENVent Coordinator, Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, 100 Cambridge St. Boston 02202, 727-9800.

Afterschool and Summer Camp Programs

Outback Summer Camp and Full time Agassiz Afterschool Programs will open registration in April. For complete information contact the Agassiz Community School office at 498-9056.

Cambridge Community TV Open House 4/19

CCTV has planned an open house on Thursday, April 19th from 7:30-9 p.m. Have you ever wondered what the facility looks like? The kind of equipment they have? Or what programs, training and activities they have available? Go and see them at their offices at One Kendall Square Building 400. For information call them at 225-2500.

FOR SENIORS

Operation ABLE (Ability Based on Long Experience) of Greater Boston seeks to provide job opportunities to individuals, especially those 55 and older interested in either full or part-time employment.

Operation ABLE offers information, referrals, job counseling and placement assistance to eligible job seekers. Call the information line at 439-5589.

New Friends Wanted- Two young Lexington/Agassiz Residents would like some new friends in this area on weekends and vacation periods. Jerome, age 10, likes Nintendo, movies sports especially soccer, reading, drawing... Gregory, age 5, likes Nintendo, movies, riding his bike and mini-car, T.M.N. Turtles, creative play...

Both boys eat (basically) macrobiotic. They enjoy sharing their skills and enthusiasms with others. Please contact Regis Kirkpatrick or Kathy Dahlke, 868-2748.
April COMMUNITY CALENDAR
4/7 Saturday .................................. Agassiz School Auction Silent auction 6:30-7:30, then live auction. Dessert and coffee. For info call 498-9256. Community members welcome!
4/9 Monday ................................... Passover begins at Sundown
4/10 Tuesday ................................. School half day. Afterschool opens 12:45 p.m.
4/14 Saturday ................................. Recycling at 147 Hampshire and at Sherman St. behind St. Peters Field 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Every 2nd Sat. For info call 498-9078. (See article on curbside recycling)
4/1 Wednesday ............................... Agassiz Neighborhood Council Meeting
7:30 p.m. 20 Sacramento St. -agenda pg 1
4/13 Friday ................................... Good Friday No School or afterschool
4/15 Sunday ................................... Easter
4/16-20 Monday-Friday ................. April School Vacation. No School. Vacation Childcare Program by preregistration only
4/22 Sunday ................................... Earth Day. Check newspapers or call 542-6333 for events in Cambridge

Parking Wanted
Tapestry, a feminist counseling and educational center located for thirteen years in the Agassiz Community Center at 20 Sacramento St., is looking for parking in the area. They are willing to pay $25 per month for a space. Call 661-0248 and leave a message if you are interested.

Summer Rental- Bartlett, North Conway, N.H.

Chocolate Point siamese kittens for sale...both parents are chocolate point- two females and one male-adorable and ready to go to your home now. They were born on Christmas Eve. $100. (a great deal for full blooded siamese) Call Joyce at 547-0909.

CLASSES AND LESSONS IN CREATIVE MUSIC AND MOVEMENT will be offered for elementary-aged children by CLAIRE GILBERT, teacher with the Cambridge Community Schools and New England Conservatory of Music. Private piano lessons are offered for ages 7 and older, and music and movement classes for toddlers and parents, and ages 4-5, 5-7. Please call 776-6473, evenings for information and registration.

Are you secure? Chain lock door alarm under $15. On person alarm, protects from muggers, rape, fire, animals. Call 497-4169 EAS Electronic Alarm Systems

10-SPEED BICYCLE FOR SALE, bar-end shifters, fenders if desired. Price negotiable. Call Doug at 497-5502 (home) or 495-7157 (work).

April 1990

Agassiz Neighborhood Council
20 Sacramento Street
Cambridge, MA 02138 498-9056
THE WHISTLER

Take The Green Pledge for Earth Day April 22

Because... our planet today faces severe environmental crises such as global warming, rain forest devastation, growing world population, and water and air pollution. Because... the planet's future depends on the commitment of every nation, as well as every individual.

I Pledge To Do My Share In Saving The Planet By Letting My Concern For The Environment Shape How I...

ACT:
I pledge to do my utmost to recycle, conserve energy, save water, use efficient transportation, and try to adopt a lifestyle as if every day were Earth Day.

PURCHASE:
I pledge to buy and use those products least harmful to the environment. Moreover, I will do business with corporations that promote global environmental responsibility.

VOTE:
I pledge to vote and support those candidates who demonstrate an abiding concern for the environment.

SUPPORT:
I pledge to support the passage of local, state and federal laws and international treaties that protect the environment.

Signature

Let Earth Day know that you have joined thousands of others in taking the Green Pledge-New England Earth Day.
Suite 6B, 41 West Street, Boston, MA 02111