Green space will be afforded more protection. While there are restrictions on setbacks, there are no rules to keep trees and other green space, providing incentive for developers to pave backyards for parking lots. This zoning will specify green space.

The new petition will require better project and design review for more projects that are traditionally exempt.

For detailed information on the zoning initiative, see page two.

Information on Next Meeting

Board Candidates Announced
The Nominating Committee of the ANC will announce the new slate of candidates for Board of Directors for election at the May ANC meeting. Directors are elected for two year terms and officers are elected each year.

Sue Bergin, Secretary and Director
Lorraine Brewer, Director
Paul Lenart, Parent Representative and Director
Janet Rustow, Chairperson and Director
Christa Thomas, Director

Missing Sidewalks
There will be discussion on the lack of sidewalks on Hammond, Gorham, Bryant and Scott Streets and other locations neighbors may identify.

Street Trees for Mass. Ave.
We will discuss how to get trees planted on the section of Mass. Ave. that borders the Agassiz neighborhood.

Next Council Meeting
Tuesday April 15
7:30 p.m.
Agassiz School Dining Hall
28 Sacramento Street Entrance

Agenda:
Candidates for the ANC Board of Directors Announced
Missing Sidewalks in the Agassiz neighborhood
Street Trees to beautify Mass. Ave.
Neighborhood News

Sacramento St. Sewer Work Soon to be Complete

The DPW has advised the ANC that the sewer work will soon be finished with the final paving of Sacramento Street (between Mass. Ave. and Oxford St.) that is scheduled to be completed as The Whistler goes to press. Trees are scheduled to be planted in May.

Traffic and Transportation

Agassiz Neighbor’s death sparks safety concern

Susan Wood, a Garfield Street neighbor, was killed in Porter Square on February 23rd by a truck as she attempted to cross the street. Susan was a longtime resident in the Agassiz neighborhood who often attended council meetings and events.

This tragic event has caused residents to again question the pedestrian safety in Porter Square. City Councillor Frank Duehay, who has long voiced concern over the pedestrian safety in Porter Square, has called for the City to review the situation.

Since that date, the City has called for a Porter Square Citizens Advisory Committee that will deal with safety in Porter Square. See page three for information.

City Wide

New Zoning Initiative from Residents

A group of concerned citizens have organized to form a group called The Cambridge Residents for Growth Management (CRGM). In March they published the Cambridge Residents’ Reporter, that explains their initiative “for a liveable, affordable, prosperous city, today and the future.”

They believe that the existing law
- permits buildings that are too big and too tall in much of the city
- does too little to promote new affordable housing
- does too little to promote open space

The proposers plan to submit their proposal as a petition to the City Council in April. This will be after meeting with neighborhood groups such as the ANC all over the City. (See page one for a report on the meeting held in Agassiz on March 18 at which Agassiz resident and former ANC Chairperson Jocelyn Bard represented the group)

CRGM now has almost 100 participants from throughout the City. One of the participants and founders, Hugh Russell, got the idea for citywide rezoning after years of sitting on the Planning Board and “hearing people come in from all over the city with ideas that couldn’t be implemented” because they were made in response to proposed new structures or renovations that were permitted by existing law. John Pitkin from Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood Association said “Residents need to take the initiative to raise these issues because of increasing development in our neighborhoods, commercial squares and former industrial areas... If we don’t properly manage this explosive growth, it will erode our community, our neighborhoods, our environment, our quality of life.” The last two decades have seen changes in the zoning law but only in North Mass. Ave. and Cambridgeport areas. Much of the city still has zoning limits near the high levels set in the 1960’s. It was during this recession that the city was “upzoned” to promote commercial development.

The principal points of the proposal include:
- Equitable reduction of allowable building sizes from present limits
- Limitation of building height in all areas
- Reductions in building heights in high-density areas where they border lower ones
- Increased protection of green space
- Increased provision for affordable housing
- Public review for all projects with significant impacts

Once filed with the City, the petition will have a 4-5 month public review, including hearings by both the Council and the Planning Board before a possible vote in September or October.

You can sign a declaration of support right now, if you feel you can support this petition. Contact CRGM for a copy of this declaration—see below for how to reach them.

For a copy of the materials distributed at the ANC March meeting including the Cambridge Residents Reporter, call the ANC at 349-6287. They will explain these initiatives in detail. For more information on CRGM, email: crgm@juno.com or visit the website at website: web.idirect.com/~crgm or call 354-0051.

Housing Issues Discussed

The ANC’s newly established Housing Committee held its first meeting on March 25 as The Whistler went to press. Discussion topics included the new affordable housing on Sacramento, Oxford and Wendell Streets, that was formerly owned by Harvard. How rents will be established for remating tenants who do not qualify for a subsidy and how new tenants will be chosen are included in the agenda.

Steve Meecham from the Eviction Free Zone will explain the current initiatives in the City. He will suggest things the
committee can do to help prevent evictions (they are happening in the Agassiz neighborhood), and explain how the committee can promote affordable housing in Cambridge.

Future meeting agendas and dates will be planned. For more information or to be on the mailing list for that committee call the council office at 349-6287.

Elephant Walk Seeks Liquor License

The owners of the Elephant Walk Restaurant, currently in Union Square, Somerville, wish to move their restaurant to the former site of Cappuccino's, across from the Porter Exchange on Mass. Ave. This move will require a liquor license.

Neighborhood 9 will host them at a meeting on April 10th at 7:00 p.m. in the Peabody School, 44 Linnaean St. Owners will discuss their plans, and residents can ask questions.

Forums on Race, Class and Institutions

The Changing Faces of Cambridge: Race, Class and Institutions, 150 Years and After is the name of a series of forums to be held at the Central Square Library, 45 Pearl St. from 7-9 p.m. Robert C. Hayden, distinguished historian and educator will facilitate all forums. Charles Sullivan, Director of Cambridge Historical Commission, will begin each forum with a slide presentation, and a panel of residents will speak about their families' experiences.

April forums will be held on April 3: Hard Times and New Beginnings-Early 20th Century, and April 17 Post-War Boom to Service Economy-Mid to late 20th Century. The forums are a wonderful way for us to mark the end of our sesquicentennial year by focusing on our history and our current challenges as a community of tolerance. This series is designed to educate Cambridge residents of all ages and backgrounds. Youth and elders are especially invited.

This series is sponsored by Cambridge Department of Human Services Programs and other Cambridge agencies. For more information contact Mary Lena at 349-6497, Sheli Worsts at 349-6484, TTY/TDD at 492-0235.

North Cambridge News Has New Sponsor

Northwest Common is New Non-profit

The North Cambridge News has been keeping residents of North Cambridge informed for the past ten years, with funding from the North Cambridge Restabilization Committee. That funding is scheduled to run out this summer, and the North Cambridge News is being reborn as a vital part of Northwest Common, a new non-profit community organization that seeks to build, link and strengthen the diverse neighborhoods of North and West Cambridge. The organization will also sponsor civic events, provide community information resources, and support local businesses.

They will present a kick off event “The Flavor of NorthWest Cambridge” on May 4th from 3-7 p.m. at the new Robert Frost Condominium, 85 Sherman St. It will include food, writers, poets, craftspersons and artists. For more information call 661-6121.

Harvard Square

Historical Commission Plans Study

The Harvard Square Historic District Study Committee will examine the following topics: the history, growth, and present character of Harvard Square; the potential for development under present zoning; planning and preservation techniques applicable to historic commercial areas; achieving a balance between development and preservation; and development of specific recommendations for Harvard Square.

All meetings will take place on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. All meetings are open to the public and the committee wishes to encourage the widest possible participation.

Meetings this month will be on April 9 which will focus on case studies from Newberry Street, Northampton, and Providence; and on April 23 when the potential for Harvard Square development under present zoning and appropriate goals to balance development and preservation will be discussed. Call the Historical Commission at 349-4683 for the location.

Porter Square

City Manager Announces Advisory Committee

The City of Cambridge seeks input from concerned members of the Porter Square community (this includes Agassiz) regarding upcoming projects.

The City is soliciting members for a Porter Square Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC). The purpose is to act as a forum for discussion and exchange of information between the public and city agencies (Community Development, Public Works, Traffic Parking and Transportation Departments) regarding the following construction projects:

- Separation of sanitary sewers (this will take place after the sewer work in the Agassiz neighborhood)
- Improvements to Porter Square (between Roseland and Beech Streets) that may include redesign of traffic, pedestrian, and bicycle accommodations, as well as urban design and landscaping
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617/661-3080

An introductory presentation on this project will take
place at the Porter Square Neighbors Association on April 5.
[See next article for more information.]
Members will include residents, business representa-
tives, and others with diverse interest in the community.
Interested individuals should send a letter to the City
Manager stating their interest:
Mr. Robert Healy, City Manager, City Hall, Cambridge
02139, by April 11.

April 5 Special Meeting on Porter Square
On Saturday, April 5th Porter Square Neighbors
Association will sponsor a large public planning/problem
solving meeting to discuss traffic and transportation issues
in Porter Square.
This will serve as an introductory presentation of the
construction work to be done in Porter Square as described
above in the City Manager’s call for a Porter Square Citizens
Advisory Committee that includes sewer and road work.
The meeting will take place between 9:00 a.m. and
12:30 p.m. at the Masonic Temple, 1950 Mass. Ave. on
Saturday April 5th.
The regular meeting of the Porter Square Neighbors
Association will take place as usual on the third Thursday,
April 17, from 7-9 pm at the Metropolitan Baptist Church,
corner of Beech and Orchard Sts. Call 576-3542.

Agassiz Public School

New Agassiz Principal Hiring Timeline
We have learned from the Cambridge Public Schools
that the hiring of the Agassiz School Principal is in the final
stages. The schedule for the Superintendent’s one to one
interviews of finalists (typically three) will be completed by
or before April 7. Further reference checks will take the
final decision to mid April.
An offer will be extended to the finalist and if accepted,
the School Committee Notification should go to the first
School Committee Meeting in May.
It is unlikely that any candidate will begin before the
new school year in September. Fran Foley will remain as
Acting Principal until April 18.

HMFH Honored on April 1 at Agassiz
The architectural firm, HMFH, that designed the new
Agassiz School, will be awarded two honors on April 1st in a
celebration at the Agassiz School.
HMFH will be the recipient of the 1997 Walter Taylor
Award of the American Association of School Administrators
and the 1997 Learning by Design Grand Prize of the
American School Board Journal.
HMFH will also present a $1,000 scholarship to the
Agassiz School.

Gallery On the Go comes to Agassiz
The Decordova Museum in Lincoln will provide the
Agassiz School with a visual art exhibit entitled “Gallery on
the Go” for an eight week period beginning in late April.
This program will provide the Agassiz School with three
large panels that hold six pieces of original art from the
Decordova’s permanent collection. The exhibition will be
placed on view for all the Agassiz School community. The
specific exhibit that will come to Agassiz is focused on an
environmental theme.
Members of the Decordova staff will visit Agassiz teach-
ers and explain how to talk about the pieces. Volunteer
docents will come to Agassiz and talk with the children
about the art works.
A trip to the Decordova Museum is anticipated at the end of
the program, so the students can enjoy the museum and its
extensive sculpture garden.

Lesley College

New Degree Offered in Conflict Resolution
and Peaceable Schools
The School of Education will offer what may be the first
graduate degree in the country that combines teacher education
with conflict resolution and peacemaking. This February
twenty students began the M.Ed. program. “We want to stop
the chain of cause and effect that often gets called violence”
says John Braman, Director of the Center for Peaceable
Schools. “These are the precursors to students acting out in the
classroom. We’re being preventive.”
Nancy Carlsson Page, Professor in the School of
Education says “We’re beginning with a separate program,
but our goal, ultimately, is to bring conflict resolution teaching
into teacher education in general, integrating these ideas
and practices.

LESLEY COLLEGE CARWASH
to benefit Senior Class
April 5 Saturday
Mallen Street 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
$3 for wash
$5 for the works
Agassiz Community School Programs

FREE COMPUTER CLASS
APRIL 8TH

Join us on Tuesday, April 8th for our computer class for beginners. We will explore the basics including an introduction to word processing. The class will take up where the first introductory class left off, with plenty of opportunity for newcomers to catch up and catch on.

Class will meet from 7-9 p.m. in the computer room, fourth floor of the Agassiz School. Use the 28 Sacramento St. entrance. Call Jody Garber at the ANC office, 349-6287 to register or for more information. There is no charge, and all community members are welcome.

Agassiz Afterschool

April vacation week programming for children enrolled in the Agassiz Afterschool will include field trips, theater outings, lots of sports, and arts and crafts. Vacation week registration forms will be handed out within the next two weeks.

Registration for next year's Afterschool has started for eligible children entering school in the fall. Brochures and registration forms are available at the office at 20 Sacramento Street or by calling 349-6287.

Sacramento St. Preschool

Registration for next year's preschool class has started for children who will be 2 years and nine months old in September. The program runs five days a week from 8:30-1:30 p.m. on the Cambridge School calendar. There are shorter hours and part time options available. For a brochure or to visit, stop by the office at 20 Sacramento Street or call 349-6287.

Outback Summer Camp

Registration is now taking place for Outback, the summer day camp of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council. Outback runs for eight weeks, starting on June 30th, and running through the week of August 18th. Children entering first grade through sixth grade are eligible to attend the camp which offers both regular day programming (8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.) or extended day until 5:30 p.m. Please call the office at 349-6287 for a brochure or for more information.

Outback Counselor in Training Program

Our Counselor in Training Program is also gearing up for the summer season. Children entering seventh, eighth, and ninth grades are eligible to apply to become a C.I.T. at Outback this summer. Sessions run for two weeks and participating students are provided with training and experience while asked to assist in camp operations. If you would like to receive an application form or more information, please call 349-6287.

Middle School Programs

Spring classes for 6th through 8th grade students will be starting in April. Look for flyers announcing new classes or call the office at 349-6287. Cooking, Creative Writing, and Illustrative Drawing will be starting new terms and a special one session class in Calligraphy is planned.

Evening Programs

A reminder that our drop in evening programs for teens and adults continue at the Agassiz School. On Tuesday evenings, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. the Neighborhood Council sponsors Teen Basketball (cost: $1.00). On Wednesday evenings, Adult Basketball meets from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. (cost $2.00) and Yoga Class from 6:15 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. (cost: $6.00).

All programs are drop-in, with no advance registration required. So come on by and check it out!

Other Adult Programs

We receive suggestions from time to time regarding programs or classes for adults that community residents would like to have available. Please let us know if you have any ideas or comments. Thank you.
Sacramento Street Gallery
20 Sacramento Street

Through April 18
Kitty Winslow
"Vessels and Vertebrae"
Paintings on drop cloths

Coming May 2nd
Ann Baldwin
Monoprints

Gallery Hours: Weekdays 9-5

"Rear View Mirror I" by Ann Baldwin

Introducing Art:
A Performance Series for Children

PRESENTS
Semenya McCord - April 9th
with "Journey Into Jazz"

Commonwealth Award Winner Semenya McCord, vocalist, music educator and composer will lead the audience on a participatory experience that highlights the significance of Jazz as an American art form. McCord will emphasize spirituals, blues, swing and bebop in her musical journey.

Gallery 57

This month Gallery 57 presents "Vernacular Vignettes" photographs by John Merrill from April 1-29th. There will be an opening reception with the artist on Thursday, April 3rd from 5-7 p.m.

John Merrill exhibits his contemplative, humorous photographs this month. These black and white silver prints capture witty ironies found throughout the American landscape. It is Merrill’s unique vision that makes this body of work so thoroughly entertaining and profound.

Now also a Writers Series

C.D. Collins kicks off the new writers series. Cross Cultural Investigations on April 24th at 7:30 p.m. This series is devoted to presenting artists whose work uncovers worlds of ethnic, racial or sexual differences to the community in fresh and innovative ways.

C.D. Collins writes richly textured prose and challenging poetry which engages audiences in subjects ranging from the effects of World War II on soldiers to the interior experiences of a young woman listening in the dark to the sound of her friends voice.

Gallery 57, located in the lobby of the Cambridge Arts Council on the 2nd floor of 57 Inman Street, is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. For more information call Judilee Reed at 349-4380.

Tired of student aid paperwork?

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Composers Concert April 26

Christian Carey and Ken Ueno, both candidates for a Master’s Degree in Composition at Boston University, will be performing a recital of music they have each composed. The concert will take place on Saturday, April 26th at 2:00 p.m. in the North Prospect Church, Porter Square (one block south of the Porter Square T stop at Mass. Ave. and Roseland St.).

There is a handicap entrance on Roseland St. The suggested minimum freewill offering for the performers is $5.

Call to Artists

The Cambridge Multicultural Arts Center (CMAC) encourages proposals for projects from performing and visual artists working in traditional or contemporary arts. Proposals are encouraged which explore issues of racial and ethnic identity, pluralism, cultural heritage or connections between differing beliefs or cultures. CMAC’s 170-seat historical theater and two modern art galleries are available for dance, theater, music concerts, festivals, exhibitions, installations, performance works, film, video and interdisciplinary presentations.

For specific information call 577-1400 or email: cmac@arts-online.com before the proposal deadline of 5/31.

Seniors

Senior Volunteer Network Launched

Mayor Sheila Russell will help launch this new initiative sponsored by the Senior Volunteer Committee of Elder Corps. Join the group on the first Monday of each month. This month the meeting will be on April 7th at the Blacksmith House, 86 Brattle Street from 3-4 p.m.

At the meetings you will meet with leaders of agencies seeking volunteers, get to know other volunteers, share experiences and information, and enjoy free refreshments.

There is also a directory in which you will find 50 Cambridge agencies that seek volunteer help. It can be found at the Library, in your place of worship or at the senior centers.

For more information contact Jim Smith 547-1568.

Cambridge Community TV NEWS

CCTV Offers Free Access to the Internet

Open Studio: The Arts Online

Tuesdays 3-6 p.m. and Sundays 6-9 p.m
675 Mass. Ave. (enter on Prospect St.)

Join in the initiative sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Benton Foundation to bring arts and cultural content to cyberspace. The purpose of this collaboration is to help artists and non profits arts organizations take advantage of on line resources, increase the arts and cultural presence on the Internet, expand the online arts audience and provide Internet access.

Spring Classes

Check out the expanding community media center housed at CCTV. This is a hands on technology training and production facility that provides monthly orientations on what it has to offer. It can help any Cambridge resident learn video production, gain computer skills and understand how to get involved in producing TV programs and computer publications.

Call 661-6900 for more information on CCTV programs.

11 Miller Street Hosts Open House

Miller Street studios will be open Saturday and Sunday, May 3rd and 4th from 1-5 p.m. They house professional artists, artisans, and musicians. This building is located near the Star Market on Beacon Street.

Welcome the public will be clothing designers Aliento and the Edits Company; visual artists Leslie Arnold, Peggy Badenhausen, Helen Hawes, Gail Martin, Susan Zeeman Rogers, Eric Sealline, and Janet Thompson; bookbinders The Three Ring Binders; animator Karen Agua; ceramicist Jeanne Redmond, and violin teachers Linda Beers and Vicki Citron. Violin students will perform throughout the afternoon.

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Studio
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491-5865

• Classical Ballet
• Pre-Ballet to pre-professional
• Adult Classes
April 1997 Community Calendar

April 1, Tuesday 11:00 a.m.  HMFH Award Ceremony (See page 4.)
Agassiz Schoool, 28 Sacramento St. entrance

April 5, Saturday 9:00-12:30 p.m. a.m.  Porter Square Planning/Problem Solving Meeting
Masonic Temple, 1950 Mass. Ave. (See page 4.)

April 8, Tuesday 2:00 p.m.  Introducing Art: A Performance Series for Children
Semenya McCord- Journey Into Jazz Admission $1
Agassiz School, 28 Sacramento St. entrance

April 8, Tuesday 7:00-9:00 p.m.  Free Introductory Computer Class (See page 5.)
Agassiz School Computer Room 4th floor
28 Sacramento St. entrance-Registration required

April 10, Thursday 7:00 p.m.  Neighborhood Nine Meeting - Elephant Walk Restaurant
Peabody School, 44 Linnaean St.

April 15, Tuesday 6:30 p.m.  ANC Board Meeting (open to public)
ANC Monthly Meeting
Agassiz School Dining Hall, 28 Sacramento St. entrance

April 22, Tuesday 7:30 p.m.  First Day of Passover

April 21-25  Cambridge Public School April Vacation Week

The Whistler is published monthly September - June by the Agassiz Neighborhood Council, distribution
2,000. Call 349-6287 to be on the mailing list. Items of interest to the neighborhood may be submitted
for consideration to address below, no later than the 15th of the month prior to publication date.

The Whistler April 1997

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