ANC Council Notes

ANC Meeting Notes 11/19/92

Funding for Sewers Promised by State

City Councillor Alice Wolf was in attendance, and she updated us on the Sewer Separation Project Phase VI process. This construction, which is separated into 3 projects, will separate sanitary sewer lines from storm drains and increase the size of pipe from our neighborhood to the river. This improvement should alleviate the flooding that the neighborhood experiences after heavy rain storms.

Councillor Wolf advised us that the state has verbally approved funding, and construction is scheduled to begin in May. Expressing the frustration the neighborhood has felt regarding funding promises, Councillor Wolf said she’d be completely sure of funding when the check was in the bank. However, the first construction project of three has been funded by the city regardless of state funding.

Department of Public Works (DPW) Commissioner David Haley advised the council that he had met with the state funding agency who promised a letter of commitment for funding by December. A February bidding process is scheduled, with construction to begin in May. Bob Barrows from Maguire, the engineers for Phase VI, also spoke and explained some of the details and answered questions.

Councillor Wolf has worked on this issues at length over the years, and she discussed this project with members of the DPW prior to our meeting. They are now making an effort to improve the timeline for faster relief to the neighborhood. More detail on the Sewer Separation Project Phase VI will be available in the January edition of The Whistler, when an updated time line will be available from the DPW.

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Neighborhood Input on Parking

George Teso, Traffic Commissioner, attended the second half of the council meeting on 11/19 to advise us of the Traffic Department’s recommendations regarding the current stock of unrestricted parking spaces in our neighborhood. He was accompanied by Traffic Director Lauren Preston.

Alice Wolf gave us a short introduction. These spaces currently have no restrictions, and can be used by anyone for any amount of time. Businesses in areas where there are no public parking lots for employees and patrons must resort to these spaces for parking.

This issue did not surface in the Agassiz neighborhood, most likely because the spaces that are proposed to be converted are few in number. They are slated to be converted to metered parking or resident only parking.

The chart below will show all Agassiz spaces and their proposed restrictions. There was no opposition at the meeting to the proposed changes. We agreed to print this chart so the entire neighborhood could see it. Please contact the Traffic Department at 349-4700 if you have any complaints or issues regarding the proposed changes.

(Parking Cont.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STREET</th>
<th>SIDE</th>
<th># of SPACES PROPOSING PROPOSAL</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kirkland St.</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holden St. to Somerville Ln.</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oxford St. to Divinity Ave.</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oxford St.</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Everett St. to Hammond St.</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kirkland St. to Everett St.</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Everett St. to Mellen St.</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mellen St. to Wendall St.</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wendall St.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main Ave. to Oxford St.</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total # of Spaces: 104
There has been suspicion in other parts of the City, notably in the Huron Ave. commercial area, regarding this process. One person asked how these spaces related to the "bank" of parking spaces Cambridge has created during the current parking freeze. It was explained that no new spaces can be created without review from the Interim Parking Control Committee which does not grant spaces readily. All parking spaces have been counted in Cambridge, and for every two spaces the city restricts, one can be added to the bank, up to a maximum of 1,100.

There was a three page letter handed out from City Manager Robert Healy which provided the background needed to understand this issue and how it fits into the clean air issue. [The council urges you to call us at 349-6287 for a copy of this letter which explains a very complicated issue.]

Terry DeLancey requested that the traffic department contact Leslie College for input, because many of the spaces in question were used by Leslie affiliates. Lauren Preston said he had been and would again be in contact with Leslie officials.

Marcella's seeks License Changes

Chairperson Kathleen Manion advised the council that there was a request before the License Commission from Marcella's Restaurant on Mass. Ave at Arlington St. in Porter Square. They have asked to upgrade their liquor license from wine and beer to full service. They also requested an increase in seating capacity through an expansion into the adjacent space which was the real estate office and is now the Christmas Store. Discussion followed regarding the liquor cap in the area and the denial of liquor licenses, even beer and wine, in the 1980's to many small businesses in the Porter Square area.

Terry DeLancey said that she had been contacted by a member of Neighborhood 9 Association to say they had voted to oppose the license. She told the council that there would be a hearing on November 24 regarding this license request.

The council agreed to send a letter to the license commission asking them to uphold the area cap and deny an expansion of the license. Several neighbors will attend the hearing.

Review of City Manager

Chairperson Kathleen Manion advised the council of the process to evaluate City Manager Robert Healy prior to a new contract as City Manager. She will be following this process, and invited anyone else who was interested to join her. Call the council at 349-6287 if you are interested in this process.

Free Mass. Ave Trolley Service

Provided by BANC
(Business Association of North Cambridge)

The Old Towne Trolley will run up and down Mass. Ave from the Cambridge Common to City Paint on three Saturdays from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.:
December 5
December 12
December 19

There are no stops, just wave it down, and get a free ride.

On December 12 there will be a free Moon Walk Ride provided for children by the banks of North Cambridge at the Century bank near the end of the line in North Cambridge.

On those Saturdays look for flyers from Mass. Ave. businesses for special events and special sales.

Neighborhood News

Traffic

Harvard Helps with Oxford St.

The next meeting of the Agassiz Traffic Committee will be on Thursday December 3 7-8 p.m. at 20 Sacramento St. The meeting will address the issue: What Harvard can do to help us make Oxford a "different kind of street." Harris Bands, transportation specialist with the Harvard Planning Group, and Lauren Preston, Deputy Director of Traffic and Parking in the City of Cambridge will be present.

Harvard will describe its view of traffic and parking problems. Some issues that may be addressed include:
* Harvard's plans for Oxford/Hammond/Divinity parking lot
* What Harvard may do to comply with the Clean Air Act
* How Harvard's plan to convert Memorial Hall into a dining hall will impact the Kirkland Oxford corner
* Ways in which Harvard has worked with the Bicycle Committee
* How Harvard can help site a parking lot for the new Agassiz School

Members of the Agassiz Traffic Committee have a vision of an Oxford St. that is no longer a driveway nor an appealing detour for Mass. Ave. Help us define a vision.

David Valenstein is now Chairman of the Traffic Committee. If you cannot attend the December 3 meeting, please call the council office at 349-6287 and you will receive notice of all future meetings.

Thanks to
Joie de Vivre
for their wonderful contribution
of merchandise to our Kids Sale
opening Saturday December 5 at 11 a.m.
Over 20 years in the neighborhood serving our community.
10% off to Agassiz neighbors.

AVEROF
Raymond B. Bandar
John B. Bandar
1924 Massachusetts Avenue
Porter Square Cambridge
Massachusetts 02140
(617) 354-4500
Near Eastern Music & Belly Dancing
Greek & Middle Eastern Cuisine
Catering with character on & off premises

Will the #83 Bus Return to Beacon St.?
The #83 Bus used to serve Beacon St., but when the bridge became too decrepit to run the bus over it, service was sent to Somerville Ave. Now that the bridge is almost restored, residents want the route back. The MBTA has not responded to any inquiries made by the neighborhood, so we took our case to City Councillor Alice Wolf.

We have received an order dated 11/2/92 put in by Councillor Wolf from the Cambridge City Council that City Manager Robert Healy renew his earlier request to the MBTA to restore the route. The Whistler will keep you posted.

Crime and Safety

Come to the next Agassiz Neighborhood Council meeting
December 10 Thursday
7:30 p.m. 20 Sacramento St.
Agenda will be a report on crime in our neighborhood and the initiatives taken by the City to reduce crime and inform residents.

Hammond St. Residence Does Survey
CASCAP, the agency that runs the residence at Hammond St., sent a questionnaire to neighbors who had attended meetings when the residence was being planned. They were interested to see how the agency was managing the neighborhood residences from the neighbors point of view. They same survey was made of residences operated on Aberdeen Ave., Woodbridge St. and Lee Street.

The results of the survey are available through the council office, and you can obtain a copy by calling 349-6287, or you may call CASCAP directly at 492-5559. CASCAP makes no analysis of the data, nor do they make claims that results are scientific, or that the data received reflects the views of anyone beside the respondents. However, they did learn that many individuals who responded did not know who to contact when a problem did arise.

We have been provided with that information, and we pass it along to the neighborhood. If you have a problem or a question about the Hammond St. residence, please call the Program Director, located at the residence: Ms. Tina Miller at 876-8121 or 876-5178.

Support the Annual Christmas Tree Sale Fund Raiser Trees and Wreaths For Sale
December 5 - 20
Agassiz Community Children's School
North-Prospect Congregational Church 1803 Mass. Ave
Saturday and Sunday Noon - 8 p.m.

December 5-6
December 12-13
December 19-20
New Weekday Hours
December 10-11 4-7 p.m.
December 16-18 4-8 p.m.

All Sizes of Trees
$10 - $40

Agassiz Neighborhood Council
would like to thank
City Year
who provided us with 33 volunteers from
Harbridge House
a Boston Management Consulting Firm
on the last Saturday in October who
painted many rooms and installed kitchen cabinets which were donated by
Harvard University
Thank You One and All
Kathleen Manton agreed to serve as Acting Chairperson of the Oversight Committee until January 1 at which time a new chair will be appointed.

The next meeting of the Oversight Committee will be held at 20 Sacramento St. December 3 at 8 p.m. All interested neighbors are welcome to attend. To be on the mailing list and receive notice of all upcoming meetings of the Oversight Committee, call the ANC office at 349-6287.

No Historical Recommendation

The Historical Commission, at its November 5 meeting, decided to make no recommendation on the Agassiz School regarding its historical status. In this way the Historical Commission will stay in the process, and Charles Sullivan, Commissioner, will be able to act as historical consultant to appropriate committees.

Prior to the demolition of the Agassiz School, the Historical Commission will have to give its approval.

School Committee Approves Site

At the 11/10 meeting, the Cambridge School Committee voted to approve the site of the current Agassiz School as the site for the new Agassiz School as recommended by the neighborhood and approved by vote of the school and neighborhood communities.

Design Advisory Committee Notes

The first meeting of the Design Advisory Committee was held in the Agassiz School, and George Metzger of HMFH, architect for the project, provided the first look inside of the school. A fairly even representation of Agassiz School parents, Community School (after school) parents and neighborhood residents were in attendance. Also attending were the Principal, Community School personnel, and other architects for HMFH. Mrs. Paddock, Agassiz Principal, reminded the group that it was acting in an advisory capacity. There will be three more meetings before December Vacation. In accordance with the architect’s schedule, by January 15 schematic plans will be complete and design plans will begin. By March 15, the construction plan will begin.

Neighborhood representatives brought up the need for meeting notes, and it was agreed that the architect would generate and distribute them to the community and the school through Terry DeLancey and Eva Paddock.

Metzger took the committee through a tour of all four floors of the school, reminding everyone that this is still a very fluid scheme which will have many changes before finalization. Gym, multipurpose room, music room, kitchen, community school room, computer lab, and custodial space are now included below grade in the basement; administration and kindergarten (with adjacent play space) are now at street level. Included on the second floor now are two classes each of 1st through 5th grade with a teacher work room between each grade and a
special education classroom. The third floor now includes the 6-8th grade classrooms, (also built with a teacher work room between the requisite two classes per grade), the art room, the science room and another special education classroom. The library is now the only room on the fourth floor, placed in the “attic” space where the roof is peaked.

Most questions at this initial meeting were for clarification. For many it was a chance to catch up to the process. Metzger and Paddock both stated the need for the group to consider the location of doors, walls, and rooms at this point, and to hold off on details until later. They did state that windows will open, however.

The architects are in the process of discussions with various school representatives. As the architects receive input, rooms will move and doors will be relocated. Many problems, such as how to provide natural light for all the basement rooms, have not yet been solved.

Since many attendees represented other groups, the second meeting should have more discussion once representatives have presented the information to their constituencies.

The architects did not wish to provide drawings at this stage, since the space is still extremely fluid. Look for updates in The Whistler each month throughout this process.

Community School News

Impact of New School on Afterschool

The impact of the new Agassiz School project was discussed at a November 19 meeting for parents of afterschool children. The recently released time line for the building of the new Agassiz School calls for the school to permanently close in June. In September students will be placed as a group in a temporary site for 2 years.

This June closing poses several areas of concern which were presented by Program Director Steve Winter. First and most pressing, the community school must consider the available courses of action open for relocation of afterschool programs.

There are three options:

1. All programs will move to the temporary site for Agassiz School (which will be found by a bid process beginning in early spring). This would include programs now housed in the Agassiz Community Center.
2. All programs will stay in the Agassiz neighborhood, and temporary space will be found for the afterschool programs now currently housed in the Agassiz School. Students will be bussed from the temporary site to programs.
3. Programs will be split up, with some programs remaining in the neighborhood, others moved to the temporary site.

The next concern presented regards the new school space. It must provide the Community School with adequate and appropriate space for afterschool and community activities.

The last concern presented regards open space. The proposal which was drafted this summer by neighborhood residents calls for an additional playground to be developed near the Agassiz School. The Community School wants to be sure the new space will not impact the backyard of 20 Sacramento St. unfavorably, particularly since the Community School has been in discussion with Harvard Real Estate regarding renovation of the barn. The barn is located in the back yard of 20 Sacramento St. and will be renovated as program space for the community. This open space issue is currently under discussion in the City Manager’s Office.

Parents voiced many questions and issues including:

* Is the size of the Community School space in the new school adequate?
* If the school program space increases, shouldn’t the community space increase?
* Can the Community School be granted access to certain rooms afterschool?
* What health issues are involved when children are sited in basement?
* How will the community enter and access its community room space?
* Can Community School room have its own exterior door?
* Where can Community School possibly relocate?

Can afterschool find temporary space in other Cambridge Public School?

What site options could Harvard or Lesley offer in neighborhood?

* Will families drop out if pick up at a new site is inconvenient?
* What problems administrative, child, and staff will occur if programs are separated?

These issues and many more must be addressed by staff, parents and administration. Richard Ross, Deputy City Manager in charge of the Agassiz School renovation, has advised us that the City will help us deal with these concerns. Any interested persons are welcome to join this group which will schedule more meetings to deal with these concerns soon. Call Steve Winter at 349-6287.
Avon Associates
1675 Mass. Ave.
Apt. Rentals ■ Sales
661-8400

(Coimunity School Cont.)

Parent Assessment Out
An assessment of all Community School programs has been sent to all participants enrolled in programs this year. Please return them so we can include your valuable input.

In addition to general questions regarding the satisfaction level of parents with the program, there will be a special form geared to questions raised from the Agassiz School Design Advisory Committee and the subsequent Parent Meeting on November 19. The parent meeting addressed the temporary placement of the Agassiz School for two years while the new one is built and the community space in the New Agassiz School.

If you have not received an assessment questionnaire and you have a child who has participated in any of our programs this year, please call Steve Winter at 349-6287.

Mini Term Classes Begin
Candle making, silk screened cards, and Community Service Projects are some of the offerings after school from our holiday mini-term for students from grades 5-8. Classes begin after Thanksgiving and run through December. Call Community School at 349-6287 for information.

Look for Winter Term Registration
Re-registration forms for all part time Agassiz Afterschool Programs should be in participants mailboxes by now. If you have not received your registration forms for afterschool, please give the office a call.

New members are welcome to join afterschool in the Winter Term. School age students from grades K-8 will find a wide variety of age appropriate choices including drama, art, crafts, music, dance, sports, and clubs. Winter Term ends in March, and Spring Term begins in April.

Scholarships and free activities are available. Call the Community School at 349-6287 for more information.

Cultural Happenings

NOONTIME PIANO CONCERT
The First Fridays at Noon concert at North-Prospect Church on December 4th will be performed by Lisa Caliri, a noted local pianist, who will play pieces by Bach, Beethoven, Mendelssohn and Ben-Haim. The winner of the Clara Wells International Competition in San Jose California at the age of 15, Ms. Caliri received her Bachelor of Music degree from the Boston Conservatory, where she now teaches. She has a diploma in piano form the Barcelona Conservatory, and has done further graduate work at the Aspen Music Festival, the New England Conservatory and Harvard University. The Crescendo Club recently awarded her a scholarship to study with Nina Svetlanova in New York. Among her other teachers have been Anthony di Bonaventura, Eugene List, and Herbert Stessen.

Ms. Caliri has performed in many national and international concerts. Locally, she has solo concerts at the Fogg Art Museum and the Malden Public Library. A performance of "Notes on a Triangle" by James Centorino was aired on WCRB in 1992.

Friday's concert will take place from 12:10 to 12:50 p.m. in North-Prospect Church, 1803 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, one block south of the Porter Square T Station. The church is handicapped accessible. There is a suggested donation of $2. Call 547-4118.

Sacramento Street Gallery
20 Sacramento St.

HOLIDAY CRAFTS Show Opens 12/4
The Annual Holiday Crafts Show and Sale will open on Friday December 4 at 5 p.m. It will run (concurrent with the Kids Sale) until December 13. Weekday hours: 4-6 p.m. Weekends: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The public is welcome.

Crafts will include hand made porcelain candleholders, window sill pots, woven scarves, silk scarves, and jewelry. Candles of all kinds will be featured this year. Prices range from the inexpensive to the expensive.

Come in and browse.

Look for Winter Events Calendar
The Sacramento St. Gallery has an exciting schedule of shows beginning in February. Look for our flyer and learn more about the artists, their work and the time and dates of openings and gallery hours. Scheduled so far are:

| JANUARY | CRLS Student Show-Photography               |
| FEBRUARY | Pat O'Brien-Sculpture and drawing          |
| MARCH   | Lowell Vesn-Installation                   |
| APRIL   | Adrian Jobse-Sculpture                     |
| MAY     | Andrea Hornbein-Drawings                   |
Agassiz Afterschool Players

AAP Opening A Great Success!

Carol Hantman, Director of the Agassiz Afterschool Players, once again created a wonderful dramatic evening on Saturday November 21. Three original plays were presented, all written and performed by the players in Stage I (grades 1-4) and Stage II (grades 5-8).

As usual, newcomers were overwhelmed by the sophistication of the original plays, hand painted sets (by Cortney Skinner), costumes, sound effects and props. The ease with which students delivered their lines, and the complete lack of stage fright was a testament to how well the players were prepared for the stage.

Many friends and family members came to see the production, and the ANC raised $240 on mug sales and donations. Thank you to everyone who participated in the event.

Special thanks to McDonald’s who provided props for some scenes.

The AAP will begin again in January for another 10 week term.

Ads and Announcements

Marcie Mitler, M.Ed. Offers Courses

Reclaiming Your Body is healing work for women with histories of sexual abuse and violence using a therapeutic movement and exercise class in a safe and protected environment. Ongoing classes are scheduled at the Cambridge YWCA on Tuesdays 6:30-8:00 p.m. and Wednesdays 9:30 -11:00 a.m.

Partners of Survivors of Sexual Abuse: An Evening Gathering will be held on December 17 from 7-10 p.m. The cost is $30. It will be a place to share, and it will focus on setting boundaries, validating your feelings, having your needs met and other skills.

For additional information and to register contact Marcie Mitler at 497-5283.

Piano Lessons for Children and Adults

Piano teacher with more than 20 years experience offering private piano lessons in Agassiz neighborhood. All ages and levels taught. Beginners welcomed. B.Mus., M.F.A.: member, New England Piano Teachers’ Association. For more information, please call Barbara, 491-6324.

Saturday December 5 in the Agassiz Neighborhood

Agassiz International Food Fair
Noon to 3 p.m. Baldwin Hall Agassiz School

Enjoy foods from all over the world. Beverages, children’s activities and performances.

Kids Sale and Crafts Show and Sale
11 a.m. to 4 p.m. 20 Sacramento St. downstairs

Children can purchase gifts for the holidays while parents visit a crafts show.

Porcelain, jewelry, candles, toys and more.

Trolleys up and down Mass. Ave
From the Cambridge Common to City Paint

Wave them down, they're free courtesy of BANC
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 12/3</td>
<td>8:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Oversight Committee 20 Sacramento St.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Traffic Committee 20 Sacramento St.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 12/4</td>
<td>5 p.m.</td>
<td>Holiday Crafts Show Opens 20 Sacramento St.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 12/5</td>
<td>11 a.m.</td>
<td>Kids Sale Opens 20 Sacramento St.</td>
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<td>Noon - 3 p.m.</td>
<td>Agassiz International Food Fair Agassiz School</td>
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<td>10 a.m. - 4 p.m.</td>
<td>Free Mass Ave Trolley sponsored by BANC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 12/7</td>
<td>3 p.m.</td>
<td>Agassiz School Improvement Committee</td>
<td>Principal's Office Agassiz School</td>
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<td>Tuesday 12/8</td>
<td>3:30-5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Agassiz Design Advisory Committee Agassiz School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 12/10</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>ANC Meeting 20 Sacramento St. (See page one)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 12/12 &amp; 12/19</td>
<td>10 a.m. - 4 p.m.</td>
<td>Free Mass Ave Trolley sponsored by BANC</td>
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<td>Tuesday 12/22</td>
<td>3:30 - 5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Agassiz Design Advisory Committee Agassiz School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 12/23</td>
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<td>Agassiz School Closes December Vacation</td>
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DECEMBER 1992

**The Whistler**

Agassiz Neighborhood Council
20 Sacramento St.
Cambridge, MA 02138 349-6287

DO NOT FORWARD

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