Notes from the January 20th ANC Meeting

Chair Janet Rustow opened the meeting and asked for business. Mary Power, Director of Communications for Harvard University, updated us on the progress of the Maxwell Dworkin building construction. (For a report from Harvard, see page 7.)

Then the presentation of a draft plan for traffic calming on Oxford St. was made. City Councillor Katherine Triantafillou and State Representative Alvin Thompson were both present for the discussion. Also in attendance was Sgt. Kathy Murphy, recently assigned to Agassiz as our liaison to the Cambridge Police.

Plans were presented by David Black, traffic consultant for the City of Cambridge and Katherine Watkins, Traffic Calming Program Manager from the Community Development Department. In order to better understand Oxford Street use between Everett St. and Kirkland St., City representatives met with Harvard representatives prior to the ANC meeting.

Speed and parking checks were done to make decisions on placement of the traffic calming solutions that were presented. They included curb extensions, speed tables, chicanes and new crosswalks. (See pages 4-5 for a report on the draft plan for the length of Oxford St.)

Missing from the plan was a solution to one of the most troublesome intersections in the neighborhood, the northern end of Oxford at Beacon St. No plans were developed because this intersection sits just over the Somerville line. Residents have been frustrated since the completion of the bridge over the railroad tracks, when a reconfiguration of that intersection was anticipated. However, nothing has been agreed to between the two municipalities. [Katherine Watkins has assured us that at the next meeting plans will be developed for that intersection.]

There was some discussion regarding how best to work with Somerville. Representative Thompson offered to bring Somerville Mayor Capuano to the next ANC meeting.

William Bloomstein, Agassiz representative to the Porter Square traffic advisory committee, advised the council that there had been discussion of a left hand turn from White Street onto Somerville Ave. He wanted to be sure that the Agassiz neighborhood was advised of the discussion in order to participate if that traffic pattern is considered by the committee.

Information on the February 17 Meeting

Please take a look at the Traffic Calming Report on pages 4-5. This will be reviewed with all interested residents again, so that plans can be finalized. The work will be done in conjunction with the sewer reconstruction. This will be the last portion of phase three, scheduled to begin
next fall that should take approximately three years. It will be a long wait, but plans must be completed soon in order to be funded under that project. (Look at the bottom of page one for meeting details.)

✈ Neighborhood News ✈

Traffic and Transportation

REMEMBER TO SHOVEL ALL SIDEWALKS!
Property owners and persons responsible for the maintenance of any building bordering a sidewalk are responsible for clearing snow from the sidewalk within 12 hours after snow ceases to fall in the daytime and before 1 PM after a snowfall during the evening. In addition, all ice must be removed from the sidewalk or covered with salt, sand or other suitable substance within 6 hours after the sidewalk becomes covered with ice. Failure to comply will result in a warning for the first violation and a $25 per day ticket for second and subsequent violations as well as a possible liability claim against you and/or your insurance company in the event of a personal injury to a pedestrian. Citizens are encouraged to help keep Cambridge safe in winter by reporting violations to 349-4903 anytime day or night.
Leave a message giving an accurate street address for the snowy or icy sidewalk. No ticket is ever issued until a DPW inspector visits the site to confirm the existence of a violation. The DPW cannot possibly monitor all 225 miles of Cambridge sidewalks; it needs your help.
This info taken from Cambridge DPW on line: http://www.ci.cambridge.ma.us/~TheWorks/winter.htm

Crime Watch

Attempted Break In at Mellen St.

A Mellen Street neighbor has reported to the ANC that an attempted break in occurred on Mellen St. several weeks ago. There was an alarm, and that saved the residents from the likely robbery.

Cambridge Police Department Sponsors Agassiz Neighborhood Meeting

All residents of Agassiz (Neighborhood 8) are encouraged to attend a neighborhood meeting hosted by the Cambridge Police Department on Tuesday, February 24 at 7:00 P.M. at the Agassiz School, 28 Sacramento Street. This meeting will provide an opportunity for officers and residents to discuss safety concerns and other issues. Sgt. Kathleen Murphy, the neighborhood sergeant for Agassiz, will be on hand along with other officers assigned to this area. This meeting is part of the series of quarterly meetings the Police Department is hosting in each neighborhood in Cambridge. For more information, please call Neighborhood Coordinator Vicky Boulrice or Lieutenant Steven Williams at 349-3236.

Porter Square

The Porter Square Neighbors Association meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month from 7-9 p.m. in the Metropolitan Baptist Church at 16 Beech St., corner of Orchard St. Contact them at P.O. Box 1016, Porter Square Station, Cambridge, MA 02140.

Porter Square Shopping Center Construction

December 30, 1997

The steel erection has begun and will be ongoing through the month of January with completion anticipated by mid January. We will begin the foundation for the electrical vault on January 7, 1998. This will cause a minor disruption. This is the final phase of the foundation work that will require sheeting to be driven into the ground. We anticipate this work taking not more than one (1) week.

The next phase is to place the interior floors, set up staging, and enclose the building from the elements. This work is scheduled to begin in January.

Please be aware that as the winter rolls on our proposed schedule may need to be adjusted due to weather conditions. We will be doing everything in our power to maintain the current schedule and will update you of any changes that may occur.

As always, we regret any inconveniences and will do our best to minimize the disruptions.

This report was taken from the PSNA web site at: http://www.channel1.com/users/psna/

Avon Hill Study

In October, Avon Hill property owners presented the Historical Commission with a petition to undertake a study of their neighborhood to see if they may become a Neighborhood Conservation District under the provisions of city ordinance Chapter 2.78.

Since then the City Manager has appointed a committee to study the possibility that Avon Hill will become a Conservation District in order to protect and conserve the distinctive characteristics of Avon Hill.

The committee will meet with the intent to distribute a draft study report in early May to be ready for a hearing in early June.

The Avon Hill Neighborhood Conservation District Study Committee will meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays at the Peabody School, 44 Linnanac St. from 5:30-7:30 p.m. For more information call the Historical Commission at 349-4683.

UNIVERSITY REAL ESTATE
"Houses Near Harvard" "Choice Cambridge Condominiums"
Fred Meyer, C.B.B., C.B.S., G.R.I., REALTOR® (617) 876-1200
Certified Residential Real Estate Appraiser
Personally owned and managed for 33 years
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Home: 83 Hammond Street 876-1213
City Wide

Housing Issues

Legal Services for Cambridge Residents
Is your landlord trying to evict you? Has your application for public housing been denied? Did you leave your home to escape abuse? Do you need to find shelter?

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS
Call Community Legal Services and Counseling Center, 1 West St., Cambridge, 661-1010.

Lesley College

Lesley Rezoning Proposal Review February 25
Agassiz representatives on the Lesley Planning Committee would like neighbors to turn out for a meeting this month and help generate a list of neighborhood priorities for Lesley planning.

Representatives from Lesley College and the Agassiz Community met on January 26 to discuss future Lesley College plans for buildings on and around their Mellen Street campus. This will renew ongoing conversations about Lesley master plans, with specific discussion on a rezoning proposal Lesley presented a few years ago. This plan has been somewhat modified since then.

Basically, Lesley wants the Agassiz neighborhood to agree to less restrictions on size and use in one zone, which includes Wendell and Mellen St. closer to Mass. Ave. In return, Lesley will restrict themselves from constructing large buildings in the zone between Mellen and Wendell Streets closer to Oxford St.

The zoning issues are technical and not very accessible to the average citizen. Representatives from Lesley College, including architect Dennis Carlone and V.P. Alan Fein, have agreed to present their proposal with that in mind, showing the community what their requests could ultimately mean for residents of Wendell and Mellen Streets, and the community at large.

Lesley will present their plans to the community at an evening meeting on Wednesday, February 25 in the Agassiz School Dining Hall at 7:30 p.m. For more information on the meeting and/or to join the Lesley Planning Committee, call Terry DeLancey at the ANC, 349-6287.

Planning Begins for Mass. Ave. Parking Lots
The parking lots across from the Porter Exchange building were acquired by Lesley College as part of their Porter Exchange purchase. Lesley has begun to consider uses for these lots which include a mix of retail on the main floor, with institutional and housing uses above.

Plans are very basic at the present time, and Lesley has agreed to keep us updated as plans progress. In any case parking will be replaced behind the Porter Exchange Building and underground at the new building site.

Agassiz Community

School Programs

Middle School Activities
Our middle school activities are offered to children in the sixth through eighth grades. Lisa Beaudin teaches COOKING on Mondays and the new ten sessions began on January 12. This class is full, but if you would like information on when it begins again please call Michael Brown at 497-4284. ILLUSTRATIVE DRAWING is taught by Cortney Skinner on Wednesdays and the new 10 sessions began on January 14. There is still space available, so register as soon as possible. Ellen Morrison teaches CREATIVE WRITING on Fridays. This new semester will not begin until March 6. There is also space available for Ellen’s class. You may register after the class begins if space is available. For more information on any of these classes call Michael Brown at 497-4284.

Sacramento St. Preschool
This program provides a developmental preschool experience in a cozy individualized atmosphere, and serves children from age 2 years, 9 months to kindergarten age. This program runs from 8:30-1:30 five days per week with many part time options. Activities include art and crafts, songs, cooking, and outdoor play in our spacious yard or nearby playground. There is still space available for full or part time students. For more information or to visit call Diane Dimaina at 349-6287.

Evening Programs

Drop in Basketball
Tuesday- Teen Basketball runs each Tuesday (closed school holidays) from 5:30-8:00. The cost is $1 per session.

Wednesday- Adult Basketball runs each Wednesday from 6:00-9:00. The cost is $2 per session.

Yoga
Our yoga teacher is Lisa Mattel. Yoga takes place on Tuesday night(except school holidays) in the Agassiz School gym. Classes cost $100 per ten sessions. For more information or to register call Michael Brown at 497-4284.

DONATIONS NEEDED
* loose fitting kids clothing, sweat or tee shirts
* bean bag chairs
* markers
* paper

Call Michael Brown at 497-4284 for more information on any of the above.
Draft Traffic Calming Plans for Oxford Street Intersections

The following illustrations depict various traffic calming devices proposed for intersections along the length of Oxford St. These plans were presented at the January 20 ANC meeting. For a report on that meeting, see page one. More detailed information on the benefits of these traffic devices can be found in the January 1998 Whistler. Landscaping, lighting and painting not necessarily shown here will be part of a final plan.

Come to the FEBRUARY 17 ANC meeting, 7:30 p.m. in the Agassiz School, when these plans will be further discussed. Finalized plans will be used to construct new streets when the sewer separation project is finished in the Agassiz neighborhood.

We need YOUR INPUT! For more information, or a copy of the January Whistler, call Terry DeLancey at the ANC office, 349-6287.

Oxford at Forest Street

This intersection maintains the traffic signal. It has curb extensions at each corner. Chicanes are placed along Oxford to shift the road alignment and slow traffic. The illustration shows the parking spaces that will be affected in this scenario.

Oxford at Prentiss and Garfield/Eustis Streets

Both intersections will have curb extensions at all four corners. Curb extensions make a crosswalk shorter, so pedestrians spend less time in the street. Curb extensions allow motorists greater visibility when pulling out of a street, and prohibit illegal parking at corners. Curb extensions also slow down turning vehicles.

Oxford at Crescent St.

This intersection will have two curb extensions at Crescent St. and one curb extension at the driveway to the school parking lot. There will be a new, diagonal crosswalk from the Alden Tot Lot to the Oxford Spa.

Oxford at Sacramento St.

This intersection maintains the traffic signal with curb extensions at three corners. No curb extension will be placed at the corner in front of the Agassiz School due to the need for bus parking.
Draft Traffic Calming Plans for Oxford Street Intersections continued...

Oxford at Mellen Street and Hammond Street

This intersection has curb extensions at each corner and a new crosswalk placed in the small space between Hammond and Mellen St. entrances.

Oxford at Wendell Street

This intersection is raised and has curb extensions only at entry into the intersection. It is intended to slow down traffic as it approaches Sacramento.

Oxford at Everett Street

The traffic signal remains at this intersection. Curb extensions are added on all corners. Note that one curb extension is very long due to a no parking zone.

Oxford Street between Everett and Kirkland (near the new arched overpass)

This new crosswalk is raised to slow down vehicles.

Oxford at Kirkland St.

This intersection is raised. Better lighting may be added to this intersection.
Draft Traffic Calming Plans for Oxford Street Intersections continued...

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This new crosswalk is raised to slow down vehicles.

Oxford at Kirkland St.

This intersection is raised. Better lighting may be added to this intersection.
Cultural Happenings

Sacramento Street Gallery, 20
Sacramento Street, Open Weekdays 9-5

The Elm Tree through February 20th

Skip Schiegl’s lyrical photographs interpret the last six years of the tree’s life. Through the persistent combined vision of the camera and the photographer’s eye—_at all times of the year and through the day-night cycle—we can see the tree from many angles and points of view, and in different lights. We even see the death of the tree, the workers cutting it, and the place where the tree lived its 100 plus years. The artist says, “beginning this project, I entered a zone of mystery.”

Also included in the installation are historic photographs that include the tree and recorded interviews with people who knew the tree or worked with trees.

The photographer is a resident of the Agassiz neighborhood, as was the tree. He has photographed and exhibited throughout and outside the country. His photographs of an interfaith pilgrimage from Auschwitz to Hiroshima were show at the Boston Public Library in 1996.

At the Sacramento Street Gallery in March — Landscapes — oil paintings by David Faust

Introducing Art: A Performance Series for Children

February 19, Thursday
3rd Annual
HIP HOP Festival for Kids

2:00 p.m. Agassiz School Stage
with Emce Naheem Allah
Dreamers, Jamnastics and more!
Admission $1.00 For information call 349-6287

• COMING ATTRACTIONS •

March 10, Tuesday
National Marionette Theater presents
PETER PAN
with fully costumed marionettes and extraordinary staging!

This series celebrates its third season this year.

Other Local Cultural Events and Programs

Gallery 57 - 57 Inman Street

_Breathing Spaces: Recent Landscape Quilts_, an exhibit of work by artist Carol Anne Groth opens February 4. She will show a series of colorful quilts, combining the artistry of American quilting with the third world traditional Shibori, ancient Japanese resist dyeing techniques developed from the 7th century to today, these vibrant quilts explore the organic patterns in landscape and seascape images.

There will be a reception from 5:00-7:00 p.m. on Thursday February 5th at the gallery. For information call the Cambridge Arts Council at 349-4380.

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- Pre-Ballet to pre-professional
- Adult Classes
Harvard University

Plans for the Maxwell Dworkin Building
As you have read in previous updates in the Whistler, Harvard University plans to replace the Aiken Computation Laboratory with a new computer science and electrical engineering building to be located across from the Peabody Museum, at 33 Oxford Street. Several years ago Harvard initiated the University Campaign aiming to keep Harvard open and affordable to students from a broad range of economic and cultural backgrounds, and to further strengthen the quality of the University by improving both facilities and faculty resources.

Last year, Harvard received a generous gift linked to the campaign, from Microsoft founder and co-chairman Bill Gates, and Microsoft Executive Vice President Steven Ballmer, to benefit research and improve teaching in computer science and electrical engineering. The gift enables the University to replace the Aiken structure with a new building which will include classrooms, seminar rooms, faculty offices and laboratory space. The Mark I computer, built by George Aiken in the 40's and credited as one of the first computers ever built, has been relocated to the main gallery within the Science Center.

The new four story building of brick with bands of windows and limestone is consistent with zoning requirements. The University is seeking a special permit from the Board of Zoning Appeals to relocate the existing curb cut approximately 24 feet further south on Oxford Street in order to improve safety along Oxford Street, reduce the paved area necessary and enhance landscaping. The proposed curb cut is four feet narrower than the existing driveway.

Renovations at Beckwith Circle Apartments
Harvard University plans to renovate Beckwith Circle apartments located at 252 and 258 Beacon Street in Somerville. Presently configured to include 18 dwelling units, the existing space will be reconfigured to include 14 dwelling units which will continue to be used by graduate students, faculty, and staff. Renovation work will also include accessibility for persons with disabilities, clapboard repair, painting, relocation of overhead utilities underground, new electrical, plumbing mechanical and fire suppression systems, and enhanced landscaping including new trees.

Announcements

Seeking Parents of Infants

I have formed a parent/infant play group that has begun to meet on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 11 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the Agassiz Community Center, 20 Sacramento St. Please call Debbie Miller at 497-0368 before 9:30 p.m. for more information.

Long Lost Cambridge Resident

Peabody Community School Enrichment Instructor's responsible, loving, kind, mother and college bound son, looking for 1 or 2 bedroom apartment. Rent up to 6700 or childcare/house care exchange. For more information, contact Mary Ellen at 349-6267.

Hunneman & Co./Coldwell Banker

Elizabeth Browning
Realtor

Lisa J. Dropkin
Vice President

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* Sales, Rentals and Buyer Representation
* Full-service real estate office
* Two convenient locations

Linda Beers Violin Studio

11 Miller St., Somerville
694-2563
Suzuki and Traditional Lessons
All ages
February 1998 Community Calendar

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>February 5, Thursday</td>
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<td>Cambridge Elementary School Release Day</td>
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<td>February 8, Sunday</td>
<td>7:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Agassiz Ski Trip to Pat's Peak - Meet at Agassiz School</td>
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<td>Pick up forms at Agassiz School or Community Center</td>
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<td>February 16-20</td>
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<td>Cambridge Public School Vacation Week</td>
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<td>February 17, Tuesday</td>
<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>ANC Board Meeting</td>
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<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>ANC Council Meeting - Traffic Calming - Response to Draft Plan</td>
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<td>Agassiz School Dining Hall, 28 Sacramento St. entrance</td>
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<td>Agassiz School Stage, 28 Sacramento St. entrance</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 24, Tuesday</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Cambridge Police Quarterly Neighborhood Meeting</td>
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<td>Agassiz School Dining Hall, 28 Sacramento St. entrance</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 25, Wednesday</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Lesley College presents Rezoning Plan</td>
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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 February 1998

AGASSIZ NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
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DO NOT FORWARD