ANC Council Notes

ANC MEETING NOTES

Somerville and Cambridge Discuss Bridge
Astrid Dodds presented an update on the newly formed Joint Cambridge Somerville Traffic Committee, which had its inaugural meeting on 10/20 hosted jointly by Lauren Preston, Deputy Director of Cambridge Traffic and Parking Department and Anne Johnson, Interim Director of Somerville Traffic and Parking. Topics discussed were:
• The reconfiguration of Oxford St. at Beacon St.
• The possibility of changing the pattern of 1-way/2-way streets shared by Somerville and Cambridge.
• The possibility of getting a crosswalk (and maybe a light) across Beacon where Sacramento Street meets Star Market.
• The return of the #83 bus to Beacon St.

Ms. Johnson will take Mr. Preston’s technical drawing of the proposed reconfiguration and submit it for analysis to the Somerville Department of Public Works to prepare a Somerville response at the next meeting scheduled for November 17 at 5 p.m. 20 Sacramento St. Ms. Johnson plans to add a crosswalk across Beacon to her list of proposed crosswalk sites to consider.

Next Meeting of the
Agassiz Neighborhood Council
Thursday November 19
7:30 P.M.
Community Room North Hall
1651 Mass. Ave.

Agenda:
1. City Councillor Alice Wolf will discuss
   Sewer Separation Project Funding

2. Traffic and Parking will discuss
   restricting/unrestricted parking in neighborhood

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The Joint Committee understands that any change in side street directions or traffic patterns needs to be done taking the whole neighborhood picture into account. Reports will be available in The Whistler prior to any actions, and residents are encouraged to attend these meetings and participate in the discussions.

The agenda for the November 17 meeting will include:
• Somerville’s response to the proposed reconfiguration of Oxford St.
• The MBTA’s response to the 35 signature petition asking for the return of the #83 bus. This petition was submitted to the T on July 1, and there has been no response.

For more information on the traffic committee’s work, see Traffic below in Neighborhood News.

Oversight for “New Agassiz School”

An update on the first meeting of the Oversight Committee was presented by Kathleen Manion, ANC Chairperson. The committee was proposed as part of “A Proposal for the New Agassiz School.” It took place on October 13, and there were 27 people in attendance. The meeting focused on the structure of the committee, and how it would operate. It was agreed that those who were in attendance would simply be the Oversight Committee, but that any other interested residents should be encouraged to join.
The Oversight Committee will be the decision-making body for formal ANC input regarding the new Agassiz School. Members who attend any other meetings will not be at will to represent their own point of view or make binding decisions as representatives of the Oversight Committee without review by the Oversight Committee.

Richard Rossi, Deputy City Manager, sent the ANC a letter requesting that the ANC select a representative to serve on the formal Building Committee for the new Agassiz School. This would include the Principal of the Agassiz School, a representative from the School Department, the City Manager's office, School Committee, Department of Public Works, a neighborhood representative and a school parent representative. The committee agreed by consensus that there should be two representatives from the neighborhood and that the meetings should be held after 5 p.m. to allow greater access for the neighborhood representatives. Ken Wexler and Ken Basler were selected by consensus of the group.

Areas of concern were listed:
- Open space/school play space
- Traffic/parking
- Historical significance
- Design
- Construction (including safety and environmental issues)

The only subcommittee developed was the Design Committee. Ten people present signed up for that committee, and the ANC submitted their names to Eva Paddock, the Agassiz Principal. She will advise them directly when the school design advisory committee is formed, and they will attend as their schedules permit. However, the Design Subcommittee will have its own identity as a neighborhood committee, and will consequently meet as members deem necessary.

Information was lacking on the timetable for construction. Responsibilities of the building committee representatives were vague. It was agreed to get more information on these issues prior to the next meeting.

It was further agreed by consensus that Kathleen Manion would serve as Chairperson of the Oversight Committee. Steve Kosslyn agreed to provide a written summary of each meeting. Terry DeLancey agreed to develop the necessary mailing list and help keep the neighborhood informed via The Whistler. Kathleen Manion later decided that as Chairperson of the ANC, she would not have the time to permanently serve as Chair of the Oversight Committee. She will serve until another chair can be found, and she will continue to serve as a member of the committee.

Next meeting of the Oversight Committee is scheduled for:

**November 4 Wednesday**
7:30 p.m. 20 Sacramento St.

If you would like to become a member of the Oversight Committee, please call the neighborhood council office at 349-6287. Your name will be added to the list, and you will receive all future notices on meetings.

**Information on Next Meeting**

**Councillor Wolf to Address Sewer Funding**

City Councillor Alice Wolf will be on hand for the ANC meeting at 7:30 p.m. to specifically address the problem of funding for Phase VI of the Sewer Separation Project. This project is expected to curtail the flooding experienced by many Agassiz residents after severe rainfalls when sewer lines, which are connected to storm drains, backup. This combination of sewer and rain water floods many Agassiz basements, streets, and cars, leaving seriously unsanitary conditions and serious loss of property. This includes damage to basement living space, damage to furnaces, water heaters and other appliances and basement storage. The project would separate sanitary lines from storm run off, and would replace and increase the size of pipes running from the neighborhood to the Charles River.

Many residents were surprised when they learned that the project was not funded this year, because the neighborhood understood that the City would begin the project with or without state funding. In 1985 the City projected the original completion date for the whole project would be 1989. In 1987 we were told it would be completed in 1992. Then in
The Whistler November 1992

Thanks to Bill August, from the Law Offices of Howard P. Horton in Boston and neighborhood resident, for contributing his time and legal expertise to the ANC over the past few months.

Now we are in 1992, and it has not even begun.

Wolf sent the ANC information provided to The City Council by the City Manager dated September 21, 1992:

The original financing plan for Phase VI of the Sewer Separation Project included State funding of $33 million with the remaining $7 million funded through the issuance of bonds. However, due to the financial problems which have affected the State over the past several years, State financing remains unavailable to fund the largest portion of the costs. Because of this, it is now clear that, if the project is to go forward, full funding will have to come from the issuance of general obligation bonds with the debt service paid from the sewer service charge. As existing sewer bonds are retired, revenues which paid the debt service on these bonds will be available to cover a portion of the debt service on the new bonds, somewhat reducing the increase in the sewer service charge. However, this project will result in a substantial increase in the City's sewer rate if state money remains unavailable. The authorization for the first phase of this project, which will cover from the Charles River up DeWolfe Street to Quincy Street and Broadway, is currently in place.

The City Council approved two separate loan orders totaling $16 million during 1990. All federal, state, and local requirements have been fulfilled. It is anticipated that construction on this phase will begin in April, 1993, with completion expected by April, 1995. When this phase is completed, the second phase, which covers from Broadway to Oxford and Kirkland Streets, will begin. It is anticipated that a loan order for $24 million will be submitted to the City Council for the remaining two phases of the project at this time. Current plans call for the third phase which continues up Oxford St. to Roseland St., to begin in April 1997.

Please come to the meeting on Thursday November 19, 7:30 p.m. in the new Community Room at 1651 Mass. Ave. to see what the neighborhood can do to advocate for the funding of this long awaited project so it will begin as soon as possible.

Neighborhood News

21st Annual
Agassiz Neighborhood Council Thanksgiving Pot Luck Dinner
Tuesday November 24
5:30- 7:30 p.m.
28 Sacramento St. Baldwin Hall
All are welcome, bring a side dish or volunteer to cook a turkey that we will supply and deliver to your door.
Children must be accompanied by adults. Community School Staff will show cartoons and watch younger children in library. For more information, call the council office at 349-6287.

Mother & Daughter Cleaning
RESIDENTIAL CLEANING
VERY GOOD SERVICE — REFERENCES
1770 MASS AVE 200
CAMBRIDGE, MA 02140
617-661-3409
LEAVE A MESSAGE
Parking Restrictions to be Enforced

The Traffic and Parking Department has requested the ANC to facilitate a hearing for the neighborhood on “Restrictions on Unrestricted On-Street Parking Spaces.” This hearing will be held in the second half of the November 19 ANC meeting scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m. in the new Community Room at 1651 Mass. Ave.

The Traffic and Parking Department is in the process of following procedures related to the Parking Freeze. This ordinance requires that the department inventory all unregulated on street parking in the City and submit this list with recommendations to the City Manager. This has been done, and representatives will be at our meeting to discuss their recommendations on affected streets in our neighborhood. They include:

- Eleven spaces on the west side of Oxford St. between Wendell and Everett are recommended to be changed to resident permit parking.
- Eight spaces on the south side of Wendell between Oxford and Mass. Ave. are recommended to be changed to meters or resident permit parking.

For information on this issue, and spaces on other Cambridge Streets, call Brian Carcy of Traffic and Parking at 349-4700.

Crime Tip

Now that the clocks have been turned back, remember to keep your house lit for safety. Keep your porch lights turned on. Prevent your house from looking dark, which provides an opportunity for all kinds of crime.

Tot Lot Maintenance

JoAnn Hoffman, Vice Chair of the ANC has been in touch with the Department of Public Works (DPW) regarding the condition of the Tot Lot. Dan White has advised us that they will be replacing the tires, which are extremely worn, and they will test and replace the sand. Vandalism is responsible for much of the destruction, and the DPW will replace broken or damaged equipment as advised. Call the DPW when you spot damage.

Since the renovations to the Tot Lot, the DPW has provided maintenance in the form of general clean up, removal of debris and trash pick up. That has been a big improvement over the previous maintenance of the tot lot, and we thank them for sticking to their schedule.

October 29 ANC Traffic Meeting

The meeting was held too late for a report in The November Whistler. It is hoped that at that meeting a willing chairperson will be found. The chief mission will be to serve as liaison with others around the goal of “making Oxford a different kind of street.”

This liaison will help to coordinate Agassiz traffic related issues. This will include communications with people who serve on various committees or in other institutions and City departments: Harvard, Traffic and Parking Department, Department of Public Works, Somerville-Cambridge Joint Traffic Committee, Cambridge Bicycle Advisory Committee, Agassiz School Oversight Committee, and non motor vehicle transportation quality of life issues.

Next meeting will be held on Thursday December 3 from 7-9 p.m. at 20 Sacramento St. To be informed of upcoming meetings, please call the council at 349-6287 and ask to have your name added to the Traffic Committee mailing list.

Oxford St. Speed Traps

Deputy City Manager Rossi has informed the Traffic Committee that the weekly speed checks on Oxford St. that were dropped in May have now begun again. This time the Police will send reports to the Traffic Committee to be sure the checks are done. Speed checks will occur once a week for one hour at random times and places.

Thanks to Anita McClellan for her generous donation of a Macintosh computer and printer which will be used by kids afterschool.
Agassiz School News

SCHOOL BUILDING UPDATE

For a Report on the Oversight Committee, see p 1

Hearing on Historical Issues

Charles Sullivan, Commissioner of the Cambridge Historical Commission has advised the ANC that there will be a hearing on their recently published 21 page report which includes recommendations for the Agassiz School. It will be held at 5 p.m. on November 5 in the 3rd floor Conference Room of 57 Inman St.

Representatives of the Agassiz School Oversight Committee will attend that meeting to speak in favor of “A Proposal for the New Agassiz School.”

Parents, Staff Review SIC By Laws

A meeting was held on October 22 to discuss the bylaws of the School Improvement Committee. This committee replaced the PTO Steering Committee in the late 80’s, and it includes representatives of staff and parents, and one community school representative. It has provided a forum for parents and teachers to come together for discussion and action on issues of importance to the school.

It was agreed to review the bylaws. Anyone interested in working on this issue should contact Lisa Norton, Agassiz Parent Liaison at 349-6525.

Community School News

December Mini Courses

Every December the Community School provides afterschool classes for students in grades 5-8, some with a holiday theme. This year courses will run from November 30 until December 18.

Past offerings have included silk-screened greeting cards, crafts, jewelry making, cooking, community service and holiday trips. Please call the community school office at 349-6287, and a brochure will be mailed in mid November.

Kids Holiday Sale Opens December 5

The now famous KIDS HOLIDAY SALE will begin on Saturday December 5 at 11 a.m. and run until 4 p.m. It will be open weekends from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and weekdays from 3-6 p.m. Gifts will average $1-$2 each, with many under $1 and few more than $5.

The sales personnel are teachers in the community school programs, and they will provide children with gift ideas, math help and a safe shopping experience.

The KIDS HOLIDAY SALE will run concurrent with the Holiday Crafts Show and Sale. This show provides visitors a chance to purchase or just view a variety of high quality crafts including jewelry, weaving, porcelain, candles, and more.

Proceeds from the KIDS HOLIDAY SALE will benefit the Agassiz Community School Scholarship Fund.

Oxford Street Realty

35 Sacramento Street, Cambridge, MA 02139
354-3535
Rentals • Sales
Property Management

Gospel Choir Seeks Members

The Cambridge Youth Gospel Choir is now enrolling young people in grades 5-8 for a challenging and exciting second year of rehearsal and performance. Tuition is free and Rehearsals are scheduled on Wednesdays from 4:30-5:30 p.m. at the Community Room, 1651 Mass. Ave.

The Choir will be led by James Foley, who comes from Bermuda and is presently completing graduate studies in musical arranging at the Berklee College of Music. He serves as a pianist for Simon Warner, the great Bermudan gospel vocalist.

The only requirement is enthusiasm for gospel music and a commitment to attend rehearsals regularly. For more information call Steve Winter at 349-6287.

This program is made possible in part by a grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council.
Cultural Happenings

Sacramento Street Gallery

Agassiz Illustrators Studio Show

Cortney Skinner, Director of the Agassiz Illustrator’s Studio, will curate a show of student work that will open at 5-6 p.m. on Wednesday November 18. The illustrators, who are students in grades 5-8, will be on hand to welcome visitors. The show will display the work they have created over a 10 week period. The show will be open weekdays between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. until November 30.

HOLIDAY CRAFTS Show Opens 12/4

The Annual Holiday Crafts Show and Sale will open on Friday December 4 at 5:00 p.m. All are welcome. Crafts will include porcelain candle holders, windowsill pots, woven scarves, silk scarves, jewelry, and candles of all kinds will be featured this year. Stop in and browse.

First Fridays at Noon Concert Series

The North-Prospect Church will hold its next concert on November 6 between 12:10 p.m. and 12:50 p.m. at 1803 Mass. Ave. Todd Beckham will play the organ and harpsichord. The church is handicap accessible. For more information call the church at 547-1448.

Singers Needed for All Parts in Choir

The North-Prospect Church located at 1803 Mass. Ave. seeks voices to sing masterpieces from all classical periods. Rehearsals are on Thursday evenings from 7:30-8:30 p.m. For more information contact Morton Hyams, Music Director at 524-2050 or 547-1448.

Season opens November 21

The Agassiz Afterschool Players will open the 92-93 Season with three original short plays written and performed by the players under the direction of Carol Hantman.

The performances begin at 7:00 p.m. in Baldwin Hall, Agassiz School, and refreshments will be available between plays. Admission is free, and donations are gratefully accepted at the door.

Agassiz Afterschool Players Stage I, students in grades 1-4 will present two plays. The first is called “A Scream in the Night” and the players include Michael Reilly, Chavonne Trevillion, Akiva Leffert, Rose Berkdehammer, Asoka Pozard, Jaime Wendell, Jenny Pittman, March Ang, Hannah Jukovsky and Sarah Wheeler. The second is called “One Ear Too Many” and the players include Liza Littenberg-Brown, Amanda Pillsbury, Rebecca Slatin, Evan Ragon, Joanna Levy, Zachary Roberts, Clementine Nixon, and Benjamin Simon.

The Agassiz Afterschool Players Stage II, students in grades 5-8, will present “It’s a Jungle Gym Out There.” Players include James DeLancey, Michael Littenberg-Brown, Daniel Piper, Claire Singer, Bushra Makiya, Henry Towsner, Sasha Warner-Berry, Kara Chadbourne, and Rebecca Ennen.
Lesley College News

Marlene Booth to Present Film 11/18

Film maker Marlene Booth will be part of the Lesley College Presidential Lecture Series: Women Authors and Artists on Wednesday, November 18 at 5 p.m. in Welch Auditorium.

Booth will show and discuss excerpts from her recently released film, "The Double Burden," about generations of working mothers, and will talk about what it means to be a woman behind the lens. Ms. Booth has written, produced and directed films for PBS, "Chronicle" and the Lifetime cable TV station. She is also the mother of two children at the Agassiz School.

Admission is free and the event is open to the public. For more information contact Lesley College at 349-8622.

Lesley Agassiz Committee to Meet

The Lesley Agassiz Committee, composed of representative members of each community will meet on November 2. This is an opportunity for both communities to network and to update each other on news. It also provides an opportunity to meet newcomers in each community.

Lesley Students Volunteer

Two students, Hallie Hawkins and Kimberly Papp, members of LINC, have volunteered their time to lead an afterschool group of 5-8th graders in service to the community. LINC is a group of Lesley undergraduates "Living and Learning in Neighborhood Communities".

Taking the lead from the members of the group, the students have helped the group raise over $100 for Somali children. They have also visited the hospital, and have other activities planned.

This is an excellent example of young women taking leadership positions to provide youth with an opportunity to serve their community. The ANC thanks them.

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. An introductory workshop will take place on November 21 from 1-4 p.m. Ongoing classes are scheduled for Tuesdays from 6:30-8 p.m. and Wednesdays from 9:30-11 a.m. at the Cambridge YWCA.

Partners of Survivors of Sexual Abuse: An Evening Gathering will be held on November 19 from 7-10 p.m. 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 on costs and to register contact Marcie Mitler at 497-5283.

Neighborhood Art Classes for Children

Individual and group art classes and art therapy sessions are available in the Agassiz neighborhood. For more information contact Carolyn Boriss-Krinsky at 547-8444.

Information Booth Needs Volunteers

Do you know your Cambridge? Do you enjoy meeting a wide variety of interesting people? The Information Booth in Harvard Square is looking for volunteers to give directions, help Cambridge visitors plan their stay, and inform the public about Cambridge events and activities. You will be fully trained - and - meet a great group of volunteers.

Call Cambridge Discovery for details at 497-1631.

Support the Annual Christmas Tree Sale Fund-raiser

Trees and Wreaths for Sale. December 5-20

Agassiz Community Children School
North-Peak Church 1803 Mass. Ave.
Saturday and Sundays from Noon until 8 p.m.
December 5th and 6th, 12th and 13th, and 19th and 20th

New Weekday Hours

Thursday - Friday December 10th and 11th from 4-7 p.m.

Wednesday - Friday December 16th, 17th, 18th from 4-8 p.m.

Trees All Sizes from $10-$40.
### Community Calendar November 1992

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<td>ELECTION DAY</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 4</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>7:30 p.m. Agassiz School Oversight Committee 20 Sacramento St.</td>
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<td>November 5</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>5:00 p.m. Historical Comm. Hearing on Agassiz School 57 Inman St.</td>
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<td>November 11</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>VETERAN'S DAY HOLIDAY NO SCHOOL</td>
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<td>November 17</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 21</td>
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<td>7 p.m. Agassiz Afterschool Players Productions</td>
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<td>Baldwin Hall Agassiz School 28 Sacramento St.</td>
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<td>November 24</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>5:30-7:30 p.m. Thanksgiving Pot Luck Dinner Baldwin Hall Agassiz School</td>
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<td>November 26</td>
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<td>THANKSGIVING RECESS NO SCHOOL</td>
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**November 1992**

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**The Whistler**

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

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**DO NOT FORWARD**

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Remember to Shop at the Kids Holiday Sale!
Opens December 5 Saturday at 10 a.m.
20 Sacramento St.
Proceeds go to Scholarship Fund.
See page 5 for details.

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*The Whistler* is printed on 100% recycled and recyclable paper.