

I speak in support of Council-member Carlone's **Policy Order Number 4**, to affirm that the City of Cambridge is "ready, willing, and able" to commit funds for the preservation of the Silver Maple Forest.

I would briefly like to make 3 points:

First: The current storm and water regulations for building near Alewife are many years old – from before our knowledge of climate disruption. I attended the city's June 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting last month where the Council heard a report from their Climate Mitigation and Preparedness team. In response to a question, Mr. Owen O'Riordan, city water specialist, described the current storm water requirements and then concluded that **it's probably not sufficient now**.

Second: We have all heard that RAPID action is needed to keep global warming to 2 degrees Celsius. But what is Rapid? A 9 July New York Times article answers that question. <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/07/09/business/blueprints-for-taming-the-climate-crisis.html>?

It describes a brand new UN report on 15 countries' actual models of how to reduce carbon emissions to 1.6 tons per person on the planet by 2050. The current US emissions are 16 tons per person. So the US needs to cut emissions 4 % a year every year from now on. We are currently cutting our emissions 0.4% per year. We need to be doing 10 times as much. So let's get going. Cutting down the Silver Maple Forest moves us in the wrong direction.

Third: anyone who has walked from the Alewife T station to the Silver Maple Forest, and I have, knows that it takes at least 15 minutes through a vacant landscape beyond shops and services. This is not transit-friendly development. Transit-friendly is a 10 min walk where you can run a couple of errands on your way. Building in the Silver Maple Forest will NOT get people out of their cars. Its development will just add to urban sprawl.

Climate change is a HUGE challenge. We CAN face it. But we need to change our perspective. We need to promote REAL transit-friendly development. We need to expand our wetlands and urban forests, not cut them down. You need to govern Cambridge for the future of all its citizens in a very rapidly changing world. That means spending some money now to protect natural infrastructure that we will desperately need in the future. Thank you.

I would also like to speak against Policy Order number 12. I think the science behind flouridated water is very clear and we do not need to spend money and time on a study that will only confirm this fact. Let's continue to flouridate Cambridge's water. Thank you.

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