

Drury, Margaret

From: julia.bishop@comcast.net
Sent: Saturday, October 08, 2011 11:25 AM
To: Seidel, Sam
Cc: Drury, Margaret
Subject: Bishop Petition

Hi Sam,

Thank you for visiting our neighborhoods during the rainstorm of a few weeks ago. The neighbors really appreciated the opportunity to walk with you and share their concerns. There were many ideas about the best way to guide the development of the Fawcett property and Cambridge Lumber to a compatible outcome. However, I believe it is very important that the Bishop Petition is brought to a vote in a timely fashion, preferably before the November election.

The petition is asking for density levels that were proposed in the 1998 Planning Board's "Zoning Board Petition," if my understanding is correct. However, after a lengthy process the density was increased by 30%; which is the reduction the "Bishop" is asking for. I believe that after walking these short, narrow, dog-legged streets you would have to agree this area was never intended to accommodate the level of traffic and parking that will ultimately be generated by the development (even at -30%.) Getting the development of this area of North Cambridge right is crucial. It not only will impact the quality of life in the neighborhoods, it will have long-term traffic and parking affects as we are bound by routes 16 and 2, as well as Massachusetts Avenue, all heavily-used commuter routes.

The impact of the proposed developments will have a tragic impact on Linear Park. The well-crafted illusion of spaciousness created by the original design will be lost permanently. Once the developments are completed on the Cambridge Lumber and Fawcett properties, there will be no way to enforce the future interactions between developments and park. As you heard on your walk with us, we are frustrated NOW about the inability to enforce legal decisions in the area.

I ask that you support the Bishop petition and move it to a vote by Oct. 20th to help guide these islands of development into connected features of the neighborhoods.

Thank you,
Julia

Drury, Margaret

From: julia.bishop@comcast.net
Sent: Saturday, October 08, 2011 4:31 PM
To: Decker, Marjorie
Cc: Drury, Margaret
Subject: Bishop Petition

Hi Marjorie,

First of all, I would like to thank you for all your efforts reaching out to and working with the group on the petition. You have been extremely helpful and supportive about the process and in suggesting various ways we could proceed. The group has decided that the best way, at this point, is to ask for your support to vote in favor of the Bishop Petition and to support this happening before the November election. I am asking for your support on these two items.

The meeting with CDD and talking with you have helped to understand the numerous factors that are involved in working to guide reasonable development in this area. However, I still feel strongly that the zoning needs to be changed back to that which was suggested in 1998 by the Planning Board.

I know that as you walked around these neighborhoods you understood the concerns about the negative impact this level of development will have. Our concerns are density is not compatible with the existing area, design is significantly out of place, and TRAFFIC AND PARKING will become outrageously unsafe. My hope is that the downzoning will pass and I would like to work with you at that point, if you're still offering, to get a reasonable result.

Thank you again for your support and I hope you will support us by urging that the vote happen this month and supporting the petition.

Julia

Drury, Margaret

From: julia.bishop@comcast.net
Sent: Saturday, October 08, 2011 4:47 PM
To: Simmons, Denise
Cc: Drury, Margaret
Subject: Bishop Petition

Hi Denise,

Thanks you so much for visiting the neighborhood that will be impacted by the development of the Fawcett Oil property. I know that you had a chance to hear many concerns and stories about life up in this area of North Cambridge. I also want to thank you for sending along a letter urging Councilor Seidel to move the petition along.

The neighborhood is very concerned about the density of the proposed plan, the impact on Linear Park, issues of safety, and TRAFFIC AND PARKING. The petition is asking that the 1998 Planning Board "Zoning Board Petition" density be adopted. This would result in a reduction of 30% which is crucial at a minimum. Seventy something units (the number if the petition passes) at the end of the short, narrow streets that abut the property would still have significant negative consequences. It is my understanding that development of this nature, surrounded by residential zoning, needs to be compatible.

As we walked Linear Park, I am sure you appreciated the effort that went into creating an illusion of spaciousness on such a narrow strip of land. This carefully constructed illusion would be lost by the current proposed development. It is an oasis at the tip of Cambridge that serves both a recreational and a commuter function.

I am asking for your support to get the Bishop Petition to a vote before the November election, as well as your vote in favor of this reasonable first step to craft development in old industrial zoning surround by residential communities.

Thank you again for coming to meet the neighbors.

Julia

Drury, Margaret

From: julia.bishop@comcast.net
Sent: Saturday, October 08, 2011 5:46 PM
To: Kelley, Craig
Cc: Drury, Margaret
Subject: Bishop Petition

Hi Craig,

Thanks for coming last week to share your ideas with the neighborhood. It has been so difficult to understand the complexities of this process. The one thing I know for sure is that my neighborhood will be impacted by whatever development is final, and it's difficult to see that there will be many positives. Issues like density, design, traffic and parking will significantly change the area.

Our group has decided to go forward to urge that the Bishop Petition be moved to a vote by October 20th. I am asking you to support the vote coming forward sooner rather than later. I also would like to ask you to support the petition. Even at 70+ units (the number if the petition passes) the project at Fawcett will be too big for the short, narrow streets that abut it. The design and rental units will not be compatible with the neighborhood. This area clearly was not meant for this level of development. Please support us.

Julia

Drury, Margaret

From: julia.bishop@comcast.net
Sent: Saturday, October 08, 2011 6:04 PM
To: Reeves, Ken
Cc: Drury, Margaret
Subject: Bishop Petition

Councilor Reeves,

Thank you so much for coming to visit our neighborhood a while ago. I appreciated your interest in understanding our neighborhood and our concerns about the proposed development.

As I am sure you remember, our concerns are density, safety, linear park, traffic and parking. Without the downzoning the density of 104 units is clearly not compatible with our neighborhood. The Fawcett property becomes an island unto itself disconnected from what life is like on the abutting streets. Safety and traffic will impact the area significantly due in part to the neighborhood being bound by routes 2 and 16, and Massachusetts Avenue which shoulder the burden of commuter traffic in and out of the city. Linear Park is such a wonderful resource. The amazing planning that went into creating such an illusion of space and greenery. This will be destroyed by the time 3 large developments are in place (Co-housing already there, Fawcett and Cambridge Lumber, yet to be completed.)

I am asking you to support the Bishop Petition and moving it to a vote by October 20th.

Thank you,
Julia

9 Cottage Park Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02140

2011 OCT 11 P 5:07

October 10, 2011

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

The Honorable Craig Kelley,
Member of the City Council
831 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

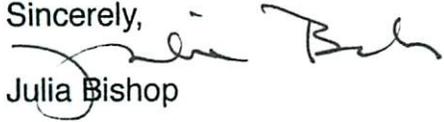
Dear Councilor Kelley,

I would like to thank you for your valued input on the many issues of the proposed development at Fawcett Oil. Although the issues are complex, there is no doubt to the residents of the neighborhood that the quality of life and stability of our neighborhoods will be impacted. At the last Ordinance Committee hearing, a young man gave testimony that after searching for two years he and his wife finally found a place to buy in North Cambridge, close to where they had rented for years because they found the area so charming. He also said that had he known about the amount of development that was coming to the area, he would not have purchased his home. I've lived in my home for 15 years and I am very upset about the impact the Fawcett development will have on my quality of life.

Another serious concern is the traffic. There needs to be a comprehensive approach to how the numerous proposed developments are going to impact Massachusetts Avenue, the Route 2 rotary and intersections of Route 16. These are major commuter roadways in and out of Cambridge that are already having a negative impact on the surrounding small neighborhoods.

I hope that you will be a force to push the Bishop Petition to a vote this month and will also support the petition.

Sincerely,



Julia Bishop

cc: Cambridge City Council ✓
c/o Margaret Drury, City Clerk

9 Cottage Park Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02140

October 10, 2011

The Honorable Lelund Cheung
Member of the City Council
831 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

2011 OCT 11 P 5:06
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

Dear Councilor Cheung,

I would like to thank you for being one of the first city councilors to meet with the neighbors of North Cambridge many weeks ago. I agree with your concerns about density and with your idea that perhaps Residence B would be the appropriate zoning for this area. There isn't one person in this neighborhood who would disagree with that idea.

As you know, the Bishop Petition is asking for SD-2 to be downzoned to a level that the 1998 Planning Board requested in their "Zoning Board Petition" about a 30% reduction. The current proposal of 104 rental units on the Fawcett Oil property would be very disruptive to a stable, safe neighborhood. I am sure as you walked around the neighborhood you saw that the six abutting streets were never designed to be through streets. The concerns about even more traffic on Massachusetts Avenue, Routes 2 and 16, which border our neighborhood, are very real.

I hope that we can count on you to support a vote this month and passage of the Bishop Petition.

Sincerely,


Julia Bishop

cc: Cambridge City Council ✓
c/o Margaret Drury, City Clerk

9 Cottage Park Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02140

October 10, 2011

2011 OCT 11 P 5:07

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

The Honorable Sam Seidel,
City Councilor of Cambridge
831 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Councilor Seidel,

Thank you for visiting the neighborhoods of North Cambridge that will be impacted by the Cambridge Lumberyard and Fawcett Oil proposed development. I know that having walked these North Cambridge neighborhoods you have an understanding of important it is to develop the area responsibly, to avoid having a detrimental impact on the area. As you have heard, the proposed density, design, impact to Linear Park, traffic, and parking are all areas the residents of the affected neighborhoods are concerned about.

The goal of the Bishop Petition is to reduce the current SD-2 zoning to what the Planning Board suggested in their 1998 "Zoning Board Petition." This would be a great start to less dense development. No matter the final count of units, by the very nature of the Fawcett property dead ending small city streets, the result will be that of an island, separate from the existing neighborhoods. Neighborhoods like my street where I haven't had to lift a snow shovel in fifteen years, because that is what neighbors do for one another. A neighborhood where I know my elderly neighbors and their children. A neighborhood where two summers ago, in Bob Cyr's back yard, there was a reunion of all the children that grew up on Cottage Park Avenue. A neighborhood where neighbors look out for your property when you're away. These are the features of neighborhoods. It is difficult to imagine the number of proposed rental units Fawcett Oil would like, will add to such neighborhoods. Our streets will simply become a way to and from that island.

I know that we talked at length on Bob Cyr's porch about different approaches to address the concerns up here in North Cambridge. We have decided to ask you to bring the Bishop Petition to a vote before October 20th and to support said petition. I hope you can do this to preserve a way of life, a quality of life here in North Cambridge.

Sincerely


Julia Bishop

cc: Cambridge City Council ✓
c/o Margaret Drury, City Clerk

9 Cottage Park Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02140

October 9, 2011

The Honorable David Maher,
Mayor of Cambridge
Cambridge City Hall
831 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

2011 OCT 11 P 5:07

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

Dear Mayor Maher,

I am looking forward to your visit to North Cambridge next Tuesday, October 12th. Residents of Cottage Park Avenue appreciated your similar effort last spring, as well as your support of the Fox Petition. Walking through the neighborhoods that will be impacted by both the Fawcett Oil and Cambridge Lumberyard developments will help provide you with a clear understanding of how detrimental the scope of these projects will be to the existing quality of life in this corner of North Cambridge.

As I have testified at numerous City Council and Ordinance Committee hearings, when I bought my house fifteen years ago, one of the appealing features of the street was that it was a quiet dead end neighborhood. I haven't had to shovel snow during a single snow storm in fifteen years because of the neighborly attitudes of Bill Fox, Bob Cyr, and John Angier, all neighbors with snow blowers. I know my neighbors, their children, and their pets. Gestures like snow blowing, trading garden plants, sweeping a neighbor's sidewalk in anticipation of street cleaning, having a block party, along with *knowing* your neighbors, are what makes a neighborhood.

It is difficult for me to understand how 104 rental units plunked down at the end of these streets will be integrated into the existing neighborhoods. Even if the density gets reduced, the plan as proposed creates an island. The access to the island is through small neighborhoods with their own flavor and experience that was created during the past forty or fifty years. I grew up in a neighborhood such as this in the western part of the state, and it is possible that you grew up in a neighborhood similar to Cottage Park Avenue here in Cambridge. I have been a Cantabridgian for over thirty years. I believe there are areas of Cambridge that seem conducive to this type of development, multiple throughways, compatible architecture, and similar density. The proposed Fawcett Oil plan does not fit the neighborhood on any of these measures.

I would ask you to support moving the Bishop Petition to a vote before October 20th and also ask that you support the petition.

Sincerely,



Julia Bishop

cc: Cambridge City Council ✓
c/o Margaret Drury, City Clerk

9 Cottage Park Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02140

October 10, 2011

2011 OCT 11 P 5:07

The Honorable E. Denise Simmons,
Member of the City Council
831 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

Dear Councilor Simmons,

I would like to thank you for accepting the invitation to come and walk around the neighborhoods of North Cambridge. I am sure you saw why the residents of these neighborhoods are concerned about the proposed development at the Cambridge Lumberyard and Fawcett Oil. Allowing 104 rental units at the end of the six abutting street will reduce our streets, our neighborhoods, to through ways to and from the Fawcett Property. It is difficult to see how these units will become part of the existing neighborhoods.

Another concern is that more traffic and parking that will be generated by the development. Traffic is a nightmare now. It is very difficult to access Massachusetts Avenue during rush hour. Intersections at Routes 2 and 16 are regularly backed up. Our neighborhood is bound by these three commuter roads, which is why serious consideration should be given to the proposed developments.

I hope I can count on your support to bring the vote on the Bishop Petition forward this month, and I am asking for your vote in support of the petition.

Sincerely,


Julia Bishop

cc: Cambridge City Council ✓
c/o Margaret Drury, City Clerk

9 Cottage Park Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02140

October 10, 2011

The Honorable Marjorie Decker,
Member of the City Council
831 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

2011 OCT 11 P 5:07

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

Dear Councilor Decker,

I would like to thank you for your support of the neighborhoods in North Cambridge. Taking time to walk the neighborhoods that will be impacted by the proposed development of the Cambridge Lumberyard and the Fawcett Oil property was tremendously appreciated. Arranging for CDD to come and speak to the neighbors was also extremely helpful to the group. I know you believe that a positive next step would be to work with the neighborhood, CDD, and the Fawcett family to create a workable solution. This plan does have merit, however, the group has decided to ask that the Bishop Petition be brought up for a vote this month and that it has the support of the city council.

You have been very sincere in your support of our concerns: density, design, linear park, traffic, and parking. Even if the density is reduced, the nature of the Fawcett property dead ending on the streets in this neighborhood, the overall effect will be one of a separate island of residences, rather than a continuation of a well-established, safe neighborhood.

I hope we can count on your vote for the Bishop Petition, as well as your guidance should we need to negotiate a more reasonable proposal.

Sincerely,



Julia Bishop

cc: Cambridge City Council
c/o Margaret Drury, City Clerk

9 Cottage Park Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02140

October 10, 2011

The Honorable Henrietta Davis,
Vice Mayor of the City Council
831 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

2011 OCT 11 P 5:07
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

Dear Vice Mayor Davis,

I would like to ask for your support to move the Bishop Petition forward to a vote this month and for your support of the Bishop Petition. The proposed developments of Cambridge Lumberyard and Fawcett Oil Company will have a negative impact to the quality of life in the neighborhoods that abut the properties. Traffic and parking are already difficult. There are three main commuter roads that surround the neighborhoods of the Fawcett Oil project, Massachusetts Avenue, Route 16 and Route 2. There needs to be a comprehensive plan to get the development of North Cambridge right

Fawcett Oil is proposing 104 rental units. Both projects are too big and are not compatible with the surrounding zoning, Residence B. The only way to get to and from this property is through our small streets, our neighborhoods. Also, the impact to Linear Park will be felt once the Fawcett Oil and Cambridge Lumberyard projects are completed. There will be a total of three large developments overlooking this wonderful green space. We need relief.

I hope that I can count on your support.

Sincerely,


Julia Bishop

cc: Cambridge City Council ✓
c/o Margaret Drury, City Clerk

9 Cottage Park Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02140

October 10, 2011

The Honorable Kenneth Reeves,
Member of the City Council
831 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

2011 OCT 11 P 5:06
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

Dear Councilor Reeves,

Thank you for accepting our invitation to visit with the residents of North Cambridge. We appreciate that you were one of the first councilors to take the time to hear our concerns about the proposed Cambridge Lumberyard and Fawcett Oil developments. I am sure that after walking around our neighborhood you saw why the neighbors have grave concerns about 104 rental units on the Fawcett property. The streets you walked along were clearly never designed to be through ways. Also, there is a real sense that the development on the Fawcett property will never become part of the neighborhood. The streets that have been stable neighborhoods filled with people watching out for one another and helping each other will be reduced to transportation lanes to and from an island of apartments.

Another concern is the increased traffic on the streets and along three major commuter roads, Massachusetts Avenue, Route 16, and Route 2. It is quite difficult accessing Massachusetts Avenue during rush hour from my street. Traffic is backed up all the way from the Route 16 intersection to beyond Cameron Avenue. What is the comprehensive plan?

I hope I can count on you to support a vote this month and to support the passage of the Bishop Petition.

Sincerely,


Julia Bishop

cc: Cambridge City Council
c/o Margaret Drury, City Clerk

