

the Whistler

Newsletter of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council

May 2013

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ANC News

NOTES FROM THE APR. 9 MEETING

Planning for Climate Change

"We're preparing for the 'new normal'," stated Jennifer Lawrence, Sustainability Planner with Cambridge Community Development (CDD). Ms. Lawrence attended the April ANC meeting to present a new two-phase, three-year climate vulnerability study initiated by the city.

The study's overarching goals include: discussing climate vulnerability with the community, building a base of community members who understand and feel empowered to take action, and gathering feedback.

The impacts of climate change are expected to include: temperature increase, flooding, extreme weather, and sea level rise. To address these problems, the city has engaged the Climate Protection Action Committee, comprised of residents, businesses, and institutions, as well as held a Climate Emergency Congress. This led to the vulnerability assessment and preparedness plan, which Ms. Lawrence spoke about at the ANC meeting. The city will continue to

track and work to reduce its "carbon footprint," as well as incorporate climate change risk into long-term planning efforts.

Ms. Lawrence described the two phases of the climate vulnerability study:

Phase 1: 2013-2014

Understanding what climate change means to Cambridge

The first phase of this engagement will include vulnerability and risk assessment. The city's goal is to engage residents, experts, and stakeholders.

Research will focus on:

- Future climate projections
- Infrastructure: T stations, roads, electrical systems
- Public health, environmental justice, and economic impacts
- Neighborhoods at risk from flooding, power outages, and other effects

The city will engage the community using the following methods:

- Gathering information from the public by

NEXT ANC MONTHLY MEETING



MAY 14 - 7:30 PM

Maud Morgan Arts
20A Sacramento Street
2D Studio, 2nd Floor

Annual Meeting

The Council will vote to approve the slate for the 2013/2014 ABC Board of Directors. All are invited to attend, meet the Board, and enjoy light refreshments.

- visiting 25-30 local organizations
- Facilitation of two to three large, public workshops
- Creation of a final report on vulnerability risk assessment to describe aspects of the likely impacts of climate change and identify planning priority areas, such as maps of areas likely to be flooded by ocean storm surges
- Provide a technical foundation for an “adaptation plan,” beginning 2014

**Phase 2: 2014-2015
Preparing for Climate Change**

The second phase will enable community and stakeholders to shape how the city protects itself from climate risks and becomes more resilient.

In 2014-2015, the city will:

- Work with residents, institutions, businesses, and others to create a plan on what to do to meet the climate change challenge.
- Work with the community to put the plan into action, as preparation for a different climate and a “new normal”

What can you do now?

- Sign up for notices about project activities: www.cambridgema.gov/climateprep
- Take the community survey at <http://s.zoomerang.com/s/climateprep>
- Follow CDD on Facebook at

<https://www.facebook.com/CDDat344> and Twitter at @cddat344

To learn more, contact John Bolduc, Environmental Planner, Cambridge Community Development, at (617) 349-4628 or jbolduc@cambridgema.gov.

Update on Construction in Neighborhood


Eric Breen, Project Manager with the Cambridge Department of Public Works, submitted the following update on construction on Oxford, Frost and Forest Streets, related to the city’s sewer/stormwater separation project.

- All work shall be complete by June 1, 2013.
- Sidewalk work on Oxford St. will continue for the rest of April.
- Frost Street will be reconstructed starting the week of April 15, which includes full depth reconstruction and paving.
- The raised crosswalk at Garfield/Eustis and Oxford will be reconstructed starting the week of April 15.
- Reconstruction of the raised crosswalk at Forest and Frost Sts. will start once the sidewalks on Oxford St. are complete.
- Approximately 35 new trees will be installed on Oxford and Forest Sts.
- Once all the work is complete, the Oxford and Forest St. roadways will be paved and line-striped.


Connected to the report, the council discussed issues at the intersection of Oxford, Roseland, and Beacon Sts.

Larry Faye, long-time community and council member, stated, “Now that the work is being completed, there is a danger of cars speeding down Oxford St. The impact will be significant on our neighborhood.”

Responding to this concern, the council voted to send correspondence to the Cambridge Department of Traffic, Parking and Transportation requesting assessment of the



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intersection and possible improvements.

ANC Awarded Grant to Install Art and Commemorate History on Mass. Ave.

Stephen Diamond, ANC Meeting Chair, ABC Board Director, and contributor to a group of residents working to improve the local Mass. Ave. streetscape, reported that ANC was recently awarded a \$25,000 grant from the Cambridge/Agassiz/Harvard Community Culture, and Recreation (CAH) Fund to provide art and historical enhancement on a portion of Mass. Ave.

The Mass. Ave. Master Plan, a collaborative effort between residents and the city to improve Mass. Ave. between the Cambridge Common and Porter Square, has been in process since 2011. During that time, the city hosted three community-wide meetings, which culminated in guidelines for future improvements to the area.

Mr. Diamond explained, “The city plans to create a demonstration block to implement some of the ideas. The working-drawings have been completed, and the city has begun the bidding process. We expect work will begin this summer.”

The demonstration block encompasses the west side of Mass. Ave. (Neighborhood 9) from Shepard St. to Garfield St, and the proposed changes include:

- New sidewalks
- New trees planted in larger tree pits with a higher quantity and quality of soil, as well as an active watering program
- Curb extensions at Shepard and Garfield Sts. to improve safety at the pedestrian crossings
- Artistic and historical enhancements (funded by the CAH Fund)

Mr. Diamond added, “We plan to hold competitions to create street art and a historical plaque. We hope other areas in the city will be inspired to embark on their own streetscape improvement efforts.”

Power Outages in the Neighborhood

Neighbors discussed frequent electrical power outages, most of which were planned with notifications from NSTAR sent via phone and mail.

Council members posed the following questions, which will be forwarded to the community relations representative at NSTAR:

- Provide a list of all the power outages from the past few years.
- What is NSTAR accomplishing with the planned outages?
- What is NSTAR doing to plan for the future related to climate change? Can they cope with increased demand in Cambridge? How will NSTAR’s future plans for growth impact the Agassiz neighborhood?
- What steps are taken to prevent accidental outages?
- How does NSTAR work collaboratively with the city?

At the June 11 ANC Meeting, a representative from NSTAR will attend to respond to resident’s questions. Do you have questions or concerns that aren’t addressed above? Contact Phoebe Sinclair, Community Liaison, at (617) 755-6926 or psinclair@agassiz.org.

Update on Mass. Ave. Gulf Station

Council members provided an update on the sale of the Gulf Station located at 1725 Mass. Ave., (corner of Mass. Ave. and Garfield St.)



The property, previously owned by Cumberland Farms/Shell, was sold to the family of the operator of the Gulf Station. The Mary Prentiss Inn on Prentiss Street had also expressed interest in obtaining the property for hotel use.

Note: The station will be closed for a short time during the summer to install modern, leak-proof gas tanks.

Community

ANNUAL MEETING

Please join us Tuesday, May 14th, for our annual meeting; a once-a-year celebration and social event dedicated to reaching out to one another in a friendly way to begin a successful new year.



Everyone is welcome to attend, meet the Board, and enjoy light refreshments donated by Tavern in the Square at Porter and Petsi Pies Bakery.

What: Annual Meeting
When: Tuesday, May 14, 7:30 PM
Where: Maud Morgan Arts Center, 2D studio, second floor

The council will vote to approve the slate (below) for the 2013/2014 Board of Directors.

Officers for a one-year term:
Andrea Walsh, Co-Chair, Eustis St.
Miriam Goldberg, Co-Chair, Frost St.
Hull Fulweiler, Clerk, Howland St.
Gao Wen Shao, Treasurer, Fayette St.

Directors for a two-year term:
Stephen Diamond, Frost St.
Hull Fulweiler, Howland Street
Wendy Prellwitz, Wendell St.
Susana Segat, Wendell St.
Gao Wen Shao, Fayette St.

Directors in mid-term:
Andrea Walsh, Eustis St.
Miriam Goldberg, Frost St.
Fred Meyer, Hammond St.

SAVE THE DATE FOR PLAY DAY

Come celebrate our community and the arts at our third annual Play Day! A Community Party, a FREE event for all ages.

What: Play Day! A Community Party
When: Saturday, June 15th, 2013, 1:00-4:00 PM
Where: 20 Sacramento St., back yard

Enjoy:

- Snacks
- Bocce
- Raffle prizes
- Silent auction
- BIG blue building blocks
- GIANT bubble station
- Community mural
- Agassiz Dance Crew performance



Check out photos of last year's event on Flickr at <http://bit.ly/play-day-2012>.

LWN WALKS! RETURNS

The Living Well Network invites you to community walks with your neighbors. Healthy and free, walking is a great way to connect to your city and possibly meet someone new.



Head out weekly for forty-five minute walks through Harvard to the Charles River, and back to the Maria L. Baldwin School. Join the group for all or part of this route.

Date: Tuesdays at 3:00 PM
Location: Meet in front of the Baldwin School at 28 Sacramento St.,
RSVP: Free, just show up!

For more information please contact Colin Barr, LWN Coordinator at cbarr@agassiz.org or (617) 349-6287 x21.

HELP NEW TREES GROW

Prepared by Stephen Diamond, ABC Board Director

If a new tree has been planted near your house, please **ADOPT** it! Young trees need regular watering, once a week during their first year of planting.

Use the attached Treegator bag to help with watering. (See below.)



The water should NOT be poured between the bag and the tree trunk. (See below.)



As in the next photo, lift the tag, and fill up the bag **THROUGH THE SLOT** that is located beneath it. The water will be delivered to the tree slowly through the bottom of the bag. The bag holds about twenty gallons. Remember to do this once per week



Volunteers willing to water, weed, and mulch are invited to take part in Cambridge's Tree Keepers program. Young people can help out, too! Learn more at: bit.ly/Cambridge-forestry-programs.

Watch an instructional video by Cambridge Department of Public Works on YouTube: <http://youtu.be/-2JDBuZn8nc>.

City Wide

ANNUAL CHALK-ON-THE-WALK EVENT

The Rotary Club of Cambridge is sponsoring its annual "Chalk on the Walk" event on **Sunday, May 5 from 10 AM - 4 PM** as part of the Harvard Square MayFair celebration.



Local businesses buy sidewalk squares on Church Street and talented artists create designs that rival an Italian street painting festival. The money raised supports local Rotary service projects and scholarships.

To register as an artist or event sponsor, or for more information, please visit www.cambridgerotary.org and click on "Chalk on the Walk."

Community Calendar

May 2013

Tuesday, May 14	7:30-9:00 PM	ANC Annual Meeting (see page 1 for agenda) Maud Morgan Arts, 20A Sacramento St., 2D Studio All are welcome, please join us!
Wednesday, May 22	6:00-7:30 PM	ABC Board Meeting, 20 Sacramento St, 2nd Floor Public welcome
Monday, May 27		Memorial Day holiday, ABC Programs and office closed

The Whistler is published monthly September - June by the Agassiz Baldwin Community, distribution 2,000. Call (617) 349-6287 to receive by mail or e-mail. The newsletter is also posted each month online at www.agassiz.org. Items of interest to the neighborhood may be submitted for consideration no later than the 15th of the month prior to publication date.

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DO NOT FORWARD

Related to tragic events during the Boston Marathon on Monday, April 15, we express our sympathies to those directly affected, appreciation for the people who responded with bravery and kindness, and solidarity with the Greater Boston community.

*Interested individuals can contribute to The One Fund Boston. Learn more at:
www.cityofboston.gov/oneboston/home.asp*