



Mystic River Watershed Association
your community • your watershed

Glen Clancy, Director
Community Development
Homer Municipal Building
19 Moore Street
Belmont, MA 02478
via email: gclancy@town.belmont.ma.us

October 27, 2010

RE: Comprehensive permit application (40B) by Cambridge Partners

Dear Mr. Clancy,

The Mystic River Watershed Association (MyRWA) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of the entire Mystic River Watershed. The mission of MyRWA is to work to protect and restore the Mystic River, its tributaries and watershed lands for the benefit of present and future generations and to celebrate the value, importance and great beauty of these natural resources. This includes working to improve the water quality in the Mystic River and all of its tributaries. As an important aspect of this mission, MyRWA has been conducting scientifically rigorous testing of the water quality of the watershed for over 10 years, and actively using the data generated to work with the EPA, commonwealth, cities and towns to improve the quality of the water in the watershed. Because of our knowledge of impairments throughout the watershed and specifically in Belmont and Cambridge, MyRWA is concerned about development in the Belmont Uplands by developers who wish to build 299 units of housing (60 units affordable) in an ecologically and hydrologically sensitive area of the Mystic River watershed. There is no doubt this project will have a detrimental impact on flooding, groundwater recharge, wildlife habitat and water quality.

Starting in 2003, MyRWA has written several comprehensive comment letters to the Belmont Conservation Commission and Town Planners and advocated for the preservation and not the development of the parcel owned by Cambridge Partners (O'Neill Properties). We continue to firmly believe that the best use of this space is as an urban wild in an otherwise dense part of the Boston Metro area.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Minka vanBeuzekom".

Minka vanBeuzekom, MPH
Treasurer and Board Member

cc: Belmont Citizen Herald
Arlington Advocate
Cambridge Chronicle