



asg@alewife.org
Cambridge, MA 02140

David Surette
VP of Development
IQHQ
January 19, 2021

Dear David,

As you are aware, the Alewife Study Group (ASG) held a neighborhood meeting on Thursday, January 14th with more than 150 neighbors. Our intent was multifold - to inform residents of the change in the ownership of the North Cambridge 26-acre parcel previously owned by W.R. Grace; to review the history (including health, safety, and toxicity) of the property, as well as what we know so far about the development of labs on the site; and to give neighborhood residents a chance to express their concerns, hopes, and priorities for this critical land.

Numerous public comments and questions resulted from our January 14th meeting. We also received more input via our website, emails, and conversations with neighbors. The 126 comments we received focused on multiple concerns, and although we are just starting to review them, we would like to share some insights to help you prepare for your meeting. In tabulating the areas of interest we found that issues regarding design, contamination, health, transit (public, traffic, parking), habitat, and Jerry's Pond were most commonly mentioned.

Below are the key concerns with clarification by ASG for brevity and precision:

1. Ensure public safety by full compliance with the Cambridge Asbestos Protection Ordinance, adherence to the Activity and Use Limitations, partnership with ASG through the Public Involvement Plan, and commitment to more testing where testing will make a difference in how a particular area of the site is managed.

2. Design with sensitivity to the environment, both globally and locally, including the installation of vegetative roofs, solar panels, and bird-safe windows. Adopt the latest climate change preparation and reduction measures. Develop a comprehensive climate resiliency plan with enhanced flooding compensation, preservation of habitat, and a conservation easement to demonstrate a commitment to future open space preservation.
3. Clarify if there are future construction plans beyond the current proposal. Provide a full project timeline to ensure community benefits are provided early in the project, including design elements of connectivity and a central, focal point for the community.
4. Mitigate traffic concerns especially on Whittemore – including maintaining the current restriction on right turn onto Whittemore and no neighborhood through-traffic cut-throughs. Ensure stringent dust containment and appropriate (wildlife-safe) rodent control, particularly during construction.

We hope you will address these concerns directly at your meeting on January 21st.

Residents of North Cambridge understand that the IQHQ development is an opportunity for site and neighborhood improvement. We will be following your progress through the many steps before finalizing the plan and breaking ground. We look forward to attending your meeting on January 21st and to communicating with you on an ongoing basis.

Sincerely,

Lisa Birk, Ronnie Millar, Mike Nakagawa, and Joel Nogic
Alewife Study Group Steering Committee

asg@alewife.org

CC: Anthony Galluccio, Consultant to IQHQ
Iram Farooq, Cambridge Community Development
Sumbul Siddiqui, Cambridge Mayor