

Cambridge City Council: special meeting, November 1, 1976

ReDNA

f.463



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

To All City Councillors

Date October 28, 1976

From Paul E. Healy
City Clerk

Reference

Subject Special Hearing for Monday, November 1, 1976

Please be advised that at the request of Mayor Alfred E. Vellucci there will be a special hearing before the City Council at 6:30 P. M. relative to Harvard University's plans to seek a building permit for a laboratory at 16 Divinity Avenue. The appropriate individuals of Harvard will be present at this time. The Mayor requests that you also be present in order to fully discuss this matter.

A copy of the Mayor's letter is enclosed.



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
MASSACHUSETTS

ALFRED E. VELLUCCI
MAYOR

October 27, 1976

Mr. Paul Healy
City Clerk
Cambridge, Ma.

Dear Mr. Healy:

I was today visited by Mr. Moulton and Mr. Armistead of Harvard University who informed me of their plans to seek a building permit for a laboratory at 16 Divinity Avenue. Whereas there is some controversy surrounding this general issue, they were kind enough to inform me in advance and seek my advice.

I informed them that in my judgement, it would be appropriate to come before the City Council on Monday, November 1, 1976 at 6:30 P.M. to explain their building plans.

They have agreed to this idea, so would you be good enough to add this piece of business to Monday nights order of business.

Very truly yours,

ALFRED E. VELLUCCI

Mayor

Special Meeting AT 6:50 PM ON CALL OF THE CHAIR -

To discuss Bldg two Plans All present, Mayor presided

1/ Donald Moulton -
→ Pharmaceutical Cambridge Mass
Asst VP for Corp Affs 40-240 140 -
w/ set of plans for two Alt
instead Grant Heflin Area a plan -

Donald M read the addressed to May 1st/66
re
449400 exit Div Ave ↓
→ May 1979 completion date

2/ Mr Grant Heflin Esplanade
256 Baystate St. Boston

Arch 1500 sq ft = 15% of room -
6 Bays of Belly - of 11 1/2 Bay 20 feet
5 of Bay with CONCRETE AREA
2 Support columns -

Animal Cell
has garage
Bio has Belly
Hammock
Entrance

1/ Prep space - filament
2/ Logistics to Support Area

Cold Room - long keep and preservation
Storage employed for preservation of all materials

Will employ many safety devices
Should still be on existing wall -

705 May 11 studies arranged -

710 PM I dealing all DNA level Research -
Is it policy that NO DNA - WILL COMMITTEE
REPORTS

Mr M - Committee in report in January DNA
had will NOT BE OBTAINABLE FOR MAY
NOTHING will go on until only COMIT

- If research was heard would not proceed -
CL order

I will bring to insert and report
on a regular basis →
and has all paraphs

No action yet.

I believe this should go to Person Can - arrange
report from to action -

W far to go ahead now -

W will go to action of the CL -
CL Department remains outside of that one process
are.

Should take place to Committee - Don people

City Clerk's minutes,
CCC special meeting,

Nov. 1, 1976 -

(Never typed up)

screen plans - Don't include some or them of
Objective needs order -

Callan - would report that had inform all
when they petition 1/11 for certification
in order that Billy can have Health Law
to have opportunity to be heard

Callan moves that order of Callan be
adopted at 7:25 pm

Ways & 95% of coverage people opposed to flow type
- of experimentation -

As Callan to hold up permit - Health
could have proceed But permits
going on all plans at the also
proposed going on w/ business and
other

Ways like order by James

To Committee which has been selected

to screen and report on the matters
agreed strongly reedy Callan Let it get to
Review Board - Added too many drives

Supports L. Graham order -
Reference to allowing savings being
reversed etc

Samuel Clinton proposed amendment to L. Graham
order

BA - Let table the order - Is this a motion
= Ways table is during the issue =
- BA table on Truck - send out to
the Committee
Ways 1/4 has been suspended in 6 months
mountain
Person Bond Bank report -

Price
Lays - Hiring staff required - if there is
a structural language -
L. Chen would press order - issue

BA Rule 19 by BA Accepted in
L. Chen order at 745

Obsolescence order now in motion
Request that the same be referred
to Person Bond or BA - amended by

L. Clintony
That the CC receive a memorandum
from the Health Commissioner -
It concluded

L. Dancy re time frame question -

Don Moulton Mr. Am. has to settle up - not
settling rates - this project will
go on regardless of whether DNIR
Research goes on -

BA would like to hear from Committee -
Don't get here to discuss plans etc - for
sub - Investment of construction - market

L. Dancy There is no more before us - -

Ampt & BA should address P 19 - and
refer order of Am to Person Board

BA would have independent to inform and
refer order to Person Board

L. Clant. P. 19 on L. Clant's order plan concluded

7⁵ PM L. G. ... in ... - Army ...
is best to refer to DND Board

159 C. ... University ... to bid
next week. ... see next
Monday

Admission at 9:00 PM

TO: The Cambridge City Council

FROM: Donald C. Moulton

November 1, 1976

After approximately two years of planning and review by the University and by the National Cancer Institute, Harvard University is now planning to proceed with the construction of new containment laboratory space on the fourth floor of the existing Biological Laboratories building at 16 Divinity Avenue, Cambridge. Within approximately 1300 square feet of floor space we will construct five laboratories and service rooms. The estimated completion date for this project is May 1977.

The entire space has been designed to satisfy or exceed the P3 requirements of the NIH Guidelines for recombinant DNA. However, the major use now programmed for the facility is research on animal cells and viruses not involving recombinant DNA.

The facility has been reviewed in detail by the University Committee on the Regulations of Hazardous Biological Agents and now has this Committee's agreement that the detailed design meets or exceeds all federal requirements for such a laboratory. The plans have the approval of the involved federal agencies and the Director of the NIH-NCI Office of Research Safety who has indicated that the facility will provide Harvard with an excellent facility for conducting research requiring P3 type containment.

Last summer the Cambridge City Council held two public meetings to consider safety aspects of research on recombinant DNA. At the second of these meetings a three month "good faith" moratorium was voted on P3 and P4 level recombinant DNA research in Cambridge and a Cambridge Experimentation Review Board was established to review the matter and provide recommendations. Subsequently, a further moratorium was voted in order to allow additional time for the work of the Review Board. Since the labs will not be completed until May 1977, there will be ample time for the completion of the work of the Review Board and for consideration to be given to its recommendations before the containment laboratory is ready for operation. We have and will continue to make every effort to maintain close communication with the Review Board and with the City Council in these matters.