**Conservation Proposal to the City of Cambridge Environment and Health Committee: Meeting 831 Mass Ave. City Building, October 28, 2014**

Leland Cheung: Chair; Members: Dennis Carlone, Nadeem Mazen, Marc McGovern Dear Esteemed Committee,

We of the silver maple forest Alliance recommend that the City of Cambridge and various bodies, consider further immediate discussions of this regional area, using the greatly valued 100 year floodplain, mostly in Cambridge, and its surrounding silver maple forest rich pervious land (mostly in Belmont) for multiple community possibilities. We request that the Committee continue meeting within the conservation context for silver maple forest community land and waterways usage such as a possible regional woodland park which Cambridge, Arlington and Belmont have much need of to possibly connect to the Mugar Properties in Arlington which is now being discussed in that town. We would like you to designate this as “conservation land” together with neighboring towns either by a purchase or ‘taking’ (which would require compensation), and many are ready and willing to fund-raise for that purpose.

 Already the Upper Alewife Basin floodplain safety net for tens of thousands has been saturated according to Horsley and Witten report of 2012 to over 47 percent, and the climate change increase of storm water run off predicted from the land in the recent firm of Hydro Analysis in its 2014 report  is 36 percent. (We can reference in detail if needed.)

The area is prime for various uses of recreation for the 3 municipalities which desperately need the open space and carbon sequestration from mayhem traffic congestion, and from residential development and more land already permitted such as a new hotel. There are grave warnings to keep the general Alewife-Fresh Pond from climate change storm surges and sea rise level and precipitation increases.

This request also includes a site visit to the Cambridge portion of the project as soon as possible with Commissioner O’Riordan and Commissioner in Western Ma., Charles Katuska.

Ellen Mass- For the Silver Maple Forest Alliance

Members: Kathy Johnson EK Khalsa

Alice Heller Ben Beckwith Deborah Lockett Walter Kittredge

Rozann Kraus Quinton Zondervan Sylvia Gilman Paula Sharaga

Amy Mertl Anne Marie Lambert Susan Ringle David Morimoto