To: Belmont Town Officials. October 29, 2014

Town Manager David J. Kale

Assistant Town Manager Phyllis Marshall

Director of Community Development Glenn Clancy

Selectman Mark A. Paolillo

Selectman Andres T. Rojas, Chair

Selectman Sami S. Baghdady

As an experienced site architect with civil engineering experience, I have submitted

a number of well-documented memos regarding the inadequacies of the current plans for the proposed O’Neill Properties housing development on the Belmont Uplands site.

Please read the attached letter to Glenn Clancy dated April 5, 2012, and provide answers to the issues listed, including the important issue of Flood Insurance.

As public servants, please act responsibly and respond to legitimate questions about this project – recognizing the importance in the 40B statute of meeting “generally accepted standards of public health and safety, the environment, design, open space and other matters of Local Concern. “

Unfortunately, the clear cutting of trees on the site has begun, however no building permit should be approved without a public hearing to address the serious concerns cited in my memos.

Last evening I attended, with about 40 others, a meeting of the Cambridge City Council Committee on Health and Environment during which compelling scientific evidence was presented concerning: the higher official predictions for regional rainfall, the danger to public health from building on a former dumpsite and the high bacteriological counts in Little River and Little Pond during heavy storms, and documentation of the monetary value of environmental benefits if the site is retained as open space.

The four City Councilors concluded that a meeting of appropriate Cambridge, Arlington and Belmont officials would be a very helpful next step. Please consider preparing answers to the issues cited and initiating a meeting to share this information with Cambridge and Arlington officials and concerned citizens.

Please send a response to this letter to Ellen Mass at Friends of Alewife Reservation,

186 Alewife Parkway, Suite 304, Cambridge, MA 02138. Email: emass73@gmail.com.

Ernest Kirwan, AIA, 2 Kenway Street, Cambridge, MA 02138 tel: 617 491-0166, cekirwan@gmail.com.