From Friends of Alewife Reservation



**Actions From World's Largest Climate March to New England's Vital Floodplain Forest:**

An urgent alert has been issued by several local environmental organizations based on security contact from the town of Belmont that the silver maple forest made be clear cut in the next 2 weeks and replaced with a 300 unit building, according to their original design plan and comprehensive permit. The Pennsylvania developer aims to remove hundreds of floodplain trees for a building with parking. The environmental groups claim that there is too much at stake as the sea level in this area is 5 to 8 feet and is threatened by future hurricane force water rise, similar to the storm water and wind damage that recently hit New York and N.J. with devastating impacts. The groups have appealed through the courts in 2010, but engineers on the developer's side won. Wildlife, storm water run off and other forestry and ecological considerations were not recognized by DEP.

Environmentalists claim that the standard of living of north and west Cambridge, east Arlington and east Belmont residents will suffer greatly with the removal of the floodplain forest which they say cools the area and protects the surrounding communities from greater flooding than they already have. It also gives them mental and recreational relief and joy. Scientists for the group in a recent study (Horsley and Witten 2012) showed that the area needs its pervious surfaces for storm water and underground precipitation functions to protect the area from climate change surges and sea rise levels which will come to the Mystic River watershed in the future. The  groups plan to demonstrate their concern for the area for future generations to come. Vigil with hand made signs and banners held Friday, 26th from 6-7 on Frontage Road facing Route 2. Other vigils Thursday, October 2 from 4-6 on Frontage Road. Call 617 388-3799 or 617 415-1884 for details.

