**For Immediate Release**

**Sponsors:**

**Friends of Alewife Reservation**

**Silver Maple Forest Alliance**

**Green Cambridge**

Silver Maple Forest Vigil

Friday, September 26th 6-7pm

Thursday, October 2nd, 7:30-8:30

Frontage Road sidewalk off of Arlington Lake Street and Route 2

Belmont, Ma.

**SILVER MAPLE FOREST VIGIL PRESENCE SOUGHT FROM NEIGHBORING COMMUNITIES**

A dramatic increase of precipitation and subsequent coastal sea changes are predicted in the coming years for the East Coast. The silver maple forest is Belmont and partially in Cambridge presently mitigates the flooding and retains cool temperatures in a unique urban wild knows as the Alewife Reservation with the privately owned woodlands.

With the effects of climate change in mind, we call on the neighboring communities of Arlington, Belmont and Cambridge to request a delay in all permitting and all developer’s preparation work for a 300 unit building intended to replace the 7 acre silver maple forest, or, “the Belmont Uplands” and its FEMA floodplain surroundings. A stoppage or moratorium is requested until the publication of the city’ climate Vulnerability Assessment Study has been completed and interpreted. The 100 year floodplain has and is receiving more frequent significant rain events every 30 years resulting in flooding of these communities. Permeable soil surfaces are required for water infiltration on this sensitive floodplain.

Friends of Alewife Reservation together with the newly created Silver Maple Forest Alliance and Green Cambridge, invite you to a candlelight vigil this Friday, September 26th from 6-7 pm in order to bring attention to the location of the forest between 5 and 8 feet above sea level. The functioning of the Upper Alewife Basin which includes about 500 acres in 5 municipalities is critical for citizen safety and well being, and that of well assessed wildlife, which abound in the 130 acre Alewife Reservation.

Sponsored by FAR: 617 415-1884, Green Cambridge: 617 520-4720; Silver Maple Forest Alliance: 617 304-1502. For more information call FAR offices for further vigils to be posted on websites: [www.friendsofalewifereservation.org](http://www.friendsofalewifereservation.org); [www.GreenCambridge.org](http://www.GreenCambridge.org).