

Project in CED  
Maggie Cohn  
December 14, 1996  
CONTRACT

## BACKGROUND

Since September 1996, I have been part of a group convened by the Hennigan Community Center Advisory Board. The Community Center is based in the Hennigan Elementary School in the Hyde Square neighborhood of Jamaica Plain, in Boston. We have been meeting to discuss the possibilities for development along Heath St., which is a major street running through our community.

Heath St. runs roughly east-west. It is a fairly short and much-used street which cuts across the area from Columbus Ave., a major north/south avenue, and South Huntington Ave, which leads to Jamaica Plain center in one direction and to Rte. 9, Brookline and eventually the Mass. Pike in the other. Consequently, Heath St. carries a lot of traffic, much of it just passing through the neighborhood. The Hennigan School is located at the west end of the south side of Heath St.; at the other end, on the same side of the street, is Bromley-Heath, a large public housing project. Across Heath St. is the neighborhood in which I live, called the Back of the Hill (the "back" side of Mission Hill, in Roxbury, the "front" being the side that faces downtown Boston.)

All three communities have active community organizations: Hyde/Jackson Sq. has the Hyde Sq. Task Force and the Neighborhood Development Corp. of J.P. (NDC). On Mission Hill there is the Back of the Hill (BOTH) CDC and Neighborhood Housing Services. Bromley-Heath is run by TMC, the Tenant Management Corp. Within the last 10-15 years, both BOTH CDC and NDC have constructed affordable housing in the area (condominiums, co-ops and rentals.) The Bricklayers Union constructed 160 units of mixed income condos on the Back of the Hill. The NDC co-developed a supermarket and

health clinic in Jackson Sq. Bromley-Heath is currently undergoing major renovations. NHS manages a revolving loan fund and has been involved in an extensive planning process for a commercial development in Brigham Circle, on the front of Mission Hill.

People who grew up around here remember when Heath St. was more of a neighborhood street, the north side lined with residences. Many of those houses have been torn down and replaced by vacant lots. These vacant lots have become places used for drug activities and prostitution.

### PROBLEM STATEMENT

If no solution is found, Heath St., rather than linking the three neighborhoods adjacent to it will continue to attract drug activities, prostitution and abandoned cars, and an area which has been working to develop affordable housing and small businesses will suffer continued disinvestment and deterioration.

### GOAL

The Hennigan Advisory Board, galvanized by the allegation that prostitutes were using the lots across from the school's playground, invited several other local community groups to a meeting to discuss possible courses of action. Representatives of the BOTH CDC, Bromley-Heath TMC and JP NDC responded. We agreed that the first thing to do was to clean up the lots, to increase visibility and discourage drug users and prostitutes. We also agreed that a clean-up was only a short-term solution; that lots once cleared will become overgrown again, and that for a long-term solution we need to work to develop alternative uses for the empty lots.

Interestingly, BOTH CDC was approached at the same time by the Prayer Foundation, an ecumenical organization which had a proposal for renovating an old

warehouse building on a piece of the property owned by Ruggles Baptist Church. They planned to create a furniture and appliance recycling operation, and they wanted the approval and support of the community for their project. We hope to be able to work with this organization and involve them in the larger development plan.

The goal of the group now meeting (and still nameless), and of this project, is to create a community economic development plan for Heath St. Included in the goal for this project is to encourage and facilitate a collaborative effort on the participating community organizations which actively involves members of the three impacted communities. This effort should contribute to the ongoing process of reclaiming our neighborhoods, building a sense of shared community and "neighborhood pride" within the BOTH, Hyde/Jackson Sq. and Bromley-Heath communities.

## **PROJECT PRODUCT**

By the end of this project period the group will have arrived at a development proposal for the abandoned properties along Heath St. through a participatory process involving residents of all three affected neighborhoods. We will have identified and be working with development partners and financial backers. We will be in a position to set into place a plan for an actual development process.

## **OBJECTIVES**

1. Clean up all vacant lots along Heath St. Ensure that the City of Boston and the Ruggles Baptist Church take responsibility for cleaning up the lots they own. Meet with representatives of the Ruggles Baptist Church and the Prayer Foundation to see what plans they may have for developing the properties.

2. Complete a survey of residents of the three neighborhoods. Develop an understanding of how the community views Heath St., and what changes and improvements the community would like to see and be likely to utilize.
3. Identify and involve interested members of the community; and with their assistance,
4. follow the survey effort with a series of house meetings to develop a more thorough "needs analysis."
5. Form a core group committed to pursuing development options. This group will work with the city of Boston and the Ruggles Baptist Church to determine their relationships to the project at its various stages. It will also quantify and prioritize community needs and preferences for development on Heath St.
6. Investigate and identify additional sponsors for development. With the assistance of others, identify potential options for financing and partnerships.
7. Work with a skilled facilitator to set up public meetings or charettes, or "brainstorming sessions." Use these sessions to encourage wild and creative thinking, which can lead to ideas which will later be combined with information learned from the survey and house meeting components.
8. Refine this synthesis of concepts into a tentative design proposal; utilize this proposal to solidify the commitment of sponsoring organizations, city agencies, etc.
9. Develop a course of action/strategy for pursuing the development of the property along Heath St.

## **PARTICIPANTS**

1. Representatives from community organizations: JP NDC, BOTH CDC, Bromley-Heath TNC, the Hennigan Advisory Board and perhaps others.



2. Representatives of Ruggles Baptist Church, which is the owner of a large segment of the vacant lots in question.
3. Representatives of the Public Facilities Dept. of Boston, the other owner of the lots in question, and a possible source of funds and other resources.
4. Interested individuals living in the neighborhoods of Hyde Sq., BOTH, and Bromley-Heath.
5. Sympathetic and supportive political figures (e.g. the district state representative and the area's city councilors.)
6. As the process progresses the group of participants can be expected to include financial sources (such as banks and foundations) and other possible development partners.

#### TIMELINE

*October 1996:* Clean up the vacant lots. Meet with Prayer Foundation representatives.

*November 1996: February 1997:* Develop survey and survey residents of all three neighborhoods, to a total of at least 150 individuals.

*March - April 1997:* Analyze survey results; plan for house meetings

*May - June 1997:* Hold house meetings with groups of 8 - 10; hold at least two in each neighborhood.

*Summer 1997:* Formulate core group. Analyze the information gathered through the surveys and house meetings. Approach the city (probably the Public Facilities Dept.) and Ruggles Baptist Church for assistance and commitment. Plan for public meetings.

(This piece may well extend into the fall.)

*Fall - Winter 1997:* First public meeting, followed by analysis of the results of that meeting and planning for follow-up meeting. Continue to work with PFD and the Ruggles Baptist Church. Investigate other possibilities for partnerships and financing.

*Winter 1997 - Spring 1998:* Second public meeting. Clarify development proposal.  
Identify partners and funding sources.

#### MINIMUM OBJECTIVES

To generate a process of community participation for the purpose of creating a development proposal for Heath St.; to work towards this end by facilitating a collaboration among the residents of three neighborhoods and the members of four or more community organizations.

Maggie Cohn  
 March 6, 1997  
 Heath St. Revitalization - *revised timeline*

**Oct. 1996:** clean-up of vacant lots

**Nov. 1996:** Develop survey. Begin distribution (Lawn St. block party, BOTH)

**Dec. 1996 - Feb. 1997:** Distribute survey through the following organizations and individuals: Bromley-Heath TMC (David), Idalia at All Checks Cashed on Centre St., BOTH CDC board members, Martha Eliot Health Center (Vanessa), Hyde Sq. Co-op Housing board (Karen ), Jim at Lenox-Martel. Begin to collect and tabulate completed surveys.

**March 1997:** Establish committee independent of Hennigan Community Center Advisory Board. Continue to collect and tabulate surveys.

**April 1997:** Develop workplan. Determine some initial "winnable" goals.

**May - July 1997:** Follow through on tasks agreed to at April meeting. Work on feasibility study re: different kinds of development (stores, housing) with assistance from NDC.

**August 1997:** Review feasibility studies. Revise and expand workplan.

**Sept. 1997:** Develop plan for broader community involvement (house meetings, focus groups.) Open discussion with city about development options.

**Oct. - Nov. 1997:** Hold house mtgs., focus groups, public mtgs., whatever, to get ideas and encourage involvement from neighborhood residents. Continue discussions with city and Ruggles Baptist Church.

**Dec. 1997 - Jan. 1998:** Produce initial development concept. Begin to seek developers and funding.

*This timeline takes into consideration the fact that this project will move pretty slowly at this initial phase. I think it's very possible that this will have to be revised/extended again.*

Maggie Cohn

July, 1997

Heath St. Revitalization - revised timeline

**Oct. 1996:** clean-up of vacant lots

**Nov. 1996:** Develop survey. Begin distribution (Lawn St. block party, BOTH)

**Dec. 1996 - Feb. 1997:** Distribute survey through the following organizations and individuals: Bromley-Heath TMC (David), Idalia at All Checks Cashed on Centre St., BOTH CDC board members, Martha Eliot Health Center (Vanessa), Hyde Sq. Co-op Housing board (Karen ), Jim at Lenox-Martel. Begin to collect and tabulate completed surveys.

**March 1997:** Establish committee independent of Hennigan Community Center Advisory Board. Continue to collect and tabulate surveys.

**April 1997:** Develop workplan. Determine some initial "winnable" goals.

**May - July 1997:** Follow through on tasks agreed to at April meeting. Work on building core group; develop plan for outreach to neighborhoods; contact appropriate city agencies / individuals to discuss improvements (lighting, trees, signage...)

Develop and circulate petition for improved lighting on Heath St.; submit to Dept. of Public Works.

**August 1997:** Meet with representatives from the Neighborhood Development Corporation of JP to plan community meeting for developing "master plan" for Heath Street.

**Sept. 1997:** Develop plan for broader community meeting, other involvement (house meetings, focus groups?) Invite discussion with city about coordinating improvements.

**Oct. 1997:** Community Meeting. Get ideas and encourage involvement from neighborhood residents. Begin to develop Master Plan. Continue discussions with city and Ruggles Baptist Church.

Fall Neighborhood Clean-up. Participation from City Year.

**Nov. 1997 - Jan. 1998:** Feasibility study - get assistance from local college programs. Produce initial development concept.

**1998 (and on):** Begin to seek developers and funding.

**Hennigan Community Center  
Advisory Board Meeting  
8/14/96  
6:00 PM**

**Attendance:**

Peter Raftery, Alison Pultinas, Patricia S. Telaherty, Kay Gallagher, Ann Gallagher, Jamice Santor, Dadricia L., Ricahrd Grordon, John Wheeler, Sarah Griffen, Povell, Rick Yoper

**Board Members:**

Maria Alamo, Lois Yanney, Rick Johnson

Maria Alamo, Chairperson, opened the discussion stating that the Hennigan Community Center Advisory Board Members would like to see the property across the street from the Hennigan School developed. Safety, lighting and jobs for youth were the chief reasons given.

Kay Gallager gave a brief summary of several plans that were examined in the past. Stores, for example, were rejected as a possibility because they would generate, too much traffic for school children. Plumbing and electrical shops were better possibilities because there would be less traffic involved. Patricia Flaherty suggested that we first find out what the community would like to see on the property, at that point a "Wish List" would be created, and then hire a Financial Consultant to do a feasibility study.

Peter Raftery from Boston Neighborhood Resource Center spoke about how his organization would like to develop the Heath Street site. He is looking for a building to receive and recycle goods. His project would provide volunteer opportunities for community people. Patricia Tutti Finch commended the idea and said that the neighborhood needs community service jobs.

Rich Yoder voiced his concerns about both air and noise pollution stemming from his experience with a former tenant on Heath Street.

Robert Platt hoped that developing the site would eliminate prostitution which is rampant in the area. Alison Pultinas suggested that Robert organize a neighborhood Crime Watch for Heath and Walden Street residents. Kay Gallagher strongly seconded the suggestion. Alison offered her assistance to Robert, based on her experience with the Lawn Street group.

**Heath Street Development Committee****March 5, 1997****Agenda**

1. Introductions
2. History of this group
3. What has been done to date: clean-up of vacant lots
  - survey
  - mailbox petition
  - Prayer Foundation proposal
4. Why is each of us interested? What level of commitment can we make?
5. Visioning: what would we like Heath St. to look like?
6. Establish next meeting time/meeting schedule

**Thank you all for coming!**

Maggie Cohn  
 Monthly Project Report: Heath St. Revitalization  
 March 6, 1997

1. Major events: Development beyond Hennigan Advisory Board into larger group involving various members of the community.

2. People or organizations involved: There were 4 of us from the existing group: Bobby and Jennifer from the Community Center, and Alison and I. Sarah came, to offer TA from NDC; a condo-dweller from the Jefferson came (Derick Vance); Peter Raftery and a man named Jack Whalen came from the Boston Neighborhood Resource Center (also the Prayer Foundation?); and Jim Lerner came from Lenox Martel. We set a second meeting for April 15, and I will make another round of calls to try to get additional people to that meeting. I hope this will grow into a solid group of residents and business representatives...

3. Problems: a) we still need more people. David Whorell from Bromley was not able to come, and we really should have a rep. from TMC working on this with us.

b) many surveys still not back. Also, we can't be really sure what areas have been surveyed, since we didn't ask for addresses on the survey sheet. Tracking is possible only by knowing who was circulating them and what areas they covered..

c) we need to gather a lot of information about how to do various things - how to try to get better lighting, or trees... and we need a workplan.

4. Efforts at problem resolution: a) I will make more calls, especially to try to get commitments from people who said they would try to attend and didn't.

b) I have to get surveys from David (TMC), Lenox-Martel, Karen Chacon (Hyde Sq. Co-op Housing) and Vanessa (Martha Eliot Health Center.)

c) I volunteered to get a copy of the city's Capital Plan, which should say whether or not they have anything planned for Heath St., and whether or not there's any money available for aesthetic improvements. Also,

5. Next steps: see #4, above. Additionally, Alison will gather information about the history of Heath St. (named for Gen'l. William Heath.) At the next meeting we will look at the information we've gathered, look at the survey results, and develop a workplan.

6. Lessons learned: Well, everything always takes longer than you'd think it would... and we spent some time worrying about Maria and her penchant for control, and then she didn't even come to the meeting! So don't go planning for anticipated negatives... although I don't think that should be a hard and fast rule. Sometimes it's important to have plans ready for possible negative occurrences.

Maggie Cohn  
Project in CED: The Revitalization of Heath Street  
Quarterly Report, April 5, 1997

### **1. Where the project stood at the beginning of the term:**

In January, we had completed the clean-up of the vacant lots along Heath St. We had created and begun to circulate a survey about the area's problems to area residents. The group was not an independent entity; the Heath St. project was essentially a project of the Hennigan Community School Advisory Board.

I had an extremely ambitious timeline for moving forward on the revitalization of Heath St. This timeline has now been revised (twice) to what feels like a more attainable set of goals.

### **2. Activities undertaken this term:**

- a. We expanded the distribution of surveys, working through a variety of community groups.
- b. I collected the completed surveys and compiled the data from the first 74 returned. This was handed out to attendees at the meeting we held on March 5th.
- c. We scheduled and held a meeting as a group independent of the Hennigan Community Center Advisory Board. People who had indicated on their completed surveys that they would be interested in attending meetings were called; four people who had not previously been to meetings came to the meeting on March 5th. (One of these was Peter Raftery, from a group which had earlier made a presentation to the Back of the Hill CDC and then to the Advisory Board about a proposed renovation and development of one parcel of land along Heath St.)
- d. Some initial tasks were agreed to by the group and taken on: researching the history of the area, obtaining a copy of the city's capital plan, circulating a petition for mailboxes along Heath St., and looking into upgrading the streetlights along Heath St.
- e. The next meeting was scheduled, for April 15.
- f. I have made a round of calls to all who have indicated interest in working on this, both residents and local business people, inviting them to the meeting on April 15.



### **3. Outcome of activities:**

The group has begun to have its own identity - although it does not yet have a name. (Heath St. Neighbors? the Heath St. Project? It's on the agenda for 4/15.)

Four new people attended the March meeting. Several who said they would attend, did not. However, when I called everyone to inform them of the next scheduled meeting, and we talked a bit about what happened at the last meeting, quite a few went to get pens and paper to note the date and place, so I am hopeful they will attend. I plan to make a round of reminder calls the end of the week before the meeting.

I also proposed to people that we have a brief one-on-one conversation prior to the next meeting, but only two were willing to give me the time... I've already held one interview and the second is scheduled for the week of April 7.

Alison has collected some interesting historical information about the old breweries in the area, and is now pursuing information about original colonizers of the area. I have met with the Jamaica Plain representative from the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services and begun what will no doubt be the long process of improving the street lighting.

### **4. Problems encountered:**

I have had to develop an awareness that this is a project in its infancy. It has not been easy to motivate people to get their surveys back or to come to meetings (much less agree to one-on-ones!)

City Hall is designed for those who already know their way around it. Figuring out who to talk to for what and then finding their office has been somewhat challenging.

### **5. Additional support needed from program:**

I was happy to see that our (short) technical lesson before our Project group meets the week is on interviewing. I need help with organizing skills, with talking to people without feeling that I'm somehow imposing on them. I do think that I have gotten help from my project group in both this area and in developing a more realistic timeline.

### **6. Plans for the coming term:**

My initial timeline called for house meetings to be planned and held in May and June. From these meetings I envisioned an expansion and stabilization of the core group.

This expanded and stable neighborhood group would then approach the City and Ruggles Baptist Church for concrete assistance in planning for development of the area.

The revised plan calls more humbly for continuing monthly meetings of our newly formed group throughout the summer. In May we can participate in another city-wide clean-up and remove the winter collection of trash from the vacant lots. We can take on some smaller, winnable tasks, such as the mailbox and streetlight campaigns. We can begin to strategize as a group our future work: getting the residences and factories along the street cleaned up; developing a plan for involving and mobilizing the larger community in the long-term plan for the development of vacant land on Heath St.

We will work on additional community outreach: public meetings, house meetings, focus groups etc.

Heath St. meeting  
Agenda - April 15, 1997

1. Introductions
2. Review survey results
3. Work Plan
  - Prioritize issues, ideas for actions, tasks
4. Reports on mailbox petition, lighting, history research
5. May 10 clean-up
6. Adjourn

Maggie Cohn  
Project: Heath St. Revitalization

Monthly Report, May 3, 1997

### 1. Major events

- a. Presented at Mission Hill Neighborhood Services Annual Meeting.
- b. Tallied survey results - total 114 collected.
- c. Heath St. Neighbors meeting held on April 15th. 9 in attendance. Group targeted 3 issues to start working on: lighting, traffic problems and planting trees. Decided to invite reps. from Mayor's office and from Maura Hennigan's office to our next meeting. Agreed to participate in Mission Hill Clean-up on May 10th.
- d. Talked to JP Neighborhood Council Business Committee about the Heath St. Project; they promised their support.
- e. Attended Community Policing meeting at station E-13 on May 1st. Sgt. VanZandt offered support. It turns out Heath St. is split down the middle between station E-13 and station B-2. Dianne Quiroga from Maura's office was there and offered to help.

### 2. People or organizations involved

Individuals from the Jefferson condos have become more involved - president of the board has agreed to attend next meeting, and continue on regular basis.

Maura Hennigan's office is getting involved; so is the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services.

### 3. Problems

Bromley Heath TMC is not playing as large a role as it initially appeared they would - this may be a problem, as the development occupies such a large area along Heath St., and represents a large percentage of the area's population.

Another potential problem is the inclination of elected officials to want to just do things themselves, in large part, I suspect, as a way to look good and collect more support (read: votes.) We may have to insist that Maura's aides work *with* us and not simply *for* us.

People in this neighborhood who tend to get involved also tend to be somewhat individualistic - the types who themselves will decide what needs to be done and then launch into making phone calls and pressing for action - but not at all as part of a unified group effort.

### 4. Efforts at problem resolution

We've limited the information we've given to Maura's office, to keep them more focused and controlled. We continue to invite people to our meetings and encourage them to work with us rather than on their own. I spoke to both Mildred Hailey and the new chief of security at Bromley-Heath at the E-13 meeting last week about the Heath St. Neighbors group and encouraged her to get involved and involve others from the development.

#### 5. Next steps

May 7th we have a meeting with Ed Coburn and Derrick Small from the mayor's office. Alison, David Wilhelmi, Ellen Bass and I have split up the list of names we have to make calls inviting people to that meeting. Before then (Monday May 4th) I'm to call Dianne Quiroga at Maura's office to explain to her where we need streetlights. At the May 7th meeting we plan to strategize who to approach and how to approach them, to actually get lights and trees, and a traffic study by the Transportation Dept.

#### 6. Lessons learned

Be patient. Be persistent. Be positive.

Heath St. Neighbors  
May 7, 1997

## Agenda

### 1. Introductions

### 2. Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services / Ed Coburn; Derrick Small What does it do? How can it be of help to us?

### 3. Our concerns

The survey results indicate that the neighborhood wants:

- \*better lighting
- \*more greenery (trees and parks)
- \*safer traffic patterns
- \*clean and maintained lots and street

### 4. Where do we go from here? How do we get better lighting, trees, clean lots? What deadlines do we need to know about?

### 5. Announcements

There is no May 14 meeting of Heath St. Neighbors

There is a neighborhood clean-up on May 10

Schedule next meeting

Maggie Cohn  
 Project in CED: Heath St Revitalization  
 June monthly report  
 May 31, 1997

1. *Major events in past month:* The meeting held on May 7th had good attendance (14 people) although one was Ed Coburn from the Office of Neighborhood Services and one was Irene Landry from the Boston Transportation Dept. Decided to write and circulate a petition to Commissioner Casazza of the Dept. of Public Works requesting improvements to street lighting and that traffic studies be conducted at both ends of Heath St. Petitions have been given out to Bobby Platt at the Community Center, David Worrell at Bromley-Heath, and Alison, David and myself from the Back of the Hill.

2. *People or organizations involved:* a) Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services; b) Boston Transportation Dept.; c) Jefferson School Condo residents; d) Back of the Hill CDC members; e) Hennigan Community Center; f) several unaffiliated neighborhood residents.

3. *Problems:* Lack of involvement on the part of Bromley-Heath continues to be a problem, and I don't know how to deal with it. David's come to some meetings, but not for a while. Figuring out who to go to and how to get action from the city is another (ongoing) problem.

4. *Efforts at problem resolution:* I've spoken with both David and Mildred Hailey about the importance of residents from the development being a part of the effort, and they've agreed but then nothing happens. After last month's meeting, Bobby Platt offered to call David - maybe he'll get a more concrete response. I also got a petition to David, and asked him about involving residents from their Board of Directors. He said he would bring it up at a committee meeting on May 28th.

I am going to propose that two or three of us from the HSN bring our petition in to the DPW rather than just mailing it, and see if we can't speak to someone while we're

there. That may have better effect than a piece of mail. Also, we should continue to try to involve Maura Hennigan's office - she's pretty good at constituent services.

5. *Next steps:* a) take petition to 3-deckers along Heath St for signatures; b) hold the next meeting on June 4th and schedule next meeting for early July; c) deliver the petitions to the DPW; d) call graduate programs in the area to see who might be able to assist with a feasibility study; e) push for a traffic study to be completed.

6. *Lessons learned:* It all takes a lot of time.



Heath St. Neighbors  
June 4, 1997

Agenda

1. Petition to Commissioner Casazza re: lighting
2. Traffic issues: traffic studies  
crosswalks  
signage
3. Other business: trees? anything else?
- \$. Next meeting. Should we establish a regular meeting schedule?  
Ellen Bass and Jim Lerner (Lenox-Martel) have a hard time  
getting to meetings on Wednesdays.

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## HEATH ST. NEIGHBORS

***next meeting: Tuesday, July 1, 6:00 pm***

**Hennigan Community Center**

**We're working to get improved lighting  
on Heath St; improved street signs,  
crosswalks and traffic enforcement in the  
neighborhood; and trees planted  
along Heath St.**

***Join us!***

Heath St. Neighbors  
July 2, 1997 agenda  
6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

1. Reports on

- Who owns the billboard across from the Jefferson and how can we have it removed?
- Who owns the lot across from the Jefferson?
- Walk/meeting with Richard Loring (DOT engineer)
- Clean-up

2. Traffic calming concepts; work currently being done in Eggleston Sq.

3. Urban Edge proposal at meeting held last Saturday: how does it affect us?

4. Lower Roxbury Transportation Strategies: plans for the "Tremont-Columbus corridor"

5. How do we proceed?

- Tasks to be done for next meeting
- Plan for community meeting?
- Schedule next meeting: first Tuesday in August

*There is a Main Streets meeting for Brigham Circle/Mission Hill tonight at 7:00 in the music room at Mission Church.*

*We planned to all bring letters or petitions we have individually sent the city. Copies of these should be gathered in one place.*

Heath St. Neighbors

July 1, 1997 agenda

6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

1. Reports on

- Who owns the billboard across from the Jefferson and how can we have it removed?
- Who owns the lot across from the Jefferson?
- Walk/meeting with Richard Loring (~~DOT~~ engineer) ~~BDD~~ **BTD**
- Clean-up

*eschedule*

2. Traffic calming concepts; work currently being done in Eggleston Sq.

3. Urban Edge proposal at meeting held last Saturday: how does it affect us?

4. Lower Roxbury Transportation Strategies: plans for the "Tremont-Columbus corridor"

*Melnea Cass → Jackson Sq.*

*Public mtg sometime in Sept.*

*Release final proposal. So far: better*

5. How do we proceed?

- Tasks to be done for next meeting
- Plan for community meeting?
- Schedule next meeting: first Tuesday in August

• *Traffic calming slide show / Mira / 20 min.*

*Signage; parking on both sides Columbus Mid-block - start across from price HQ-up to Electro- not continuous Passed by Lisa Labore planning dir*

*There is a Main Streets meeting for Brigham Circle/Mission Hill tonight at 7:00 in the music room at Mission Church.*

*We planned to all bring letters or petitions we have individually sent the city. Copies of these should be gathered in one place.*

*Public mtg July 17 6:30  
Student Center REC  
on Ruggles St*

*if issue:  
speed  
accidents*

Maggie Cohn  
Project Quarterly Report  
July 26, 1997

### Heath Street Revitalization

#### At the beginning of the term:

The group was still forming, a few people coming to meetings on a steady basis, but a lot of fluctuation in participation in general. We had completed and summarized the survey, and were trying to figure out what to do with it.

#### Activities undertaken this term:

We finally gave the group a name: Heath Street Neighbors.

Activities included a great deal of outreach to people who have, in one way or another, expressed an interest in this project. I have spent hours on the phone talking to folks about what happens at meetings and in-between meeting, and I have also spent time on the phone trying to reach various city employees. Did succeed in broadening the group - other residents of the Jefferson have been coming to meetings, and Irene Landry from Traffic Enforcement has been a regular participant. (Brought in by Joe Cameron.)

The group agreed in May that, based on the results of the survey, we would try to focus on three issues: the need for better streetlights, problems with traffic, and the lack of greenery on the street. We wrote up a petition to Commissioner Casazza of Public Works and took it around the neighborhood. Alison and I went up and down Heath Street with it, and through a corner of Bromley-Heath. Reception was uniformly positive.

We participated in the Mission Hill Neighborhood Clean-up in June (scheduled for May but rained out.) While cleaning along the Ruggles Baptist Church empty lots, I had a conversation with a man who owns two three-deckers on Heath, across from the school and alongside the Hayden steps. He was pleased to see us picking up rubbish (although he did not join in) and said

he's been trying to get the city to agree to either reopen or demolish the steps. They've been closed for 10 years, and are in bad shape, all overgrown... Alison and I had just been talking about how nice it would be if those steps were open and passable. We didn't discuss it at a Heath St. meeting, but we did raise it at a BOTH CDC board meeting, and decided that we will solicit opinions from the abutters on Lawn Street. And I will talk to the city to find out the process, and put it on the agenda for our next Heath St. meeting.

Joe Cameron scheduled a meeting with Dick Loring, an engineer at Transportation, and one morning he, Joe, Alison, Irene, and I walked the length of Heath Street. He agreed that a lot of new or replacement signage was needed. He also agreed that the rotary badly needs lighting - but he also pointed out that there is far too much pavement where Parker Street enters the rotary. His suggestion was that we ask DPW for a redesign of the rotary, which would include the installation of lights.

I've had several conversations with Sarah and Lizbeth at JPNDC - they will help us plan a community meeting for the fall.

#### Outcome of activities:

The petition about lighting collected over eighty signatures and was sent in to DPW with Ed Coburn from the Mayor's office. We are now trying to find out where it is, who to talk to about it, and whether there is a chance our request will be considered.

For several months we had fairly steady attendance at meetings, and then the July meeting was down to five people - who knows why. We're calling people about the August meeting, and we're able to say that there are two items on the agenda: a presentation on traffic calming, which Mira Brown of Bikes Not Bombs offered to do, and a discussion on planning a community meeting to be held in the fall, with help from NDC.

What problems did I encounter?

My own and others lethargy. The extreme difficulty of reaching anyone at City Hall on the telephone, or getting them to call you back.

What additional support do I need from the program?

Help with the organizing work - I'll be learning a lot in the fall by door-knocking for the community meeting, but any suggestions are still welcome.

I have talked to both Cheryl Patterson and David Worrell at TMC about how to involve Bromley residents, and they both have promised to put some thought into it, but that's as far as we've gotten. Possibly for the August meeting, definitely for the community meeting (October?) we'll get leaflets to everyone who signed the lighting petition.

What are my plans for the coming term?

I've revised my timeline once again...

The focus of the coming term will first be the community meeting and second, developing a plan for Heath Street. The step after that is to begin to work on implementing the plan, but I don't expect that to be underway until after January.

**HEATH STREET NEIGHBORS  
NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, 8/5  
AT 6:00  
AT THE HENNIGAN COMMUNITY CENTER**

**UNDER DISCUSSION:**

**TRAFFIC CALMING  
IMPROVED LIGHTING AND SIGNAGE  
PLANNING A COMMUNITY MEETING**

A survey taken last winter shows that many people in the neighborhood would like to see Heath Street improved... would like it to be a nicer street to walk on, a street with more housing and shops... a greener street.



Heath Street Neighbors  
August 5, 1997

## Agenda

1. Updates
2. Proposal for community meeting(s)
  - a) number and structure of meetings
  - b) decision-making structure
  - c) dates of meetings; timeline
  - d) outreach
3. Traffic-calming presentation

Maggie Cohn  
 Project: Heath Street Revitalization  
 August monthly report  
 September 13, 1997

1. The time since our last class weekend has been interesting. The city has responded to our letters and petitions and sent 2 men from the Public Works dept. to the 9/2/97 meeting of Heath St. Neighbors. I was away on vacation the last week of August and the first week of September... so we asked if we could meet with them after the 8th, and would they please get back to us (to Alison, as I was out of town) to let us know. They never called (Ed Coburn from the Mayor's office left a message on her machine at 5:30 the day of the meeting) and just showed up. Alison reports that it was not a bad meeting, that they mostly listened... Ricardo from NDC, who was there for part of the meeting, felt that they were trying to backburner work at the rotary end of the street.
2. Peter Scarpignato and John Foley (a minion) from Public Works came, along with Ed Coburn. There was a representative from the Jefferson School Condos there, and a couple of BOTH folks... no-one from Bromley-Heath, no-one from the Hyde Sq. neighborhood.
3. Richard had spoken to Mildred Hailey, who expressed enthusiasm... but B-H was not represented. (the ongoing issue.) That's problem #1. Problem #2 is going to be to actually get past the delaying tactics of Public Works. (Alison heard from a JP activist that he has yet to hear of a project in which Scarpignato is involved that reaches completion. He thinks he's sent to keep the community content while committing nothing.)
4. We are going to ask TMC to make a presentation at the community meeting on the renovation work at Bromley-Heath. And we're going to attempt to make a presentation ourselves before then to the tenants' board. We have the list of last year's board members. In terms of the DPW, we may be able to get some useful work out of young John Foley - they offered to research a) accident statistics for the intersections in question, b) an alleged BHA master plan for the area, and c) a study done several years ago of the Heath/S. Huntington intersection.
5. A sub-group of us will meet on 9/20 to discuss outreach for the community meeting, draft a flyer and a letter inviting the various community organizations, and develop a proposal for an agenda. The whole group will then meet on 10/7, when we will pin down the agenda and figure out logistics (food etc.) We should also have ideas for Spanish translation and childcare. (I have talked to Ricardo about this, so I'm sure we can use NDC resources... BOTH CDC can come up with some money if needed.)
6. Lessons learned? Hard to put into words... it's an ongoing learning process in working with people, and developing patience...

## HEATH STREET NEIGHBORS

### OCTOBER 21 - AGENDA

1. Introduction.
2. Structure of this meeting.
3. Reports and discussion of current projects or proposals for parts of Heath Street.

The first "report" will be a presentation on the historic brewery buildings in our neighborhood.

Following reports and discussions will be about:  
improvements in traffic patterns, signage and the General Heath rotary;  
the brewery building at the corner of Heath and Columbus;  
Bromley-Heath renovations;  
a proposal for the old transfer station across from the Hennigan School;  
the redesign of the Hennigan School playground;  
the empty lots along Heath St.;  
plans by the VA Hospital for its property facing Heath St.;  
and the intersection of Heath St. and South Huntington Avenue.

### 4. Closing

*The next meeting of Heath Street Neighbors will be Wednesday, November 5th, at the Hennigan Community Center, at 6:00. All are welcome!*

*Please use the index card to let us know about which projects you want to be kept informed, or in which ones you want to get more involved.*

Maggie Cohn  
Project in CED  
Monthly Report  
October 18, 1997

We spent this month planning for the community meeting, which will be held next Tuesday evening. At our October 7th meeting, we planned the agenda: first will be an introduction explaining the genesis of Heath Street Neighbors, and reporting on the survey that we did last winter. Following that, we'll describe how the meeting will proceed.

There are several groups reporting on their "improvement projects" on or near Heath Street - a member of the local historical society will open, with a short history of the historic brewery buildings in the area; he will be followed by Irene Landry (hopefully) from the Boston Transportation Dept., talking about plans for new traffic signs and improvements to traffic flow; Bromley-Heath tentatively will talk about the renovation of the development, Urban Edge will give a brief presentation on development plans for an abandoned brewery at the junction of Heath Street and Columbus Ave....

After each presentation (except the piece on historic buildings) we will ask for comments, questions, and ideas from the audience. The idea is to spark people's interest in one or more of the various possible projects. When folks sign in, we'll give them a blank index card, and at the end of the meeting, they will be asked to fill them out with their name, address, and phone, and note what it is about which they want to be kept informed, or on what they might be willing to work.

2,000 copies of the flyer were printed, and everyone present took responsibility for leafletting some part of the area.

Ricardo Sanchez from JPNDNC offered to facilitate the meeting. Urban Edge has promised to find a translator. Lenox-Martel, a neighborhood business, will donate beverages. The Community Center and BOTH CDC will be asked to help pay for snacks. Alison and I will do the introductions and the closing (which I imagine will be pretty quick!)

My hope at this point is to get 30 new people to the meeting, and for some of them (maybe 5?) to be interested in getting at least a little more involved. If a clear mandate to proceed in a specific direction comes from the meeting, that will dictate the focus of our committee for the immediate future. If there are enough people to form more than one committee, to work on more than one project, I will be very very happy.

I did pay a visit to the TMC office to see the BHA "master plan" for Bromley-Heath, to see how it affects Heath St. Interestingly, they show a sidewalk expanding and absorbing Gen'l. Heath Sq., our troublesome rotary. So far, nobody has been able to tell me if that is still the plan.

## Proposal for community meetings

### Meeting #1

- Discuss process
- Establish goals
- Establish decision-making process
- Create steering committee
- Report on work done to date
- Open discussion of interests, concerns, priorities

### Between meeting #1 and meeting #2

Steering committee takes information from first meeting, looks into general feasibility issues (grade of land, ballpark costs of various options); creates proposal for street based on zones: area for commercial, for housing, for open space...

### Meeting #2

- Present “zoned” proposal, with report on feasibility issues.
- Get feedback, ideas of different configurations, etc.

### Between meeting #2 and meeting #3

Steering committee refines proposed plan

### Meeting #3

Community discusses proposed plan, establishes committees, establishes committees to work on higher priority items.

## HEATH STREET NEIGHBORS

September 24, 1997

Dear neighbors,

On October 21, 1997, at 7:00 p.m., there will be an open community meeting at the Hennigan Community Center. The purpose of the meeting is to begin to develop a plan for improvements to Heath Street, and to identify residents' priorities for future development.

Our group, Heath Street Neighbors, has been meeting monthly for the past year and a half. Residents from both sides of Heath Street - from Hyde Square, the Back of the Hill, and Bromley-Heath - have been involved. Slowly, we have been working to build a coalition that can insist that the city pay attention to Heath St. A year ago, we took city councilor Maura Hennigan and representatives from the city's Public Works department on a tour of the vacant lots, and the white picket fences went up shortly afterwards. We have helped organize two neighborhood clean-up days; we have petitioned Public Works for more lighting at General Heath Square (by Bromley-Heath); we have walked the street with representatives of the city's Transportation Department to identify missing traffic signs as well as parking and traffic problems.

We are inviting various community organizations to give brief presentations at the community meeting about improvement projects in which they are involved. As an important link in our network, your organization and members are encouraged to attend. If you have had achievements in the past year that you would like to acknowledge publicly, please take this opportunity to do so.

Bromley-Heath is undergoing a major renovation. The Hennigan School is rebuilding its playground. We think it's important that we, as residents and neighbors, decide what we would like to see *the whole length* of Heath St. look like, and bring a proposal to the city, rather than just responding to what the city, or speculators, may bring to us.

*Please share this invitation with your Board and members. Consider joining our committee - we have been meeting on the first Tuesday of the month but will review our meeting schedule so that the time will be convenient for the maximum number of people. We look forward to seeing you on the 21st!*

Sincerely,

Maggie Cohn and Alison Pultinas  
for Heath St. Neighbors

*For more information, or to have a report from your organization placed on the agenda for October 21st, please call Maggie Cohn at 739-9751 or Alison Pultinas at 739-1489.*

56  
**COME, AND BE PART OF  
THE SOLUTION.**

**PARTICIPATE IN A  
COMMUNITY MEETING  
TO PLAN HEATH STREET  
IMPROVEMENTS.**

**OCT. 21ST  
7 PM**

**HENNIGAN COMMUNITY CENTER  
200 HEATH STREET**

**REFRESHMENTS & CHILDCARE  
PROVIDED**

**FOR INFORMATION CALL: 739-1489 OR 739-9751**

**TO RESERVE A RIDE HOME CALL:  
BOBBY PLATT 635-5198**

**SPONSORED BY HEATH STREET NEIGHBORS**

# **VENGA! SEA PARTE DE LA SOLUCION!**

## **PARTICIPE EN UNA REUNION COMUNITARIA PARA PROPONER MEJORAS EN LA CALLE HEATH.**

**21 de Octubre  
a las 7:00 p.m.**

El Centro Comunitario de la Escuela Hennigan  
209 de la Calle Heath

proveeremos refrigerios, cuidado de niños, y traducción al español.

para mas información, llama a 739-1489 o 739-9751.

Si necesita transporte de regreso,  
favor de reservar con Bobby Platt, 635-5198

Auspiciado por Heath Street Neighbors/Vecinos de la calle Heath



## **AGENDA FOR OCTOBER 21ST MEETING**

*When people enter: Have sign-in table, give each a copy of the agenda and a blank index card for them to fill out at the end of the meeting (or whenever they leave.)*

1. *Alison (or Maggie):* Heath Street Neighbors grew out of ... We circulated an informal survey last winter. Safety. Lighting. Petition. Redesigning rotary. What does community want?

2. *Maggie (or Alison):* The structure of the meeting. Brief reports. Time for community's response: questions, comments, additional ideas. Columbus progressing to South Huntington. *(write on flip charts and post on walls - not a time for debate but a time for brainstorming.)*

a) Presentation by Michael Reiskind on breweries. *(no discussion after)*

b) Traffic and signage. Irene is on leave from work and will not be here. Dick Harding? or can Alison give report? What new signage planned; Richard Loring's thoughts on redesigning Heath Circle; etc.

*Encourage discussion about possible redesign of Heath Square  
(possibility that there will be mention of issue of "light industry" zoning.)*

c) Brewery / Dick Mason (Urban Edge) - info on pending proposals for development; timeline for community process. *follow with discussion*

d) Bromley-Heath renovations - including plans for Heath Street at Heath Circle.

*Possibly no presenter, in which case, do we skip over it, or acknowledge that it's going on but there's no one to talk about it?*

e) Peter Raftery and plan for Ruggles Church bldg.

f) Hennigan Playground *(this can be very short if pictures are displayed around room).*

*Encourage discussion of possibility of developing empty lots - what would folks like to see?*

g) VA Hospital plan as it impacts Heath Street.

*Follow with discussion of Heath/South Huntington intersection.*

4. Close - refer to index cards, ask each person to write name, address, phone, and issue that interests them most - what they want to get involved in or about which they want to be kept informed. Announce next regular meeting. Thank you all for coming.

*Next regular meeting is first WEDNESDAY in November (11/3) (Tuesday is election day).*

Ricardo from NDC will facilitate.

Dick Mason will provide a translator.

Karen Chacon's daughter (Karen also) will provide childcare.

Lenox-Martel will provide beverages; maybe Community Center and BOTH can provide food (snacks).

***Mailing list for community meeting,  
10/21/97***

Back of the Hill Condos  
c/o Rick Yoder, Trustee  
50 Lawn St.  
Roxbury, Mass. 02120

Kay Gallagher, president  
BOTH CDC Board of Directors  
100 South Huntington Ave.  
J.P., Mass. 02130

Jefferson Schoolhouse Condo Assoc.  
c/o Doug Wohn  
240 Heath St.  
J.P., Mass. 02130

Robert Platt, director  
Hennigan Community Center  
200 Heath Street  
J.P., Mass. 02130

Valerie Gomes, director  
Early Learning Center West  
200 Heath St.  
J.P., Mass. 02130

Board of Elders  
Ruggles Baptist Church  
874 Beacon St.  
Boston, Mass. 02115

Deacons, Ruggles Baptist Church  
and  
Moderator, Ruggles Baptist Church

Peter Raftery  
Boston Neighborhood Resource Center  
PO Box 137  
J.P., Mass. 02130

Bromley-Heath Tenant Management  
Corporation  
Board of Directors  
10 Lamartine St.  
J.P., Mass. 02130

Mildred Hailey, David Worrell, David  
Hoffman, Cheryl Patterson  
Bromley-Heath TMC  
10 Lamartine St.  
J.P., Mass. 02130

Eleanor Kearsse-Perry, principal  
Hennigan Elementary School  
200 Heath St.  
J.P., Mass. 02130

Pamela Glover  
Parents School Site Council  
Hennigan Elementary School  
200 Heath St.  
J.P., Mass. 02130

Hyde Square Task Force  
PO Box 1871  
J.P., Mass. 02130

Hyde Square Co-ops  
Board of Directors  
c/o James Bruce  
18 Arcola St.  
J.P., Mass. 02130

Walden-Minden Neighborhood  
Crime Watch  
c/o Karen Chacon  
JP NDC  
30 Germania St.  
J.P., Mass. 02130

Back of the Hill Townhouse Condo  
Association  
c/o Barkan Management  
24 Farnsworth St.  
Boston, Mass.

Edgehill-Roundhill Neighborhood  
Association  
c/o Tina Holland  
11 Evergreen St.  
J.P., Mass. 02130

Pat Flaherty, president  
Mission Hill NHS Board of Directors  
1530 Tremont St.  
Roxbury, Mass. 02120

Fred Ficken  
Mission Hill Board of Trade  
48 Hillside St.  
Roxbury, Mass. 02120

Tony Barros  
Hyde/Jackson Business Assoc.  
PO Box 1307  
J.P., Mass. 02130

JP APAC  
295 Centre St.  
J.P., Mass. 02130

Martha Eliot Community  
Advisory Board  
75 Bickford St.  
J.P., Mass. 02130

Alison Cook  
Friends of Nira Rock  
9 Cranston St.  
J.P., Mass. 02130

Kristin Graney  
Office of Public Affairs  
Boston VA Medical Center  
150 South Huntington Ave.  
J.P., Mass. 02130

Tina Saxon  
Disciples Baptist Church  
80 Bickford St.  
J.P., Mass 02130

Maura Hennigan  
Boston City Council  
District 6  
New City Hall  
Boston, Mass. 02201

Tom Keane  
Boston City Council  
District 8  
New City Hall  
Boston, Mass. 02201

JP Historical Society  
c/o Michael Reiskind  
425 South Huntington Ave.  
J.P., Mass. 02130

JP Neighborhood Council  
Public Service Committee  
c/o Kevin Moloney  
42 Eliot St.  
J.P., Mass. 02130

Community Alliance of Mission Hill  
PO Box 451  
Boston, Mass. 02120

JP Community Center  
Regional Board of Directors  
Curtis Hall  
20 South St.  
J.P., Mass. 02130

Usha Kaul  
Property Management  
Public Facilities Dept.  
26 Court St.  
Boston, Mass. 02108

Irene Landry  
BTD  
200 Frontage Rd.  
Boston, Mass. 02118

Davis Kaplan, Hope VI  
BHA  
52 Chauncy St.  
Boston, Mass. 02111

Lauri Scharf  
Earthworks  
39 Sherborn St.  
Arlington, Mass. 02174

Boston Schoolyard Funders  
Collaborative  
c/o Kirk Meyer  
The Boston Foundation  
1 Boston Place, 24th floor  
Boston, Mass. 02108

Prevention Now!  
200 Heath St.  
J.P., Mass/ 02130

Jeanne Bruno, manager  
Back of the Hill Apartments  
100 South Huntington Ave.  
J.P., Mass. 02130

Not mailed to:  
Asterios Politis  
c/o 54 Parklawn Rd.  
W. Roxbury, Mass. 02132

This survey has been put together by a group composed of members of the Hennigan Community School Advisory Board, the Back of the Hill CDC, Jamaica Plain NDC, Bromley Heath TMC and other residents of the area. We are concerned about the condition of Heath Street, and want to find out how other residents view it. Please consider the whole length of Heath St., from South Huntington to Columbus Ave. We hope this will be the beginning of a process of determining what kind of changes we as a community might want to make to Heath Street in order to make it a better street in our neighborhood.

Do you use Heath Street?

If "yes," in what way? \_\_\_\_\_ do you drive?

\_\_\_\_\_ do you walk?

\_\_\_\_\_ do you live there?

\_\_\_\_\_ other \_\_\_\_\_

If no, why not?

What kind of transportation do you mostly use? \_\_\_\_\_ car

\_\_\_\_\_ bus

\_\_\_\_\_ trolley

\_\_\_\_\_ subway

\_\_\_\_\_ bicycle

\_\_\_\_\_ walking

\_\_\_\_\_ other \_\_\_\_\_

What do you use Heath Street for? \_\_\_\_\_ to go shopping

\_\_\_\_\_ to visit friends

\_\_\_\_\_ just to pass through the area

\_\_\_\_\_ to attend community school programs

\_\_\_\_\_ my child attends the Hennigan

\_\_\_\_\_ other \_\_\_\_\_

Is Heath St. a part of your neighborhood?

What do you like about Heath St.?

What do you dislike about Heath Street?

How do you think Heath St. (and the area around it) can be improved?

- ☐ better lighting
- ☐ cross walks
- ☐ lower speed limit/better speed limit signs
- ☐ better bus service
- ☐ clean up properties
- ☐ other \_\_\_\_\_

How would any of these changes improve Heath Street?

What changes might make you see Heath St. more as a street on which to walk?

Specifically, would you like to see improvements on the vacant lots on Heath St.?

- What kind of improvements? ☐ housing
- ☐ stores
  - ☐ parks
  - ☐ light industry
  - ☐ city/state/federal agency offices
  - ☐ job training sites
  - ☐ other \_\_\_\_\_

What is your favorite street in the Boston area?

Additional comments:

- ☐ resident of J.P.
- ☐ resident of Mission Hill
- ☐ other \_\_\_\_\_

I would be interested in attending future planning meetings \_\_\_\_\_

I will host a house meeting in my neighborhood \_\_\_\_\_

**Encuesta De La Comunidad**  
**Neceistamos tu opion, solo cinco minutos de su tiempo**

*Esta encuesta haciedo hecha por meimbros del Centro De Comunidad de la escuela Hennigan. Miembro incluido's son el Centro de Comunidad Hennigan Consultiva Directiva, Back of the hill CDC, Jamaica Plain NDC, Bromley Heath street, y otras residencia del la area. Nosotros estamos Procopados de la condicion de la calle Heathe, y queremos saber como usted la ven. Por favor considera la entera calle Heath comensando de South Huntington hasta Columbus Ave. Estamos Esperando que esto vas a ser el comienzo, para saber que paso tenemos que cojer para nuestra Communida hacer la calle heath mas mejor para el vecindario.*

**1. Usa la calle Heath?**

*Si, si en que manera?*

- ☐ *mannaje*
- ☐ *camina*
- ☐ *Vive en esta calle*
- ☐ *otra*

**2. Para que usted usa la calle Heath?**

- ☐ *ir de compra*
- ☐ *para visitar amigos*
- ☐ *paso en la area*
- ☐ *Para atender*
- ☐ *programas en la comunidad*
- ☐ *mi hijos atienden*
- ☐ *la escuela Hennigan*

**3. Es la calle Heath parte de tu vecendario?**

**4. Que usted le gusta de la calle Heath?**

**5. Que no le gusta de la calle Heath?**

**6. Como usted crea que podemos Arregalare a la calle Heath?**

- ☐ *mejores semaforos*
- ☐ *mejores peatones*
- ☐ *bajar el limited de velocidad*
- ☐ *mejor transportacion*
- ☐ *Limpiar propiedades*

Responses to the Heath St. survey; numbers based on multiple responses (percentages will not add up to 100%.) Some surveys incomplete. 114 have been collected.

1. Do you use Heath St.?            yes: all; drive: 61 (54%)  
   walk: 64 (56%)  
   live there: 24  
   other: bike: 7
- How often: daily: 54  
   2-3 times a week: 10  
   weekly: 4  
   sometimes: 2
- Why not? unsafe; heavy traffic
2. Use for: shopping: 25  
                visiting: 29  
                passing through: 62  
                attend community center: 20  
                child attends Hennigan: 13  
                Other: work at Hennigan: 14  
                    use the laundromat: 3  
                    get to doctor, hospital: 2  
                    work in area: 6
3. Do you see Heath St. as part of your neighborhood? yes: 75  
   no: 19
4. What do you like about Heath St.  
    convenient to T, downtown, bikepath: 26  
    local services: Community Center, laundromat, bodega: 18  
    current improvements; townhouses: 6  
    sense of neighborhood: 9  
    sense of history: 2  
    quiet: 2
5. What do you dislike about Heath St.  
    poor lighting: 10  
    unsafe, desolate, gangs hanging out, drugs: 39  
    ugly, dirty, badly maintained: 36  
    traffic, traffic patterns, trucks: 21  
    lack of food stores and shops: 2



6. How can it be improved?

better lighting: 67 (59%)  
 crosswalks: 62 (54%)  
 lower speed limit: 58 (51%)  
 better bus service: 43 (38%)  
 clean it up: 76 (67%)

other: plant trees and landscape, increase police patrols, clean up the factories, fix up old buildings, repair the street, economic development and commercial activity, more people, open the Hayden St. steps, put trash cans on the street, put the trolley underground

7. How would improvements change the street?

increased safety: 34  
 closer amenities, easier transit, jobs: 3  
 sense of community: 12  
 more people, more residents: 6  
 friendlier: 5  
 nicer to walk, cleaner: 8  
 increased use: 2

8. What kind of transportation do you use?

car: 67 (59%)  
 bus: 38 (33%)  
 trolley: 21 (18%)  
 subway: 33 (29%)  
 bicycle: 12 (11%)  
 walking: 55 (48%)

9. What changes would make Heath St. better for walking?

police patrols, security: 16  
 neighborhood events, activities: 4  
 better lighting, cleaner, fix up buildings: 25  
 stores, restaurants, housing, development: 16  
 trees & grass, gardens, landscaping, benches: 7  
 more people: 6  
 slow down cars, clarify traffic pattern: 4

10. Improve vacant lots? yes: 86

no: 0

housing: 51 (45%)  
 stores: 64 (56%)  
 parks: 54 (47%)  
 light industry: 24 (21%)  
 agency offices: 20 (18%)

job training: 42 (37%)

other: parking: 2

gardens: 4

picnic area: 1

library, community centers, basketball court, jobs: 4

#### 11. Favorite St.?

multiple mentions: Charles St., Comm. Ave. Centre St., Lawn St., Newbury St., Beacon St.

single mentions: South End residential streets, Washington St. downtown, Granada Park, Hanover St., SW corridor through the South End, Batterymarch St., Louisburg Sq., Beacon St., Tremont St., Brimmer St., parts of Back Bay, Mass Ave. in Central Sq., Chestnut St. in JP, Heath St., (my street), Tremont from Huntington to Columbus, Walden St., Harvard Ave., Jamaicaaway

Why? quaint, beautiful, safe, peaceful: 6

business district, everything there/need no car: 8

clean, well-lit: 5

sense of community, pedestrian & bike-friendly: 3

narrow and lively, diverse: 1

#### 12. Additional comments:

Good luck, I wish you well.

I would like to see a variety of stores

Bromley-Heath is looking good!

It would be nice to add jobs and job training programs to the neighborhood

What is the history of the area?

#### 13. Street on which you live:

Bickford: 1

Lawn: 6

Bucknam: 1

Parker: 3

Carmel: 1

Round Hill: 1

Child: 1

Sachem: 2

Fisher: 4

Walden: 12

Heath: 19

elsewhere: 15

Hillside: 1

Iroquois: 1

Willing to attend meeting: 26 (+ others who neglected to write their names/phone numbers)

Willing to host meeting: 3

Dear Commissioner Casazza,

We are residents of Heath St. and of the neighborhoods surrounding it, and we are writing to ask you to upgrade the lighting along Heath St. Much of the street is currently lit by City of Boston lights, but there is a long stretch from 89 Heath to the corner of New Heath and Parker, and Heath and Parker at Bromley-Heath, which has Edison lights and is barely lit at all.

Adequate lighting is a strong positive factor in any neighborhood. People use Heath St. to go to the Hennigan Community Center and the V.A. Hospital on South Huntington, and to come and go to the Jackson Sq. Orange Line station. The lack of lighting creates the potential for danger and an atmosphere of fear. We would like to see additional lighting by the Bromley-Heath development, and all around the triangular rotary where Parker, Wensley, New Heath and Heath streets intersect. We would like to see the city-owned lights have brighter bulbs installed.

We have spoken to both Sgt. Van Zandt in Community Policing at station E13 and to John Harden, a community service officer in area B; both have offered to support this request. City Councilor Maura Hennigan's office also supports us. We hope to add your support as well.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
1. Muntaqima Miller	122 Heath St #95
2. JACE B WARD	130 HEATH ST #100
3. Jose J. Brigham	130 Heath St 106
4. Brannis McIntosh	130 Heath St 106
5. Grady Nuly	9 Hwan Way
6. Kenneth W. A'gham	130 Heath St 106
7. Robert Smith	57 HANWAY J.P.
8. Carl Johnson	10 PLANT CT. J.P.
9. Terrance Lewis	50 BICKFORD J.P.
10. Gladys Brown	52 Lamartine
11. ESTELLE Smith	130 HEATH
12. Robynne Smith	940 Parker St.
13. Mary Anne Baker	70 Iroquois St.
14. Charlene Smith	52 Lamartine St
15. Susie Smith	57 Hwanway J.P.
16. Bonnie Jones	93 O PARKER STREET
17. Estelle Smith	57 Hwan Way
18. Jennifer Seigel	300 Heath St. JD.

Dear Commissioner Casazza,

We are residents of Heath St. and of the neighborhoods surrounding it, and we are writing to ask you to upgrade the lighting along Heath St. Much of the street is currently lit by City of Boston lights, but there is a long stretch from 89 Heath to the corner of New Heath and Parker, and Heath and Parker at Bromley-Heath, which has Edison lights and is barely lit at all.

Adequate lighting is a strong positive factor in any neighborhood. People use Heath St. to go the Hennigan Community Center and the V.A. Hospital on South Huntington, and to come and go to the Jackson Sq. Orange Line station. The lack of lighting creates the potential for danger and an atmosphere of fear. We would like to see additional lighting by the Bromley-Heath development, and all around the triangular rotary where Parker, Wensley, New Heath and Heath streets intersect. We would like to see the city-owned lights have brighter bulbs installed.

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<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
1. Robert L. White	37 Fayston ST Boston mass 02121
2. Neema Hanna	111 Heath ST J.P.
3. Ruthann Mahn	235 Heath St Jamaica plains MA
4. Chris Edwards	235 Heath St J.P. MA 02130
5. C. V. H. H. H.	240 HEATH ST J.P. MA 02130
6. Kathleen Bahrnsli	78 Linn St, Boston MA 02120
7. Christine Curtis	143 Fisher Ave, Roxbury 02120
8. Harry Taylor	143 Fisher Ave, Boston, MA 02120
9.	
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	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
1.	Pauline Silva	33 Plant Ct Tp. Walden
2.	Xem thi Le	Heath St Landmark
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
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9.		
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	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
1.	Alemesh Cebe	60 Woodstock Ave - (Hennigan parent)
2.	ABEBA 227 Fent	227 Heath St. J.P.
3.		
4.	Michael Mader Jackson	5 CROTTG CLOTH RD J.P.
5.	Toni Williams Work	71 Lawn St.
6.	Jill ZEINA	75 LAWN ST. Mission Hill
7.	Kathy Sanders	31 Hayden St. Roxbury
8.		
9.	Neel	4. ...
10.	Sarah Griffin	12 Robinson St + J.P.
11.	<del>Jefferson</del> 216 Heath St Jefferson Condos Trustee	
12.	Paul	2010 COLUMBUS AVE (UNSUBS)
13.	William Johnson	240 Heath St. J.P.
14.	Douglas Work	" " " "
15.		
16.		
17.		

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<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
1. <i>Daniel McWilliam</i>	30 Lawn St Rox. 02120
2. <i>Chen &amp; An J.</i>	31 Hayden St. Roxbury, MA 02120
3. <i>Catherine Gallagher</i>	8 Bucknam St Mission Hill MA 02122
4. <i>Ann Gallagher</i>	" " "
5. <i>Barbara Wessman</i>	28 Lawn St Roxbury
6. <i>Christopher Norwood</i>	175 Heath St
7. <i>Richard Girders</i>	143 Fisher Ave Roxbury 02120
8. <i>Patricia S. Lelakerty</i>	8 Bucknam St #2 Mission Hill 02120
9. <i>Alvin Pultrinas</i>	81 LAWN ST ROXBURY 02120
10. <i>Christina Curren</i>	143 Fisher Ave.
11. <i>Ida Graues</i>	54 Lawn St
12. <i>Lewis &amp; Hajie Johnson</i>	30 Lawn St Roxbury 02120
13. <i>Cheryl LaFollette</i>	43 Holbrook St Jamaica Plain, Ma. 02130
14.	
15.	
16.	
17.	



## Boston City Council

Maura A. Hennigan  
District 6  
635-4217

May 7, 1997

Commissioner Joseph Casazza  
Boston Public Works Department  
One City Hall Square/Room 714  
Boston, Massachusetts 02201

Dear Commissioner Casazza,

Our office recently attended a meeting of the Heath Street Neighbors Association. Topping the list of issues raised at this meeting were the following:

- 3 Street lights installed from 89 Heath Street to the corner of Wensley and Heath Streets
- Two or three lights are needed between 69 and 89 Heath Street
- Street lights across 89 Heath Street to intersection of Parker and Heath Streets, 926 Parker Street, building address is in Bromley-Heath Development
- Furthermore lights are needed on Parker Street (both sides) as Parker comes into the rotary by Wensley, New Heath and Terrace Streets

This community has made great inroads in enhancing safety throughout their neighborhood, yet this highly unusual situation exists where an entire stretch of road is devoid of lights. Any assistance you can provide to help install these lights will undoubtedly aid them in their efforts.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If I can be of further assistance on this, please do not hesitate to call me at 635-4217.

Sincerely,

**MAURA A. HENNIGAN**  
Boston City Council





143 Fisher Ave.  
Roxbury, MA 02120

June 17, 1997

Commissioner Casazza  
Dept. of Public Works  
City Hall  
1 City Hall Sq., Boston, MA

Dear Commissioner Casazza,

Our group, Heath Street Neighbors, recently submitted a petition asking that additional streetlights be installed along Heath Street, and that the lights that are already there be upgraded.

Yesterday, several of us met with Richard Loring of the Dept. of Transportation. Together with Irene Landry from Traffic Enforcement, we walked the length of Heath Street, assessing needs for additional or replacement signage and crosswalks. We mentioned to Mr. Loring that we were petitioning your department for lighting. When we reached General Heath Square, where Parker, Heath, Wensley and New Heath Streets intersect, he recommended that before the DPW spend time and money installing lighting, the square be looked at for redesign possibilities.

He pointed out a fact of which we were already aware: there is far too much open pavement at that intersection, as well as there being insufficient lighting and a lack of signs. This letter is, therefore, an addendum to our petition. We are asking that General Heath Square be redesigned, to rationalize the flow of traffic and increase pedestrian safety. In connection with a redesign, we ask that additional lighting be installed.

We would like someone from your department to come meet with us, to see the area and gain a better understanding of what we need. Please feel free to call me (at 739-9751) with any questions or for more information.

Thank you for your attention to this.

Sincerely,

Maggie Cohn, for Heath St. Neighbors

cc. Richard Loring  
Ed Coburn

# Boston

Thomas M. Menino, Mayor

August 25, 1997

Ms. Maggie Cohn,  
for Heath Street Neighbors  
413 Fisher Avenue  
Boston, Massachusetts 02120

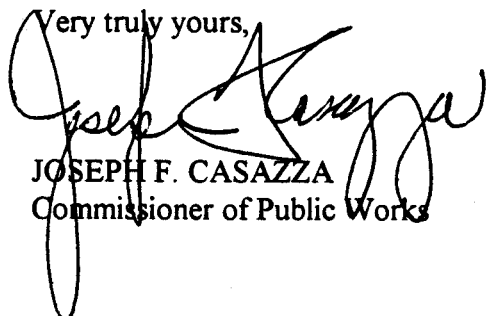
Dear Ms. Cohn,

**RE: HEATH STREET IN THE CITY OF BOSTON**

I am in receipt of your letter dated June 17, 1997 regarding improvements at Heath Street and Parker Street. Representatives of this Department's Engineering Division have been coordinating with Ed Coburn of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services and will be in attendance at the community meeting, Tuesday, September 2, 1997 at the Hennigan School in Jamaica Plain.

My understanding is that the purpose of this meeting is to discuss the communities requests and the proposed improvements to General Heath Street Square. I hope you will be able to attend the meeting. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please call John Foley of the Engineering Division at 635-4968. Thank you for your cooperation.

Very truly yours,

  
JOSEPH F. CASAZZA  
Commissioner of Public Works

JFC/PS/jjf

pwd\_710/foley/heath st/cohn.doc



PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT / Boston City Hall / City Hall Plaza 02201  
Joseph F. Casazza, Commissioner, 635-4900  
FAX 635-7499

81 Lawn St.

75

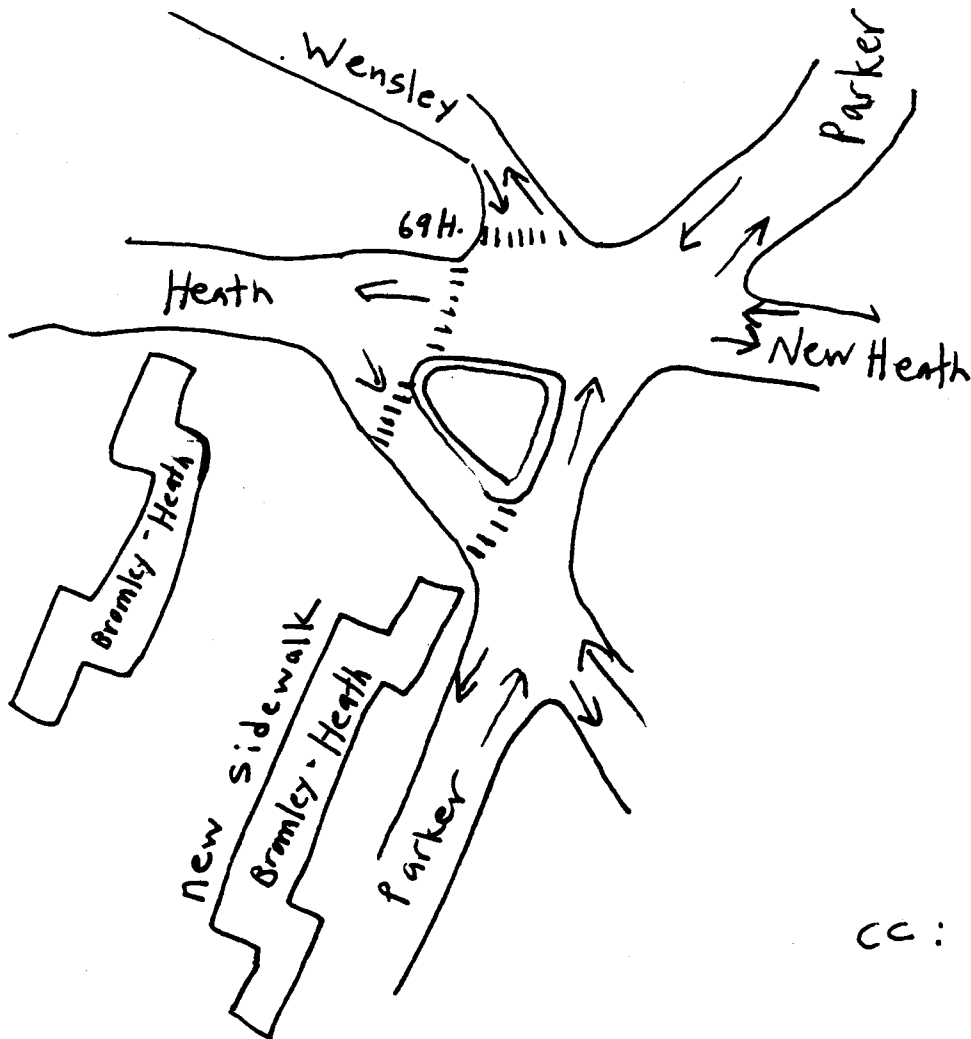
ROXBURY, MA 02120

Oct. 30, 1997

Dear

The Heath Street Neighbors met on Monday 10/27/97 to discuss the reopening of the long closed pizza and sub shop at 69 Heath St. owned by the Politis family. The owner stated that in the past most of the customers were from the Bramley-Heath development. David Worrell from TMC emphasized the safety concerns that Bramley-Heath residents have for children crossing streets within the development. The neighborhood is concerned that although crossing Heath St. is hazardous, the reopened sub shop will attract pedestrians who will risk crossing without a crosswalk. There was a consensus that because of the heavy traffic at General Heath Square it is very important to repaint the existing crosswalks there immediately. Because of attrition and patchwork resurfacing in the street, the old crosswalks have worn away.

The new curbs and sidewalks on the Bramley - Heath side need the curb cuts for the wheel chair ramps. I have drawn a sketch showing the most logical places for repainting the stripes, using the Square as a pedestrian island. Thank you for your attention to this matter.



cc: Dick Hardy BTD  
 Councillor T. Keane  
 Councillor Maureen Hennigan  
 Ed Coburn M.O.N.S.  
 John Foley P.W.D.  
 Shirky Ranson BHA

Sincerely,

Alison Pullman  
 739-1489



## HEATH STREET NEIGHBORS

c/o 143 Fisher Ave.  
Roxbury, Mass. 02120

Boston Transportation Department  
1 City Hall Square  
Boston Mass. 02201

Dear Commissioner Magee,

I'm writing on behalf of Heath Street Neighbors, a community group that has been meeting at the Hennigan Community Center for the past year and a half. We have been concerned about several transportation-related problems along Heath Street, and have met with Irene Landry from Traffic Enforcement, and with Richard Loring from Engineering.

Last winter, a survey we circulated in the neighborhood indicated that a major issue on Heath St. is safety, and that an improvement in lighting is desired by the community. However, when Mr. Loring saw the rotary at General Heath Sq., his perception was that lighting alone would be insufficient, and that a complete redesign was needed.

Since then, we have met with Peter Scarpignato and John Foley from the Department of Public Works. They have promised that in late winter or early spring they will meet with our group to present the preliminary drawing of a proposed redesign of the rotary. We understand that the designs would be generated by the Department of Public Works and approved by the Transportation Department. Public Works proposes bringing a 25% plan. We think it would be less costly and time-consuming to simply present several concepts for discussion, which can then be worked into an accurate drawing.

We have two requests. First, we would like the General Heath Rotary to be included in the Lower Roxbury Transportation Study. As you can see from the enclosed drawing, the rotary sits on the edge of the designated area. Because Heath St. feeds such a large number of cars onto Columbus Ave., and because the present design of the rotary presents a serious traffic and pedestrian hazard, it makes sense to extend the boundary of the study to include the rotary. As part of the Lower Roxbury Transportation Study, we could have the assistance of consultants from the study in the redesign process, and this would be extremely helpful.

Our second request is that we be brought three alternative conceptual designs, so that we have different options to consider - each of which will have its own strengths and weaknesses. We understand this is not your decision alone to make, but your Department will be involved in the design process to a certain extent. A meeting with several proposals, attended by businesses and individuals from the community, would produce a design which would meet everyone's criteria and be more easily accepted by the community.

I can be reached at the above address, or by telephone at 739-9751.

sincerely,

Maggie Cohn

cc: Ed Coburn, Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services  
John Foley, Public Works Department

WRITTEN BY LYDIA AGRO,  
FORAN  
KONA BREWSTER

# News Round-Up



## FREE PARKING AT BRIGHAM

LONGWOOD AVE—  
m and Women's Hospi-  
turning 15 employee park-  
spaces at 221A Longwood  
ue into paid parking spaces  
ients. The Boston zon-  
ard of Appeal (ZBA) ap-  
ved the plan on February 4,  
t to design review with  
l attention to landscap-

The spaces are at the site of  
former Lying-In hospital  
is now used as a research  
ilding, according to John  
Conagle of Brigham and  
en's. McGonagle said a  
fiance was needed to charge  
oney for the parking. He said  
hange was made to offer  
nts more space to park.  
Paperwork to the Boston  
development Authority  
t the plan says the parking  
s a way to discourage people  
om driving, according to Seth  
oy of the Mayor's Office  
ighborhood Services.

McCoy expressed hope the  
an would work but said she  
d paid parking would not  
ourage people from driving  
the neighborhood, which is  
ready flooded with parking.  
er incentives to deter  
le from driving to the



Photo by John Swan

Three-year-olds from the Franklin Square House Day Care Center enjoy the festivities during the Mission Hill Post Office's grand opening at 1575 Tremont St. After songs by the Dearborn Middle School Gospel Choir, residents and State Rep. Kevin Fitzgerald joined Boston Postmaster William Dunn, branch manager Majorie Owen-Harris and her staff January 23 in dedicating the site. Boston Celtic Greg Minor also helped neighborhood youngsters load up coats and blankets, kicking off the new "Coats for the Needy" project that places donation boxes in Boston's post offices.

Longwood Medical Area should be encouraged, she said at the hearing.

## WHAT ABOUT HEATH STREET?

HEATH ST—What do people think of Heath Street? Do they use it, consider it part of the neighborhood. And how can it

be improved? There are just some of the things a local group is trying to find out.

Members of the Hennigan Community Center Advisory Board, the Back of the Hill Community Development Corporation, Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Corporation, Bromley Heath Tenant Management Corporation and residents are passing around a survey with some questions about Heath Street. The group, concerned about the condition of the street, plans to use the survey results as a tool for future planning of the area. Input from anyone who is a resident of Heath Street or its neighboring streets or who uses the area frequently is needed.

To get a survey call or see Robert Platt at the Hennigan

Community Center, 200 Heath Street, 635-5198.

## INNOVATIVE GRADE SCHOOL TO OPEN

ALLEGHANY ST—An innovative grade school that mixes arts and conventional learning started taking names this month of students who want to attend the pilot school when it opens this fall in the old Mission High School.

The Mission Hill School is recruiting children ages 5 to 10. Deborah Meier will direct the school. Meier founded the successful Central Park East public school in East Harlem, New York.

The local school will collaborate with Wheelock College and Harvard Graduate School of Education and eventually offer kindergarten through eighth grade.

School officials say the school will incorporate music, visual arts and physical education into regular classroom work. Teachers will monitor students' progress through portfolios of work and recorded observations.

Parents are invited to attend informational meetings at the 79 Alleghany Street school scheduled for February 12, 9:30 p.m., February 13, 4 p.m., and March 3 and 5 at times to be announced. For information, Deborah Meier at 242-7730.

## COMPANY EXPLAINS GAS STATION FIX-UP

TREMONT ST—The Tremont Street Mutual Oil gas station is getting a \$600,000 facelift.

Company representatives announced at a public meeting held January 28, 1997.

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&  
Certified Home Hospice Care



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# A changing face for Heath Street

By KAREN FORAN  
GAZETTE STAFF

The Big Dig is transforming Boston's downtown, but another renaissance closer to home is happening on Heath Street.

The James Hennigan Elementary School plans to wrap up a \$350,000 schoolyard renovation by the fall's end. Meanwhile, a local community development corporation is scouting an 1896 brewery and vacant lot on Heath Street near Columbus Avenue for potential redevelopment.

At the same time, the Veteran's Administration Medical Center, now undergoing an expensive and major expansion, plans to add an ornamental fence and replant trees and flowers around its boiler plant property near the intersection of Heath Street and South Huntington Avenue.

The Boston Neighborhood Resource Center also plans to renovate another Heath Street building and use it to warehouse furniture and clothing

bound for churches and other needy locations.

Last week, the Heath Street Neighborhoods, a group of people working to improve the major crossroad, held a special October 21 meeting to unite all the parties working to create a more vibrant Heath Street. In 1995, the neighbors urged the Boston Transportation Department to add several crosswalks but now the focus is about more street signs, improving traffic patterns and the General Heath Rotary.

Bromley-Heath Tenant Management, a group of residents from the Heath Street housing development, are investigating long range plans to acquire the rotary island and possibly create a straightway from Columbus to Heath.

Urban Edge of Roxbury, a 23-year-old community development corporation, stressed last week its potential redevelopment of the former Revival Roxbury Brewing Company is in only in the "preliminary" stages and not guaranteed.

Since 1987, the privately-

owned building at 31 Heath St. has acted as a warehouse. The four-story building has 16-foot ceilings on some levels.

An elder care program administered by Dimock Community Health Center of Roxbury and an unnamed, large non-profit family service provider both contacted Urban Edge and are considering Heath Street, according to Dick Mason, an Urban Edge project manager.

Mason said if one of the companies does decide to pursue the building, meetings will follow to solicit the public's opinion.

"It's a 35,000-square-foot building. It would take a massive amount of work to be anything," Mason said, detailing the problems created by old breweries where sky-high ceiling stand as reminders to old brewing vats and create heating and renovation nightmares.

In the 1870s, beer production dominated Heath Street and became Mission Hill's main industry. Breweries included the Eblana Brewery at 123 to

125 Heath St. and the American Brewing Company at 249A Heath St. Moxieland, a soft drink manufacturer older than

Coca-Cola, stood from 1928 to 1953 at 74 Heath St.

Continued on page 11

## ATTENTION PROPERTY OWNERS

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Real Estate Broker  
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## Heath Street

Continued from page 3

"Recently there has been a movement at the preservation of breweries," said Michael Reiskind, the Jamaica Plain Historical Society member who recently spearheaded an effort to save the A.J. Houghton Co.'s Vienna Brewery and Burkhardt Brewing Company threatened to be razed for Mission Main Housing redevelopment.

Meanwhile, the most tangible change exists at the Hennigan School on Heath Street. Construction started this June on an innovative new schoolyard which encourages outdoor gar-

## FUTURE LIGHTS TO SLOW HEATH ST. DRIVERS

HEATH ST.—The Boston Transportation Department plans to install a pair of flashing yellow lights in front of the James Hennigan School on Heath Street.

The lights which cost \$11,000 a pair and 20-mile speed limit signs will warn drivers to slow down.

"It grabs your attention. It lets you know you're driving in a school zone," said Tom Tinlin, the Boston Transportation Department's chief of staff. He said the pair of lights should be installed by the end of the school year.

The Boston Public School is attended by 750 elementary pupils and another 130 kindergarten and first graders attend the adjacent Early Learning Center.

Thirty-six Boston public schools are expected to receive the new lights. State law requires drivers not to exceed 20 miles per hour in a school zone.

Karen Foran

dening and study. It is funded in part by a collaborative of 12 benefactors called the Boston Schoolyard Initiative.

"Instead of studying photosynthesis in a text book, kids can go plant a tree and watch it grow," said Kirk Meyer, director of the Boston Schoolyard Initia-

tive, working to renovate 30 different Boston Public School play spaces.

The initiative gives an average \$10,000 grant, and its members also donate environmental education programs and other school resources, he said.

The Hennigan outdoor space

is expected to be surrounded by trees and garden space. Stairs will double as outdoor classroom seating for science and other classes during the warmer months.

"Usually when we release our butterflies in the spring they fly away. Now they stay attracted by the flowers," said Eleanor Perry, principal of the 750-student school, adjacent to a 130-student Early Learning Center.

She said the old schoolyard was "desolate, barren and unattractive."

Perry said Valerie Gumes, director of the Early Learning Center, helped six years ago spearhead the project. Both schools will garden and play in the space. "There will be a lot of maps painted on the ground and all the traditional hop scotch and other games the boys and girls like," said Perry.

## Opinion Thanks for win

I want to take this opportunity to thank all the voters of Mission Hill who came out to support my insurgent candidacy for Boston city councilor at-large. I am proud to say that your efforts helped me win Mission Hill, Ward 10 and some surrounding precincts in the Sept. preliminary.

Although I will not be a city councilor at-large, I will still be working hard as a private citizen on the issues that are important to me and my sup-

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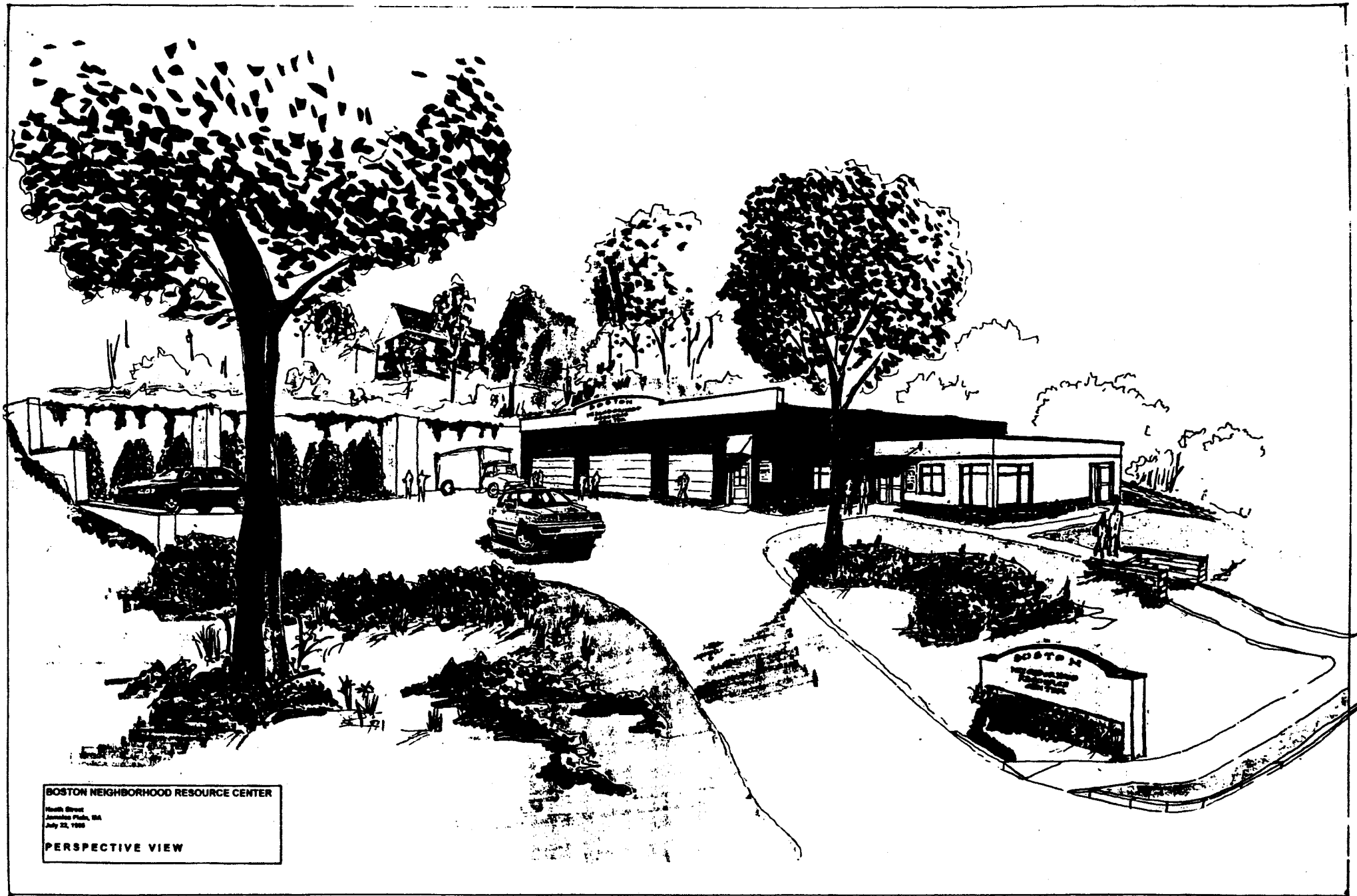
1616 Tremont Street at Brigham Circle • 739-1030

**LYNDA J. McNALLY**

**City Council**

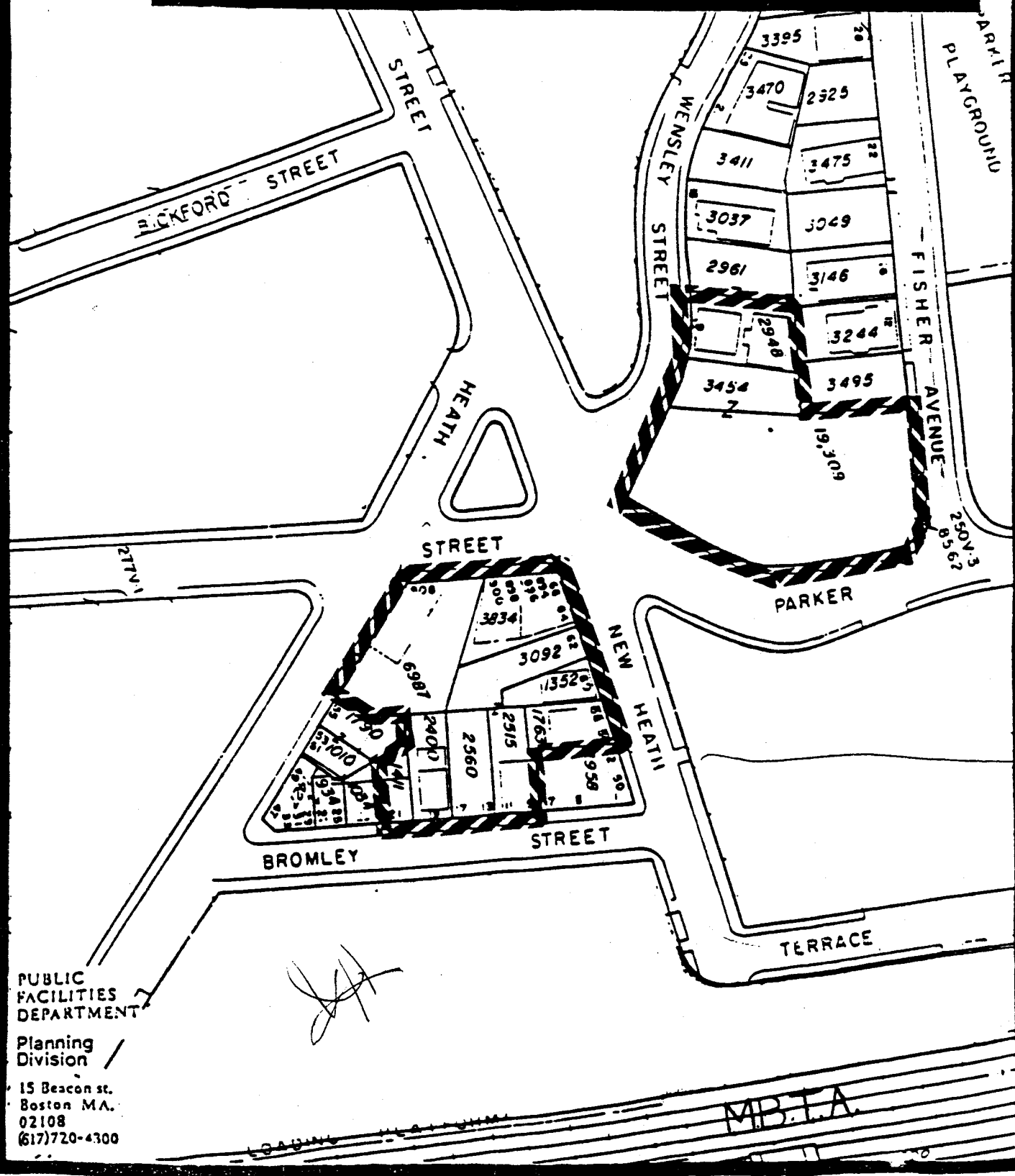
**VOTE THE CANDIDATE WITH ONLY ONE FOCUSED PRIORITY....**





BOSTON NEIGHBORHOOD RESOURCE CENTER  
North Street  
Jamaica Plain, MA  
July 22, 1988  
PERSPECTIVE VIEW

# Wensley / New Heath



PUBLIC  
FACILITIES  
DEPARTMENT

Planning  
Division

15 Beacon St.  
Boston MA.  
02108  
(617)720-4300

MBTA

Neighborhood: Jamaica Plain

Site Name: Heath Square

Location: Heath, New Heath and Parker Streets

Acreage: 0.06 A

Site Type: Square

85  
- A description of the triangle  
in 1775. ago. The idea of 46  
fence might be nice, in  
the chart listing the inventory,  
the ownership of the  
square is listed as the  
parks dept.

---

**Site Description:**

Heath Square is a small triangular parcel at the intersection of Heath, New Heath and Parker streets. The planted area is enclosed by a high bull-nose granite curb. Holes for a fence are present in the curb. There are four trees, including an attractive flowering cherry tree, which highlight the space. A sidewalk surrounds the site. Nearby land uses are residential.

---

**Condition Assessments:**

The high granite curb enclosing the green area is in remarkably good condition. The perimeter sidewalk and roadside curb are in poor condition and need reconstruction. The trees, especially a crab apple, need to be pruned. The shrubs are in poor condition. The turf is overwhelmed by weeds and is in very poor condition.

---

**Major Site Issues:**

Heath Square appears to receive no maintenance and looks abandoned and unattractive. It is full of litter and has occasionally been used for dumping.

Renovation of this space would greatly enhance this intersection and the image of the neighborhood. Existing shrubs should be removed and the lawn re-established. The four site trees are four different species, and this visually fragments the space. A simple planting would better unify this small square, and installation of an ornamental iron fence would further dignify it.

from Boston's Open Space, an urban open  
space plan, vol. 2, the inventory, 1987

Dictionary of American Biography vol. 8  
 ed. Dumas Malone  
 Scribner's 1943 (American Council of  
 Learned Societies)

# Heath

**HEATH, WILLIAM** (Mar. 2, 1737-Jan. 24, 1814), Revolutionary soldier, was born in Roxbury, Mass., the son of Samuel and Elizabeth (Payson) Heath. He was primarily a farmer by occupation. On Apr. 19, 1759, he was married to Sarah Lockwood of Cambridge. Although he did not serve in the Seven Years' War, he was enrolled in a militia company, and in 1765 he joined the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Boston, subsequently becoming a captain, and supplementing his training by a careful study of works on military science and tactics. In the growing dispute with Great Britain, he exerted an influence in arousing a spirit of resistance. Over the pseudonym of "A Militia Man" he published in the *Boston Gazette* in 1770 two articles advocating military preparedness. In 1761 he had represented Roxbury in the General Court. In 1771 he was again elected to that body and remained a member until its dissolution by Governor Gage in 1774. When the crisis became imminent he was a member of the Provincial Congress of Massachusetts and served on the committees of safety and supplies. In February 1775 the Provincial Congress commissioned him a brigadier-general, and at the battle of Bunker Hill he won promotion to the rank of major-general. When the Continental Congress took charge of the army before Boston, Heath became a brigadier-general under Washington. A year later he was commissioned major-general in the Continental service. In January 1777, while attempting to carry out Washington's orders in connection with an attack on Fort Independence, Heath handled the affair so badly that he brought upon himself a reprimand from the commander-in-chief. Thenceforth he was used for staff work rather than for active fighting.

During 1777 and 1778, after the Fort Independence episode, Heath was placed in command of the Eastern district, with headquarters in Boston. It fell to him in this position to act as guardian of Burgoyne's surrendered army, until it was removed to Virginia. Then, in the summer of 1778, when Gen. John Sullivan and the Boston populace were threatening the French admiral, D'Estaing, with vengeance, because of disappointment over the proposed attack upon the British in Rhode Island, Washington wrote to Heath to try to prevent the Bostonians from casting unwarranted aspersions upon the French. In June 1779 he was transferred once more to the lower Hudson and remained in command there until the end of the war, with the exception of a period in 1780 when he was sent to Rhode Island to prepare for the arrival of Rochambeau's French army. On July 1, 1783,

Heath returned to his farm in Roxbury, where he spent the remaining thirty years of his life. He served as a member of the state convention which in 1788 ratified the Federal Constitution, in 1791 and 1792 was a member of the state Senate, and in 1792 was judge of probate. In 1806 he was elected to the lieutenant-governorship, but he declined to serve. He seems to have been a man of solid rather than brilliant parts, and probably a better farmer than a strategist or tactician.

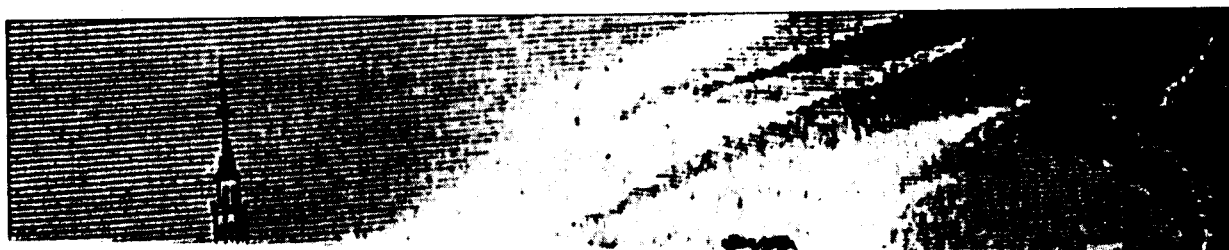
[For Heath's letters and papers see the *Mass. Hist. Soc. Colls.*, 5 ser., vol. IV (1878), 6 ser., vols. IV (1904) and V (1905). For his own record of his military career see the *Memoirs of Maj.-Gen. Heath* (1798), reprinted by Wm. Abbott in 1901 and by R. R. Wilson in 1904. Other sources include J. M. Bugbee, *Memorials of the Mass. Soc. of the Cincinnati* (1890), and the *Boston Daily Advertiser*, Jan. 28, 1814.] R. V. H.

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R. V. H. - Ralph V. Harlow



General William Heath (1738–1814), for whom Heath Street was named, was a captain of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company and a delegate to the Provincial Congresses of 1774 and 1775. He was commander of West Point and a delegate to the convention that adopted the Constitution of the United States.



The old Norfolk House was purchased by David. A large brick addition Hall; the hall was enlarged.

*Maggie Cohn, Project in CED: Heath St. Revitalization*  
*Journal of Heath St. Neighbors meetings, activities and thoughts*

Late spring, early summer 1996 - the Back of the Hill Community Development Corporation Board began discussing the idea of initiating a development project on Heath St. We had one meeting to which Alison invited Sara Griffen from Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Corporation to come help us get started. Sara came - had some good, basic suggestions... We decided to begin brainstorming a bit... Then, a couple of months later, BOTH CDC was approached, through Chip Sanders, a member of the Board, by a group called the Prayer Foundation. This is an independent group, they stressed, some of whom are associated with the Ruggles Baptist Church, which owns many of the empty lots on Heath St., including an old brick structure that used to be the base of operations a trucking transfer company.

The Prayer Foundation has a plan to rehab that building, if it's still structurally sound, and develop a "recycling" business - recycling not paper and plastic et al, but furniture and appliances - from those who no longer need them, to those who do need them. They were talking to us, they said, because they didn't want to begin a project only to find it met with community opposition. We recommended a larger meeting including other community groups: JP NDC, the Hyde Square Task Force, Bromley Heath Tenant Management Corporation ... We also proposed that they consider thinking in broader terms: could they provide training for furniture and appliance repair?

The meeting ended with us agreeing to contact the other groups and set up a meeting. Before we got very far with that, the Hennigan Community School Advisory Board held a meeting to discuss the need to improve Heath St. Several BOTH Board members attended their 2nd meeting; I attended the 3rd.

This group began meeting because of concerns about the vacant lots which face the playground of the Hennigan Elementary School. It was said that prostitutes were conducting business in the wooded areas. This, and the drug activity which was also occurring, are not desirable in any neighborhood, especially near a school.

We agreed to undertake a clean-up of the lots. We scheduled it to coincide with the CityYear Servathon, and have gotten a commitment from them for about 30 volunteers. We contacted the Ruggles Church and the Public Facilities Department (which also owns property along Heath St.) and Richard led a walk through the area. The city agreed to clean up their properties before our scheduled clean-up date of 10/26/96. They also agreed to lend us a wood chipper and other tools.

We (the expanded Hennigan School group) also decided to design a survey to take into the neighborhoods adjacent to Heath St.: the Back of the Hill, Hyde Sq., and the Bromley Heath Housing Development. Alison Pultinas and I took on the responsibility of drafting the survey, to begin the process of considering how the vacant land can/should be used.

### October 28

Had a wonderful clean-up day last Saturday - volunteers from CityYear, Phillips Andover Academy, the Ruggles St. Baptist Church (only right, seeing as it's their property we cleaned...), the Hennigan Community Center, Bromley-Heath, the BOTH... and a chipper and crew sub-contracted by the city. We cut down many saplings and much undergrowth. A dump truck-full of trash was hauled away - and quite an assortment: rusty bedsprings, 2 shopping carts, many bottles and old potato chip bags, several discarded hypodermic needles, a coat rack (which Alison claimed), etc. etc. Since so many of the participants were not area residents, we did not circulate the preliminary survey.

The clean-up effort was definitely a positive undertaking... everyone felt a great sense of accomplishment. Hopefully people from the neighborhood will also be impressed as they pass the rejuvenated lots. And if the city follows through on its commitment to clean up the lots IT owns



(which will include hauling away 2 cars, which are high up on the properties... probably driven, or pushed, in from above) we'll have a serious length of the block in good shape

### **October 30, 1996**

Met with Kay Gallagher - president of BOTH CDC, and someone who was raised in the neighborhood - in the house in which she and her sister Ann now live! She gave me a lot of historic information about Mission Hill, including a copy of someone's dissertation (!) and several city-produced pamphlets... I'm looking forward to perusing those. Her main concern about Heath St. is safety. Her sister Ann was mugged while waiting for a bus on Heath St. about 20 years ago and they haven't used Heath St. since, except to drive down it with doors locked.

Allison has about 15-20 surveys that people filled out at the block party - in those also Heath St. is seen only as a way to get from here to there. It's sort of a chicken and egg case: the street needs to provide a reason for folks to use it (stores, homes, restaurants...) and then, with people on the street it will feel safer... But it needs to feel safer, more secure, and more used, for businesses to be willing to open there.

### **December 8, 1996**

At our November mtg., we agreed on a finalized version of the survey - Jennifer, from the Community Center, translated in into Spanish and I retyped it in English. Thanksgiving intervened. I then had 150 copies made in each language. Left them with Bobby Platt for distribution. Each member of the ad hoc committee (we do need a name...) is to have 10 surveys completed by January 1st. If we manage that it would be great. Then we have to figure out how to collate and synthesize the information.

Additional interesting news is that Urban Edge has been approached by the owner of an old brewery building at the Columbus Ave. end of Heath - he wants to talk to them about developing it!! We don't know exactly what this means - Mossik Hacobian will come to the next ad hoc mtg. (next Wednesday) to discuss it with/present it to us. This news I got from Richard, who saw Mossik at the Urban Edge annual dinner.

### **December 12, 1996**

At our meeting last night, we first took care of "old business" - the survey. We have 37 completed and returned... decided to try to get the bulk done before our next mtg. on Jan. 8th - not really enough time, given that Xmas and new year's fall between. now and then, but we'll see what we can do. Then we'll get to analyze them and see what (if any) common themes arise. Suggestion was made to have the Gazette print the survey or at least an announcement of it and ask people to pick it up at the Hennigan and fill it in - but I just called and found out that the JP Gazette won't be out again until Jan. 17, and the MH Gazette, Jan. 10.

Mossik came from Urban Edge to present their long-term planning concept for the area from Egleston to Jackson - pretty impressive. They have developed a process for viewing the "big picture," taking into consideration all parcels of vacant land and abandoned or "distressed" housing - they know what is currently located on each parcel in their target area, who owns which plots, and have clear ideas as to which plots should be conceptually "bundled" rather than being considered each on its own... He has great maps with overlays... and "score cards" for various development options, showing which are already present, how many potential jobs each offers, median wage for each... a way to compare different options and acknowledge what might be traded off if one is chosen over another.

### **January 14, 1997**

I was up at CED last Wednesday, the scheduled January meeting date for the Heath St. group... Ran into Alison this morning, and she told me that the meeting was canceled - Bobby

Platt had the flu... She hasn't done anything with the surveys lately, neither have I, and I suspect that's true for the whole group. I was hoping the (canceled) meeting would discuss what areas had been more or less covered and then figure out an approach to make sure the survey gets to a reasonably representative sample of Mission Hill/Hyde Sq. residents

### **February 5, 1997**

Received a reminder from the Community Center today that the next meeting is Wed. Feb. 12 and informing that Charles Grigsby from PFD has been invited to attend. Maria said that she thinks it's important to let the city know right away that we are a group that is serious about development on Heath St.

One problem is that we haven't quantified the results of the survey yet - or necessarily even gotten it out to a broad enough group of people. As a result we can't say with assurance WHAT it is that people in the community want to see happen on those lots...

Alison and I are going to get together Sunday to talk about how to gain a little control over this process. There are several things we need to discuss at the next meeting and that will be difficult if the bulk of the time is given over to bringing Grigsby "up to speed." We have to talk about our individual and collective reaction to Urban Edge's "proposal" for the Demeter bldg. And it would be good to address the lack of lighting along Heath St. - especially at the rotary down by Bromley Heath. Other issues are: lack of mailboxes, lack of trash cans, and the condition of the old 3-deckers past Hampden Auto, and the condition of the property owned by Hampden Auto and owned by Lenox-Martel.

Stopped by All Checks Cashed on Centre St. and picked up 23 surveys Idalia had collected. I'll bring all the surveys I've gotten back up to school with me this weekend and see if I can get some help understanding/organizing the responses.

### **February 10, 1997**

Talked to Alex of the Hyde Sq. Task Force today - she gave me names and numbers of three of their Board members who live on my side of Hyde Sq. I'll call them to see if they'd be willing to take the survey around to their neighbors, and/or maybe have a small meeting of interested people who I could meet and try to persuade to be a part of this committee.

### **February 12, 1997**

Meeting tonight - apparently this Wednesday night group IS the Hennigan Community Center Advisory Board! Recruited under false pretenses!

However, an interesting meeting. We began by going over the initial tabulations of the survey. (I showed these to the BOTH board last night and they found some results very interesting... they were intrigued by the fact that housing, stores and parks had such equivalent percentages...Kay commented on the fact that "light industry" got such a poor response.) Tonight, people found some interesting figures also: the fact that an apparently equal number of people walk and drive on Heath Street., and the number of people who work at the Hennigan who responded to the survey.

Bobby and she both said that they had wanted the Advisory Board to take up the issue of developing Heath St., but that they didn't want it to overwhelm the Board and squeeze out necessary discussions about the Community Center. This, they said, is exactly what has happened - it's the only thing on the agenda any more. Richard asked for a point of clarification: he was not aware, he said, that these were mtgs. of the Community Center Advisory Board (let me say CCAB from now on, for brevity), he thought they were mtgs. of a smaller group working on the issue of Heath St. No no no. These are CCAB mtgs., with Heath St. one of several items on an agenda. But the only item really on the agenda for the past many months, since I've been attending these meetings...

The CCAB needed to go back to working on other things. I proposed (as I had wanted to do all along) that a separate committee be formed which COULD take on the work around Heath St. as its primary work. This was accepted by all. Maria sees this as a sub-committee. of the CCAB, reporting back to the CCAB. I think that 1) Maria wants the Community Center to get credit for anything that actually happens, and 2) Maria wants to maintain some control over what happens. However, I think that if things really start to happen the Committee will take on a life of its own.

The next mtg. of the CCAB is March 12; we scheduled a mtg. of the Heath St. Committee (HSC) for March 5. Both meeting will be held at the Community Center. Over the next few days I'll call the people who indicated they'd be willing to attend mtgs. and invite them to come on the 5th. Hopefully I'll get a few who'll actually show up.

I asked everyone who has surveys to get them back to me by March 3, so I can tabulate them in time for the meeting on the 5th - and then I'll also bring them to the meeting on the 12th. (I guess I'm now a member of the CCAB.)

I also offered to call the people from the Ruggles Baptist Church, who never finished cleaning their lots (!) or raking out the wood chips. Alison and I will go talk to both Lenox-Martel and Hampden Auto, to let them know what we're doing and at least have them fill out surveys. We do plan, at some point, to ask them to clean up their properties...

I now feel that something will happen and that it will happen *very slowly*.

### **February 25, 1997**

Got from Sara a list of properties on Heath St. and their listed owners. Tomorrow Alison and I get together to plan approaching Lenox-Martel and Hampden Auto (Glassman Trust.) And I've been calling people about our mtg. on March 5th - 3 or 4 have said they'll come. Wrote to 2 people who said "written communication only, please." Both in Jefferson Condos.

Last Sat. attended Hyde Sq. Cooperative Housing Board meeting, handed around surveys, asked people to take a few back to their neighbors (to which they agreed) and invited/encouraged them to attend on March 5.

### **March 5, 1997**

Just got home from our first independent Heath St. Committee meeting! Bobby and Jennifer both came from the Community Center, but from now on it'll probably be one or the other... Seven others in attendance. There were 4 people who said they would come and then didn't (no big surprise...). We scheduled our next meeting for Tuesday April 15 at 6:00.

After we had all introduced ourselves (briefly) Alison, Bobby and I gave a historic overview of the evolution of this group and talked a little about what has been done to date (the clean-up of the lots, the survey, Alison's petition for a mailbox on Heath St., and the Prayer Foundation plan - which tonight was described by Peter as a project of the Boston Neighborhood Resource Center.) We then did a go-round on why each of us was interested in seeing Heath St. improve, and how much time we might have to put into tasks we may take up. That led into a "visioning" exercise - it was a bit of a push to get beyond what people thought we *could* accomplish to what people would really *like* to see us accomplish, but we got there. Alison had traced a map of the street onto 3 big pieces of paper which we then wrote on with pencil and colored markers...

It was a fairly lively meeting, and everyone there seemed to have a realistic sense of how large an undertaking this may be. Jim noted that we should start small, and start with things that might make the street a street on which businesses might want to locate. All agreed that this makes sense. One question that hangs in the air is: who is "Tommy" of Tommy's C & D, and how can we reach him? What's happening with that store? It's been closed for a while... And who owns

Hampden Auto? Glassman Trust? How can we get ahold of him/them? That building is a disgrace...

For the next meeting, Alison is going to find something on the history of Heath St. (Gen'l. Wm. Heath was apparently one of the 1st settlers of Roxbury, and owned the land this side of Mission Hill, this side of Peter Parker's orchard.) I will get from the city a copy of their Capital Plan, so we can see if by any chance they are planning anything for Heath St., or if there is money available for esthetic improvements (trees etc.), and I'll find out what we have to do to get better lighting on the street. I will also call the folks on my list again to let them know about the next meeting. (I'm discovering that I really don't much like phone work...)

### **March 29, 1997**

I've called all the people on our list, to inform them of our next meeting and to ask if they had a little time to get together prior to that meeting on 4/15. Almost all of them (really, all but one) were reluctant to commit any time beyond the meeting time (if that) to this enterprise. So I had one meeting with David Wilhelmi (lives on Lawn St. and on the BOTH Board) and he will probably come. And I have a meeting planned with one of the residents of the Jefferson condos (after he returns from vacation on 4/7.) Once I ran down what we were doing so far, people who had seemed fairly disinterested at the beginning of our conversation went to get pens and paper to write down the date and place of the next meeting, so I think some will actually show up.

Last week I went down to City Hall - an amazingly confusing building - to get data on Hyde Sq. and Mission Hill. From the Map Dept. I bought maps showing the length of Heath St. (split among 3 maps!). From the Research Dept. I got two packets of demographic information, one on Hyde Sq. (including Bromley-Heath) and one on Mission Hill. From the Planning Dept. I got a copy of Boston's 5-year Capital Plan (1997-2001). I then went to the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services where I spoke to Ed Coburn, the liaison for Jamaica Plain, about the need for improved lighting and improved traffic patterns on Heath St. He asked me to identify which of the existing streetlights were city lights and which were Edison lights, and gave me a sheet with pictures showing the various types and their owners.

Yesterday I walked the length of Heath St., photographing it (a nice, sunny day). At the same time I catalogued the streetlights, using the sheet I got from Ed. From South Huntington to Lenox-Martel we have frequently placed city lights. From Columbus to Tommy's C&D we have the same. But between Tommy's C&D and Lenox Martel we have a total of 4 lights, all owned by Edison. I gave this information to Ed, who promised to "get right on it." I'll call him in a week or so...

### **April 16, 1997**

Meeting last night. Bobby and Jennifer from the Community Center, me, Alison, Peter Raftery from the Boston Resource Center, Richard, Sarah from the NDC, David Wilhelmi from Lawn St., Tim Clifford from the Jefferson.

Looked over the survey results, decided to target three issues for now: lighting, traffic (especially at the rotary - maybe try to get a traffic study done), and the need for some greenery, like trees, planted along Heath St. I will call Ed Coburn from the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services and ask him to come out and meet with us, to discuss how we might get these things accomplished and who we need to work with at the city level. We also agreed to invite someone from Maura Hennigan's office (city councilor) to attend meetings.

There's a Mission Hill clean-up on May 10. We decided to pull a crew together to clean the city lots along Heath. Peter will call David Murphy at Ruggles Baptist Church; at the clean-up in October he came with a lot of tools and a small crew of people. We won't clean the church lots unless the church itself has people working. Alison is the BOTH representative to the clean-up organizers.

And finally we named the group! "Heath St. Neighbors." Richard argued for including the word "development" but the rest of us thought that made us sound like a CDC, which we are not. And other catchy names have been used: "Initiative" (Dudley), "for a better..." (Lowell). So we stopped at Neighbors.

### May 1, 1997

I attended a meeting of the JP Neighborhood Council Business Committee and it went fairly well. They were all geared up to help us find businesses to move onto Heath St. I explained that we weren't quite at the development stage yet, and talked about our initial plans regarding lighting and trees... They support us and we should ask for anything we would like them to do to help.

I also set up a meeting with Ed Coburn for Wednesday, May 7th. Alison, David Wilhelmi, Ellen Bass and I split up the Heath Street list to call and will invite everyone to that, as well as to the clean-up on the 10th.

### May 1, 1997, later at night

Attended the Community Policing Meeting at E13 tonight. Had to wait until the bitter end to bring up the issue of street lights on Heath Street... After almost 2 hours, I got a chance to say that Heath St. Neighbors is working to improve the lighting on Heath St., and could the police help? Very positive response. Mildred Hailey, who happened to be sitting next to me, said Bromley-Heath was working with us, the new chief of Bromley-Heath Security was there and was interested and gave me his name and number. Dianne Quiroga from Maura's office was there, gave me her card, told me to call - no, FAX - with a list of what we wanted and she'd "get right on it". I'll call her Monday.

Apparently Heath is split down the middle between E13 and B2, so I got the name of the Community Service police from B2. I'll call them Monday to invite their support and participation as well.

### May 8, 1997

Pretty good meeting last night. Ed from the Mayor's office *did* come, although Derrick Small (the Roxbury liaison) was unable to come as well, and Joe from the Jefferson had invited Irene Landry from the Enforcement Department of the Boston Traffic Dept., and she came also.

Regarding getting improved lighting, Ed recommended we write a letter or petition to Commissioner Casazza of the DPW. Apparently, even if the lighting area is under the jurisdiction of Boston Edison, the DPW needs to authorize the installation /upgrading of lights. Regarding the possibility of having trees planted, we need to contact the Parks Dept. The city plants hardwood, deciduous trees. Someone named Paul McCaffrey knows the process for getting this done.

Joe Cameron is concerned about 2 things: 1) the lots across the street from the Jefferson, and 2) parking/signage on the street. (which is why he asked Irene to come.) He and Alison did a walk along the street with her a week or so ago, looking at existing signs ("no parking" and "stop") and crosswalks. Ed will work with Joe to get the names of the owners of the lots in question... Joe would like the city to acquire them and maintain them as parks.

For a traffic study, the Transportation Dept. sends engineers on a site visit, and then they write up a report. Irene says that they have already done a study of the So. Huntington/Heath St. intersection. She'll get copies and bring them to our next meeting - she'll also ask Dick Hardy, and engineer, to come with her to discuss the study.

Basically, we had a long and somewhat rambling discussions of signs and crosswalks, lighting and trees. Irene has a lot of information, gave us a lot of contact names. Now we have to get this petition done and in, preferably by May 22 which is when there will be budget debates that relate to our issues.

**May 28, 1997**

Spoke to David Worrell at Bromley-Heath Tenant Management Corporation. I asked if we might contact people on the Tenant Board, residents who make up TMC's Board of Directors. He was reluctant to give me names and numbers but said he would bring it up at a meeting they're having today.

Alison and I are going out with our petitions this afternoon, to the triple deckers along Heath. I don't think anyone from those buildings has been contacted about this group, and they certainly live in an affected location.

Other things: Mira Brown, from Bikes Not Bombs, has offered to do a presentation on traffic calming to Heath St. Neighbors if we'd like, so I'll propose that on the 4th; and apparently the traffic studies that were requested of Heath St. 6 years ago were never done: the MBTA and the Transportation Dept. got into a spat over who was responsible for the intersection of Heath and South Huntington and it never went any further... Alison will call Ed Coburn to tell him this, and I will try to reach Dick Hardy in engineering at Transportation, who was supposed to conduct the survey.

**June 7, 1997**

Meeting held on June 4th. 16 people present (me included.) Next meeting scheduled for Tues. July 1st. Jim Lerner from Lenox-Martel called Wed. morning to say he would not be able to make the mtg. that night; Tuesdays are better for him and also for Ellen Bass. Other people didn't seem to care one way or the other, so we switched to Tuesday for the next mtg. There is a problem for David Wilhelmi with our starting at 6:00 - it means he'll always be 1/2 hour late. But there are several others who always have a second mtg. to go to (Sarah, Richard, Nialdra, David from TMC...) so we agreed to stay with the earlier time.

Spoke to Sarah the next day at NDC; she gave me some stuff to read about running a meeting and exercises to do with a group... She also suggested that I talk to Lizbeth to see if she would be willing to run a focus group at our next meeting about what kind of housing we would like to see, were housing to be developed on Heath St. Lizbeth said that she can do that - it'll take about 45 minutes... We scheduled her to come at 6:30. We can spend the first 1/2 hour talking about the results of the pending meeting with Loring of DOT and other tasks done since June 4th... I think it's a good idea for us to do something that moves us along from the immediate issues of lighting and traffic and into the longer term planning issues.

**June ?, 1997**

Went on a walk with Alison, Dick Loring from Transportation Dept, Irene Landry, and Joe Cameron. Began at Gen'l Heath Sq. - Loring agreed badly in need of additional lighting but suggested we get Public Works to first redesign to whole circle... way too much pavement, and very unclear as to right of ways. Then we walked the length, all the way to the E Line turnaround, looking mostly at places where signs were lacking: "no parking," and "stop" signs primarily. Found a stolen/abandoned car across from the Laundromat; Irene called it in. Need to keep curb clear on Heath at bottom of both ends of Lawn, very hard to see when pulling out in a car, and often vehicles make a very wide turn to get onto Heath, in danger then from both lanes of traffic. Joe got a little carried away with wanting cars ticketed, even if where they were parked may be technically illegal but in reality was not a problem...

Also talked about the idea of getting trees planted along Heath. Loring thinks the sidewalks may not be wide enough to allow trees and still meet ADA requirements. I'll write to the Parks Department. and ask what the procedure is for requesting trees, and the rules about planting them. Also will write to Casazza at DPW as addendum to petition, asking for traffic circle redesign and *then* new lighting.

**July 1, 1997**

Met with Lizbeth and Ricardo at NDC today, to discuss tonight's meeting - they planned to come to do a housing focus group, but through our discussion it became clear that we are not yet at a stage where that is appropriate. So we decided that they won't come tonight, but that I'll communicate their offer to come to an August meeting to help us plan a community meeting at which we can develop a "master plan" for Heath St. with input from the larger community.

**July 2, 1997**

Very small meeting last night: me, Richard, Alison, Mira, David Wilhemi, and Ed Blackman from the Bullfinch. Mira came intending to do a presentation on street calming. We canceled that, and rescheduled it for the August meeting, when we hope to have a larger showing.

Talked about the idea of using the August meeting to plan for a community meeting - everyone thought that would be good, so I'll call Lizbeth and check that she and Ricardo can come on August 5 (next meeting.) Then I can (we can) call to encourage folks to come to that meeting and we'll have a clear agenda to talk about.

Ed agreed to talk to Michael Galvin, head of Basic Services, about the possibility of having improvements made to Heath St. and getting the various city depts. which would be involved to coordinate their efforts. Alison said she'd call someone from Ruggles Church to try to get them to send a rep to our meetings. Alison also reported on the Lower Roxbury Transportation Strategies meetings. There will be a public meeting on July 17 at RCC. Plan is to widen Ruggles St. to 4 lanes!!

**July 9, 1997**

At BOTH CDC board meeting last night, we talked about idea of reopening the Hayden steps. Became a much longer and more involved discussion than I ever expected!! Many arguments for and against. Issues: Will clearing the steps make them more or less appealing for illegal activities? What kind of visibility will there be? Will steps be safe? How do abutters feel? In the end I think most people agreed that the kids are using the steps anyway, so opening them up and clearing them off would certainly make activities on the steps visible and hopefully less appealing. Alison and Chip will talk to the abutters, including Dana, who's buying Dan and Kathy's house; I will try to fine out how we would go about getting this done if we agree to go ahead with it.

**July 20, 1997**

Has been difficult to get ahold of anyone at DPW to find out about a) lighting/redesign petition or b) Hayden Steps. Valerie Burns from BNAF gave me the name of Peter Scarpignato, but after calling for several days and being told he was out, I was told he no longer works at the DPW, he works at City Hall. So now I've been trying to reach him there - no answer, no answer, no answer.

Ed Coburn said he'd talk to DPW to find out who was given responsibility for our request, but he hasn't called me back...Tomorrow I guess I need to make a round of calls. I'll be at City Hall - maybe I'll try to find this Peter S. I did talk to David Worrell last week, and we discussed trying to get some tenants from Bromley to come to the August meeting, to play a part in planning a community meeting, and he promised to work on it. Also talked to Cheryl Patterson, who said she would think about who might be good people for us to approach. Told them both NDC would be at August meeting. Tuesday I go in to NDC for a meeting with Lizbeth, Ricardo, and Sarah, to figure out the August meeting.

**July 21, 1997**

Had to go to city hall today so tracked down Ed Coburn to see what was up with DPW lighting petition... He had mentioned it to Frank somebody in DPW and promised to follow up and try to get him to take it seriously...

**July 22, 1997**

Meeting today with Sarah, Lizbeth, and Ricardo at NDC. Discussed what they can/cannot do for Heath St. Neighbors... Ricardo said: two pieces to community meeting. 1) outreach and 2) the meeting itself: identify issues and concerns, brainstorming, reality check (how much of what was brainstormed is feasible?), and breaking it down to more specific pieces/tasks. They (NDC) are willing to come to our Aug. 5 mtg. to help us think through the structuring process of the community mtgs., and to facilitate the meetings... Lizbeth thought maybe 3 meetings, one every 2 months, Oct., Dec. (early), and Feb. They will also be able to provide some help with feasibility studies...

We - Heath St. Neighbors and BOTH CDC - can provide volunteers to doorknock for the community meeting, and volunteers to help with the feasibility study. Three community meetings will give us the opportunity to refine a design - start out rough at the first meeting, and by the end of three have a fairly clear idea of what we want that *is* feasible. That will *not* happen by January... (revise the timetable!)

**August 2, 1997**

Got a message yesterday from Tom Sullivan, at the Parks Department. He just wanted to let me know that our request for Heath St. was in the works. When they get to it, someone will come out to assess where trees will do well, etc.; I asked that he call to let me know when that would be, so that some of us could accompany whoever comes out, and have some input... He said "Of course." (We'll see.) But nice to get a response.

And today I got a copy of a request from the Highway Dept. to extend the comment period on the proposal to widen Ruggles St. until 9/2, with a deadline of, I think, 9/9.

**August 8, 1997**

Had mtg. this past Tuesday... Started with Mira's Traffic Calming slide show, then updates, then talked about community mtg. idea and outreach. Didn't get as far as I had hoped to - didn't set date(s) for meeting(s), even... but at the end, brainstormed a list of local organizations (crime watches, task force, coops, CDCs...) and will divide up responsibility for calling them, see if we can either address a meeting, or talk to someone on leadership to get assist in getting people to come to community mtg. Talked about door-knocking, but folks thought we are too small a group to take that on.

Talked to Ed Coburn yesterday - he spoke to Frank O'Brien, his liaison with DPW., and Heath St. lighting and redesign will be placed on DPW agenda... Warned me will be a several year proposition, must get in the capital budget... He will try to bring O'Brien and Peter Scarpignato, DPW hotshot, to Heath St. mtg. on 9/2/97, suggested we have ideas ready for changes at Heath rotary... I said that's something we'd like to get out of community meeting in October, and asked if we could perhaps schedule a meeting with public works folks after I'm back from vacation. He's to call Alison to let her know what's happening with that.

**Sept. 8, 1997**

Came home to 1) a phone message from Ed Coburn asking if there was a meeting on 9/2 and 2) a letter from Casazza of public works saying he had received my letter, was working with Ed, and would have people from his dept. at our 9/2 mtg. Talked to Alison today - DPW *did* attend 9/2 mtg. - Scarpignato and a John Foley (young peon.). Mostly listened. Suggested



attaching So. Hunt/Heath intersection improvements to Hunting St. reconstruction... that way we could involve fed \$ in the project... they would divide the work on Heath into 2 parts, and do So. Huntington first, Heath St. later, as there would be city \$ only for Gen'l. Heath circle.

In terms of what we would like to see at the circle, Alison said the discussion stayed pretty general - talked about pedestrian safety, bicycle paths, who uses road, accident statistics... DPW will research accident statistics. It turns out that there is a BHA master plan for Bromley-Heath that includes changes in the rotary. Alison called Hank Keating, from the Hope 6 project, who was involved in it, and he is no longer involved in it but gave her the name and # of the man on charge of implementation: Davis Kaplan, at 988-4198. A. called him this a.m. and left a message. We agree that we should get ahold of this master plan. Peter Scarpignato "sees no reason why they wouldn't give it to us..."

David then brought up the question of the Hayden steps... Foley and Scarpignato were pessimistic - said we'd have to establish need. Demolition is not an option - either they get repaired or left alone. Steps recently repaired in East Boston 1) serve demonstrated need, 2) are not lit. A. mentioned that if the school line for the Hennigan is moved (is this a possibility?) there would be kids from our neighborhood who could use the steps to get to school, better than the streets. But there must be lights... what about the winter?

### October 6, 1997

I printed out 37 invitational letters to the community meeting on the 21st, and Alison is mailing them out today. David Wilhelmi got a little behind on the flyer - got me the copy yesterday, he's been ill, got it typed up but can do no more, so I'm getting it translated into Spanish and then taking it to Gnomon Copy to be xeroxed (2 sides, English/Spanish). Rush, rush, rush... we need to have the flyer for tomorrow night's meeting - also to get (if possible) to Alex to bring to the Hyde Sq. Task Force meeting, which is also tomorrow night... Jorge Casas said he'd help me translate it today, but when I called him at work, he wasn't in and hadn't called in, so I started calling around (somewhat desperate) and finally Eva in John McDonough's office offered to do it.

At the polls, at the preliminary election (9/23) I met Julia Martin, who is on the tenant board at Bromley-Heath! A real stroke of luck. I've been trying to reach her (with no luck) to see if we can talk to the board about the whole Heath St. thing, and encourage them to at least come the meeting on the 21st and hopefully participate beyond that. She did say that on the wall of the board room at TMC is a copy of the BHA "master plan" for the development and surrounding area... I need to get down there and check it out... Not feeling optimistic about outreach/turnout for this meeting - just hope enough folks turn out and are interested to build up our "core group" a little... if there are more present, and we can actually set up a few committees to look at different issues (Heath/So. Huntington, rotary, housing on empty lots, commercial on empty lots) that would be great, but I'm not expecting it.

### October 7, 1997

I picked up 2000 flyers today - look pretty good but I should have used a bold type on the Spanish side. A little last minute, because David has been ill and fell behind schedule, so we were unable to take advantage of cheap or free printing options and had to pay \$124 to Copy Cop... I had it translated yesterday by a woman named Eva in Representative McDonough's office... I faxed it to her in English and she faxed it back to me in Spanish - ah, technology!

Good meeting tonight - nine including me, Alison and Richard... Ricardo didn't show, though - I left a reminder message last week, probably should have called again yesterday. But there was energy in the room. Derrick Vance said at the start that he had to leave at 7:00 but stayed till the end at 8:00. Dick Mason from Urban Edge was helpful (of course he'd like our

support for the development of the Demeter brewery building...) He offered to get someone to translate the meeting and he'll give a report on the brewery proposals.

Agenda (as it now stands): Intro. of group; purpose of meeting (learn about ongoing projects on the street, brainstorm what else we'd like to see happen); Report on last winter's survey; introduction to reports; reports (each followed by responses, questions, ideas from audience, written on flip charts) on (a) historic buildings, (b) traffic and signage improvements, (c) brewery development options (Urban Edge), (d) Bromley-Heath renovation, (e) Peter Raftery's plan for old trucking garage (?), (f) the Hennigan playground improvements, and (g) the VA plans as they affect Heath St.; then, close, ask people to write name, address, phone, and "issue of interest" on supplied index cards. Announce next meeting. Schedule any smaller meetings that seem appropriate.

### **October 24, 1997**

Community meeting this past Tuesday went well... about 35 people there, a bit more than half were residents, the rest people presenters, from organizations or agencies. Transportation, Urban Edge, VA Hospital, Boston Schoolyard Initiative, the Gazette, Lenox-Martell, Bromley-Heath TMC, Ruggles Baptist Church... Toula Politis came. Not a lot of open discussion, mostly presentations and then questions and a few comments. A lot of information in the presentations, though. We had an agenda, which we abandoned at some point. Opened with Michael Reiskind taking about the history of the breweries, then Urban Edge, then Cheryl gave a report on the changes at B-H, Peter Raftery talked about his plans for the Ruggles lot(s), Kirk Meyer from the Schoolyard Initiative talked about the reconstruction of the Hennigan playground, Paul Ford talked about plans the VA has to improve their property on Heath... So now we have a list to call when these items are up for discussion, at our meetings or at meetings called by the city. Neither translation or childcare was needed but we were ready with both.

### **October 28, 1997**

Meeting last night with Toula Politis to talk about her plans for the pizza place and her other properties along Heath... She agreed to meet with Jim at L-M to talk about cleaning the small piece that's within his parking lot. We also asked her to keep all property clear of trash, and to paint over graffiti... She has several buildings in land court for failure to pay taxes; she says she needs to sell 2 or 3 or 4 buildings to get the money to fix up the remaining buildings - including 2 empty ones, back-to-back, one on Heath, the other on Wensley. She has installed security lights in the pizza shop, and is very concerned about the lack of lighting on the street. RG will write a letter saying we met, and have a "good faith" agreement about keeping up the appearances of the buildings, and so support her reopening the pizza place.

### **November 6, 1997**

Regular meeting last night - Wed. instead of Tues. because of Election Day... Actually, well-attended, although, interestingly, *not* with people who were at the 10/21 meeting. James Bruce from Hyde Sq. Coops came - I've been talking to him on the phone since I attended their Board meeting many months ago (with the lighting petition), so it was gratifying to have him come to a meeting.

We discussed several items from the 21st meeting, notably the rotary redesign and the pizza shop license renewal. People really got into the rotary discussion, and in the end we scheduled a meeting for next Wednesday, at 6:30, to be held in the conference room at TMC, where they have a map showing the BHA/TMC plan for the rotary. (We did change our regular meeting day from Tuesday to Wednesday.) Alison said that the DPW planned to work off an old

plan that they have, so we'll also try to get a copy of that - Alison will call John Foley from DPW who came to our August meeting.

Lance from Estey St. came, and is upset by the fact that when the VA starts construction they will be losing 150 parking spaces, and that, plus the fact that construction workers will not be permitted to park on the sit, will push many many cars into the neighborhood. We agreed to ask Christine Garney, PR guru of the VA, to come to our Dec. meeting - we'll limit discussion to 1/2 hour, though, because we also want to have David Murphy come to discuss the fate of the church-owned empty lots. This will tie into a discussion of the Hayden steps which we were not able to have last night. Ricardo is planning to call Alison to get info on exactly who owns what lots, so they can begin to look in an overall way at possibilities for development. I mentioned to him that Toulia Politis wants to sell 3 of her triple deckers (\$95,000 each).

Additionally, we decided to write a petition to push BTD to put in the signs and crosswalks they promised us - Lance will work on an initial draft, which I will help polish up. Rick Yoder agreed to call the city to find out how we get onto an alleged list of neighborhoods that want to get rid of billboards. We adjourned at 8:00.

### November 25, 1997

Ed Coburn want to put together a meeting with the Boston Housing Authority, Department of Public Works, Heath Street. Neighbors, Tenant Management Corporation, and other interested parties, to discuss the design of the Gen'l Heath Rotary. We said "fine" but we planned to get together first to look at the issue.

Had a small meeting - me, Alison, Richard, David Wilhelmi, Bobby Platt - with David Worrell at Tenant Management Corporation, to see the BHA/TMC "master plan" and discuss their conception of the rotary. David gave a great presentation, explained that they have been de facto maintaining the rotary, as it is essentially ignored by the city, and that the traffic along that section of Heath poses a particular hazard for the children of the development. Their redesign is intended to slow down traffic at that point, which explains the idea of forcing a right angle turn into Heath Street. - which is what happens when the roadway between the rotary and the Bromley-Heath sidewalk is eliminated. David admitted that they had not given any thought to the other side of the rotary.

I put out Jim Lerner's thoughts, and his concerns about the turning radius for trucks and buses... His thinking is that the roadway between the rotary and the pizza place could be eliminated, making Heath Street. a two-way street along the Bromley-Heath sidewalk, with a right-angle intersection by Parker Street., and with Wensley coming into Parker, with a stop sign there... David pointed out that that would do nothing to slow traffic, and Bobby pointed out that crossing would be more dangerous because a blind spot would be created by the placement of the buildings at Bromley-Heath.

There was no resolution, but we parted with all agreeing that we do need to work together on this. We came up with a list of people and organizations we think Ed Coburn should invite to his proposed meeting.

Ed seems to want to have the Boston Housing Authority and Department of Public Works meet to look at each others' ideas and come to some conclusions, and then have the two agencies make a presentation to the community. This sort of circumvents much community input into the design. So we have asked that the community be presented with a minimum of three design concepts. (This was the recommendation of Ann McKinnon, to whom Alison spoke.) Ed said "OK" but I suspect we'll have to push on this a little. Richard has offered to call Ed and make it clear that the community is not to be presented with a finished plan. I've written a letter to the Boston Transportation Department saying the same thing, and asking that they consider including the rotary area in the Lower Roxbury Transportation Study.