City Receptive to Grad Dorm
Cambridge Councilors Question MIT on Parking, Open Space

By Mike Hall

The Cambridge Planning Board reacted favorably yesterday to MIT’s building permit application for a new graduate dormitory, virtually ensuring that the Institute will earn its approval to build the 400-unit dorm. The new dorm will be located on the corner of Sidney and Pacific Streets on what is now a vacant parking lot.

An Interim Planning Overlay Permit (IPOP) is necessary for all buildings over 50,000 square feet in Cambridge. The dorm is scheduled to be built by August 2002.

At the Board’s public meeting last night, the Institute and Cambridge City Councilors discussed four key community concerns: available parking, open space, new retail stores, and the dorm’s appearance.

Parking for the new dorm residents was the central concern of Cambridgeport citizens at the meeting. Following construction, MIT has an exclusive right to use dorm spots above and below ground. MIT will have 300 available parking spots above and below ground. Senior real estate officer and project director Michael K. Ouw ’86 predicted that dorm residents will use 100 spaces, leaving the remaining 200 for residents across campus and possible retail consumer use.

At a community meeting last Thursday, Cambridge City Councilor Henrietta Davis (left) and Graduate Dormitory Project Director Michael K. Ouw ’86 (right) address a large crowd of graduate students and Cambridge citizens who attended last night’s Planning Board meeting.

The greater Boston area is home to a number of banking options. Although students are likely to be exposed first to Fleet Bank, which has an exclusive right to open new accounts in the Student Center, several other financial establishments exist nearby, including Cambridge Trust, Citizens Bank, Sovereign Bank New England, and Wainwright Bank.

The Institute welcomes freshmen

By Laura McGrath Moulton

The theme this year is ‘New Beginnings,’” said Timothy E. Mosehauer, coordinator of freshman programs. As an example of that theme, Mosehauer said that new Dean for Student Life Larry G. Benedict will be present at the welcome dinner and new Dean for Undergraduate Education Robert P. Redwine will speak at Convocation.

Mosehauer offered some advice to freshmen seeking to navigate the wealth of events. “Talk to as many people as you can and get the most out of everything,” he said.

It’s time for a major freshman orientation activity, the Wellness Fair, called “MIT: It Does a Body Good,” which will take place Thursday afternoon. “The wellness fair will be bigger and better this year,” Mosehauer said. Noted that it takes place in the midst of an intense academic orientation, he said the fair would help show “that there’s a lot more to MIT than just classes.”

Wednesday, August 23, 2000
Clinton to Approve $1.3 Billion Colombia Anti-Drug Aid Package

By Robyn Dixon and Richard Boudreaux

President Clinton plans to sign a waiver authorizing distribution of a $1.3 billion aid package to help the Colombian government fight drug trafficking. The package, which Clinton will announce Thursday, provides $1.2 billion to help combat drug traffickers and $100 million for a pipeline that would carry cocaine to the United States.

Second Study Links Gene-Engineered Corn, Monarch Butterfly Deaths

By Erica Balch

The center fuel tank explosion that destroyed a USS Iowa submarine and killed its crew killed the monarch in Tel Aviv, treats him to a full a honor guard at the airport and much more to come.

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International

Submarine's Families Seek Answers From Putin

By Mark Lishchinskii

Leaders of the submarine Kursk, which was海军, are seeking answers from Russian officials about the loss of the submarine during the recent conflict in Chechnya.

King Abdullah of Jordan Meets Barak in First Visit to Israel

By Lee Hockstader

King Abdullah of Jordan arrived in Israel on Monday for a historic visit, the first since the two countries made peace in 1994. The visit is seen as a significant step in the region's efforts to resolve conflicts and improve relations.

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Summer Winds Down

Orientation on the next few days will greet incoming freshmen with near 70°F (21°C). Chance of rain 60 percent. Extended forecast:


Tonight: Showers likely, with a chance of thunderstorms. Low near 55°F-60°F (13-15°C). Chance of rain 70 percent.

Friday: Partly cloudy. High in the upper 70°F-75°F (24-27°C).

Saturday: Partly cloudy. Low near 60°F (16°C) and high in the upper 70°F (24°C).
Federal Reserve Leaves Short-Term Interest Rates Untouched

By Peter G. Gosselin

Los Angeles Times

The Federal Reserve policy-makers decided Tuesday to keep short-term interest rates at 6.5 percent for a third month running, saying the United States’ economic growth is beginning to slow to a more sustainable pace.

Although the Fed included a stern warning about the risk of resurgent inflation, policy-makers suggested they think they are finally getting a handle on the danger of higher prices. That’s a change from earlier this year when officials said the economy seemed to be shrugging off Fed-engineered rate hikes and continuing to boom beyond its limits.

In a statement explaining its decision, the Federal Open Market Committee said recent economic statistics indicate that “expansion of aggregate demand is moderating toward a pace closer to the rate of growth of the economy’s potential to produce.”

The central bank’s policy-making body also said improvements in productivity, or output per worker, are raising the economy’s “potential growth rate as well as containing costs and holding down underlying price pressures.”

The Fed decision, which was expected, leaves the federal funds rate — the rate at which commercial banks make short-term loans to each other — at its highest level in nine years. Since June of last year, the Fed has raised the rate six times by a total of 1.75 percentage points. Those moves have driven up the cost of borrowing for everything from cars to capital equipment.

Tuesday’s decision was widely interpreted as signaling that, absent unexpected change, the Fed will sit out the rest of the presidential election campaign and perhaps the remainder of the year.

Investors greeted the action tepidly. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 59.34 points, or 0.5 percent, to 11,139.15, while the tech-heavy NASDAQ Composite Index inched up 512 points, or 0.1 percent, to 3,958.27.

U.N. Handling of Kosovo Justice Criticized by Serbs and Albanians

The United Nations, one of the world’s most vocal champions of human rights, is facing mounting complaints that it has violated the most basic rules of justice in Kosovo.

Fourteen months after the United Nations took charge of the Serbian province, both Serbs and ethnic Albanians are accusing its criminal courts of excessive delays, bias among judges, widespread witness tampering and other serious violations of the right to a fair trial.

Defending the world body, spokeswoman Susan Manuel said that the United Nations is trying to make the local justice system work but that a boycott by Serbian prosecutors and judges — compounded by a chronic shortage of foreign and money and experts — is making a difficult job worse.

In addition, the foreign-led U.N. police force has complained that frequent intimidation of witnesses and court officials makes it extremely difficult to investigate and prosecute crimes.

Vladimir Vucetic is one of several prisoners whom Serbs point to as evidence that the United Nations is failing to ensure impartial justice in Kosovo. The mentally disabled Serbian teen-ager has spent 11 months in a U.N. prison awaiting trial. He was charged with genocide on Sept. 27, 1999, after an ethnic Albanian woman accused him of being in a group of Serbs who set fire to three houses in the town of Kosovska Mitrovica.

Counsel’s Report Exonerates Babbitt in Casino Decision

Independent counsel Carol Elder Bruce Tuesday issued her final report clearing Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt of wrongdoing in the rejection of a proposed Indian gambling casino in Wisconsin and saying she found no evidence that the decision was “criminally corrupt” by political influence.

The 484-page report details the reasons for Bruce’s decision last year to wrap up her probe without seeking any indictments. Among other things, it concludes that Babbitt played “no meaningful role” in the casino deliberations and cites his “strong reputation for integrity, truth and veracity in the community.”

Bruce, who spent more than $5.6 million in her investigation, said that Babbitt gave “inconsistent and puzzling testimony” to a Senate committee about the casino decision.

But she said that evidence was insufficient to prove that he committed perjury.

The controversies stemmed from a plan by Croixland Properties Inc. and three Chippewa tribes to install an off-reservation casino on the site of a failing greyhound track in Hudson, Wis.

Survivor Finale

Tonight

8pm

All students, faculty and staff are invited to watch the finale on a 61” big screen TV with free refreshments.
Welcome to the Class of 2004.

As you begin your MIT experience, you will encounter a campus in the midst of transition. Now is an exciting and challenging time to be a student at MIT. Not only will your years at MIT shape you, but you will have ample opportunities to use your gifts and talents to shape the future of MIT.

Most notably, the impending storm of residence changes still looms over campus. The clock is ticking on the residence selection period that you will experience over the next week. Upon completion of the new Vassar Street undergraduate dormitories, the ability of freshmen to choose to live in a fraternity, sorority, or independent living group will cease. As these changes to the undergraduate housing structure evolve, graduate students are dealing with crises of their own — delayed construction of new athletic facilities in Cambridge, and fear that space currently used to house graduate students will be converted to undergraduate space.

As you experience residence selection you will get your first taste of this significance of living groups at MIT, of how critical housing is to the MIT experience, and how frustrating housing changes are to many students.

But the housing program is not the only institution undergoing change at MIT. The campus is in the midst of a physical facelift as well. The Stata Center is now under construction, a new athletic facility is planned, and renovations continue across campus. MIT’s building boom means you will see your share of dust and construction closures over the next four years.

The MIT administration also welcomes several new faces this year. The appointments of Larry Benedict as Dean of Student Life and Robert Redwine as Dean of Undergraduate Education bring fresh blood into MIT’s leadership. Whether these new deans serve as effective advocates for MIT’s students will soon be seen and depend in no small part on the relationships they form with a gun-shy student population. As these changes swirl around you, do not let the opportunity to add your input pass you by. Keep a focus on the people of MIT. Stay informed on the issues and the debates, from the MIT housing system to the presidential campaign. Expand your horizons and share your opinions. Don’t allow yourself, like many students at MIT, to become buried in classes and UROPs, allowing the rest of life and humanity to pass you by. Take up this year’s orientation challenge to “evolve with the best” and make MIT the campus you want it to be.

Once again, welcome to MIT, and we hope you enjoy your wild ride.

Elditorial

Welcome, Class of 2004

Opinion Policy

Editorials are the official opinion of The Tech. They are written by the editorial board, which consists of the chairman, editor in chief, managing editor, news editors, and opinion editors.

Letters are the opinions of the signed members of the editorial board choosing to publish their disagreements with the board.

Columns and editorial cartoons are written by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily that of the newspaper.

Letters to the editor are welcome. Electronic submissions are encouraged and must be sent to letters@the-tech.mit.edu. Hand copy submissions must be addressed to The Tech, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029, or sent by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483. All submissions are due by 4:30 p.m. two days before the date of publication.

Letters and cartoons must bear the authors’ signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted. No letter or cartoon will be printed anonymously without the express prior approval of The Tech. The Tech reserves the right to edit or condense letters, shorter letters will be given higher priority. Once submitted, all letters become property of The Tech, and will not be returned.

The Tech makes no commitment to publish all the letters received.

To Reach Us

The Tech’s telephone number is (617) 253-1541. E-mail is the easiest way to reach any member of our staff. If you are unsure who to contact, send mail to general@the-tech.mit.edu, and it will be directed to the appropriate person. The Tech can be found on the World-Wide Web at http://the-tech.mit.edu.
Michael J. Borucke

After reading Kris Schnee's column, "No More Guilt, No More Checks" (August 9), I was appalled at the attempt by the international community to extract money from the United States of America. East Timor is another one of the poorest countries in the world. The United States government showed tremendous opportunism when it was the only country to approve the use of force to prevent genocide. The United States now has a lot of debt. I don't care if the government that borrowed the money is the same government that responsibility for the "genocide". And I don't care if Rwanda is one of the poorest countries in the world. I don't care if the United States sold billions of dollars worth of weapons to Indonesia; one must remember that almost all of guns and bullets are people, people kill people. But implicating the United States government in the atrocities of the Rwandan genocide is ridiculous. The United States government showed tremendous character by putting an end to the atrocities after only twenty-five years. If that doesn't prove how free of guilt our government is. As for the global warming issue, no offense to the majority of scientists, there is just too much conflicting evidence to say definitively that the US government is responsible. I don't know of one incident where an American government has killed someone. I don't know if the United States sold billions of dollars worth of weapons to Indonesia; one must remember that almost all of guns and bullets are people, people kill people. But implicating the United States government in the atrocities of the Rwandan genocide is ridiculous. The United States government showed tremendous character by putting an end to the atrocities after only twenty-five years. If that doesn't prove how free of guilt our government is. 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Michael J. Ring

Freshmen, welcome to the next four years of your life.

Perhaps that's a scary thought for you, or maybe you are who you are today because you find it comforting. But whatever you choose will be your friend for or it may be your foe. And there's certainly a lot to appreciate about MIT.

First and foremost, starting today, remember that in a growing number of matters you are on your own. You are making decisions for yourself instead of being dictated to by a faceless bureaucracy.

Freedom is a cherished MIT value, but it does not come without a price. The Orientation staff are about to experience a draining array of activities and events to assist you in making the very choices you must now soon make. Where to live, what courses to take, what activities to participate in — these and many more questions will arise in your next year and beyond. Orientation will guide you on for the next year, but upperclassmen will tell you almost universally that a week of stress pays extraordinary dividends in the ability to structure your life now or in the future.

A stringent faith in your ability to choose how you feel. Make sure, however, that you like what's going on, raise hell with the administration. Join the protests and make the very choices you must now soon make. Where to live, what courses to take, what activities to participate in — these and many more questions will arise in your next year and beyond. Orientation will guide you on for the next year, but upperclassmen will tell you almost universally that a week of stress pays extraordinary dividends in the ability to structure your life now or in the future.

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Down with Science

By Jennifer DiMase

Sometimes it's really nice to come back to a familiar place.

...H bible people remember you.

And the doors still don't work properly.

But not in earth. Is this Earth? Is this a door?

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Crossword Puzzle

Fun With Clip Art
Aaron Isaksen

"Welcome to MIT, Steven. Did you know that masturbation can cause your grades to drop?"

Solution on page 11
Don't have enough to do during Orientation?

Always wanted to join The Tech, but never had the time?

Come by our office, room 483 of the Student Center, anytime between 11am and 2am and we'll put you to work!

We need help with everything from writing and photography to layout and web design.

We'll even serve you lunch and dinner, courtesy of The Tech!

Want more details before you make the trek to the Student Center? Call Satwik at 253-1541 and let him convince you that helping The Tech put out daily issues is the most exciting way to spend Orientation!

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ECONOMICS 101:
500 FREE weekend & evening minutes
+ $50 ATM rebate card
= Sweet Deal.

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BOSTONCELLULAR

(781) 645-2700
www.bostoncellular.com

Media Services Technician

PT position provides maintenance, setup services for camera and photography equipment, and support the production of content and special events. Good attention to detail and strong organizational skills are a must. Proficiency in operating video and audio equipment and a computer is also necessary. Hourly wage is $16.50 - $21.00.

Equal Opportunity Employer

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PE LOTTERY 1ST QUARTER. INFO!!!

Dates to Remember:
PE Lottery Opens: Thursday, August 24, 2000
PE Lottery Closes: Wednesday, September 6, 2000

Late registration at first class on a space available basis!

For more info, call our website at www.Boston sidewalk.com/peinfo.html

Or contact PE Office: 253-4291
WANT TO GET THE WORD OUT ABOUT YOUR STUDENT OR LIVING GROUP? Afraid you’ll be lost in the 1,276 events in The Tech’s Daily Confusion? Then advertise in an Orientation issue of The Tech! Discounted rates are available for our daily issues, running through Thursday, August 31.

Call our business office at 258-TECH or email <ads@the-tech.mit.edu> for more details.

CLASS OF 2004 NEWCOMERS BEGAN THEIR MIT EXPERIENCE LAST NIGHT IN LA SALA DE PUERTO RICO, GATHERING ORIENTATION MATERIALS BEFORE MOVING INTO TEMPORARY HOUSING.

MIT will proceed with building the new athletics center on 100 Vassar Street after receiving an Interim Planning Overlay Proposal (IPOP) permit from the Cambridge Planning Board last Tuesday.

The IPOP permit, required by Cambridge for projects greater than 50,000 square feet, was given to MIT despite an appeal by the attorney for John J. Donovan citing faults in MIT’s traffic analysis for the facility. Donovan is the founder of Cambridge Executive Enterprises, a management consulting firm close to the new athletics center.

In February, Cambridge Executive Enterprises appealed MIT’s IPOP proposal for the new undergraduate dormitory, also to be built on Vassar Street and scheduled for completion in September 2002. MIT is still resolving that issue with the company.

The new athletics center will be located between Johnson Athletics Center and Du Pont and is scheduled to be built during the summer of 2002, said Daniel Martin, assistant department head for facilities and operations. Martin said that construction will begin shortly after the Du Pont renovations are complete in the next few weeks.

The facility will include an Olympic-sized swimming pool, international-sized squash courts, a medical treatment area, locker rooms, a multi-purpose room, and laundry facilities.

— Naveen Sunkavally

Congratulations to the MIT Class of 2004. Your MIT experience begins now!
Banking, from Page 1

avoid monthly charges of $14.00 for the checking account and $3.00 for the savings account.

Basic Checking and Savings accounts are also linked. Basic Checking has a monthly fee of $3.00 and a limit of twelve withdrawals per month, with a charge of $2.00 per transaction beyond twelve. Basic Savings has a monthly fee of $1.00 which can be waived by maintaining a $100 balance. Customers are limited to six withdrawals per month.

Citizens is online and customers can use web-based banking for free.

Sovereign Bank New England

Sovereign Bank New England arrived in the Boston area during the past year after it purchased Fleet and BankBoston branches as a mandated condition of their merger. The Sovereign branch closest to MIT is located at 515 Massachusetts Avenue in Central Square. In Boston, Sovereign has many branches including two on Beacon Street and one in Kenmore Square.

Sovereign offers several checking account options, including Basic Checking and Access Checking. Basic Checking carries a monthly charge of $2.50 as well as $0.75 charges for each debit transaction above ten per month. Access Checking is geared toward customers who use electronic banking. It carries a monthly charge of $6.75 ($4.75 with direct deposit). There is a charge of $0.50 for each teller transaction as well as for each check beyond twenty per month.

Basic Statement Savings charges $1.00 per month if the minimum daily balance drops below $250. Regular Statement Savings charges $3.50 per month if the minimum daily balance drops below $400.

Network fees may be charged for transactions at non-Sovereign ATMs.

Wainwright Bank

Wainwright Bank is a local bank with a branch located near the Kendall Square T stop. According to its website, the bank “resolves to be a leading socially responsible bank.”

Basic Checking requires no minimum balance but charges $1.00 per check over five per month. Value Checking waives the $0.25 per check fee if a $500 minimum balance is maintained or if direct deposit is used. Basic Savings waives the $1.00 monthly fee if a minimum balance of $10.00 is maintained. Statement Savings waives the $2.50 monthly fee if a minimum balance of $500 is maintained. Statement Savings offers a slightly higher interest rate than Basic Savings, currently at three percent.

Wainwright Bank does not charge fees for use of non-Wainwright ATMs. Wainwright is also part of the SUM network.

Fleet Bank

Fleet has branches in the Stratton Student Center and on Main Street near the Coop. Many students choose to enroll in Fleet’s self-service checking account at $5.00 per month, or $3.00 per month if direct deposit of paychecks is used. Self-service checking provides twenty checks per month with a $0.50 fee for each additional check and unlimited usage of ATM and debit cards. Fleet also offers Visa credit cards. There is a $2.00 fee for each deposit, withdrawal, or account inquiry made in person or over the phone to a service representative at a Fleet branch or using Fleet telephone banking. A $50 initial deposit is required to open the account.

A fee of $4.00 monthly for the Regular Savings accounts can be waived if the balance is greater than $500.

Fleet customers can use both web-based and software banking for free, unless bills are paid through the Internet, in which case the fee is $4.50 per month. The web interface, however, must be requested.

The information presented in the article was gathered from marketing representatives of the respective banks and online research.
Lottery To Test How Freshmen Change Preferences

Temporary Housing, from Page 1

Baker's attractiveness to the dorm's entry in the residence guide. However, Singleton encouraged freshmen “to get around and visit other dorms. "Obviously a newly renovated dorm designed by a Finnish architect will appeal" to freshmen, Singleton said.

Freshmen will make their final preferences for their permanent housing assignments in a second lottery that will be run on August 29.

Lottery a test for 2002

Phillip M. Bernard, manager of undergraduate residential services, said the summer housing lottery will serve as a test to see how freshmen change their preferences after arriving on campus.

The preferences of last year’s freshman class for permanent housing were significantly more evenly distributed than the temporary housing preferences of this year’s class. The Class of 2003 ranked MacGregor House as the preferred dorm with 125 first-choice requests and Baker House as second with 120 requests.

In previous years, freshmen were assigned their temporary housing assignments randomly.

“I would be surprised if there are fewer complaints this year than in previous years,” Bernard said.

In previous years, Bernard said that he received almost no complaints.

In the end the lottery assigned 592 people, even though 802 people filled out preference forms. The remaining 210 freshmen were assigned by hand either because they were arriving early as athletes or as part of a freshman pre-orientation program, or because they had requested housing in another lottery.

McConnell, Bernard said.

Those who did not fill out preference forms were randomly assigned temporary housing spots in another lottery.

Freshmen requesting McCormick House were assigned separately because this year McCormick House is participating in a residence-based advising pilot program.

In the future, Bernard said that he would like freshmen to be assigned their permanent housing assignments through a summer housing lottery. Then, if freshmen had complaints, they would participate in another lottery that would relocate them to another dorm. This plan is expected to take effect in 2002, when all freshmen are expected to be housed on campus.

In addition, to the future, freshmen are expected to be given a more interactive introduction to residencies over the summer, rather than this year’s residence booklet. One of the projects sponsored under Project I-Campus, MIT’s alliance with Microsoft Corporation, calls for creating CD-ROM and web-based resources concerning freshman academics and student life to provide incoming freshmen with more detailed information prior to their arrival on campus.

Café, Retail Use To Improve Grad Dorm

Graduate Dorm, from Page 1

For Henrietta Davis pointed out that the 300 parking spaces might lead to commuting traffic. She said that MIT should make sure that none of the parking spaces is used for commuters. Following last night’s meeting, Davis said that MIT had made strides toward addressing parking concerns.

To alleviate concern about open space, Owu said that the new plan will increase open space within the dorm’s courtyard and will set the main building back twenty feet from the street.

In accord with Cambridge’s desire to increase nighttime usage of the University Park area, the new plan proposes creating a retail area on the dormitory’s ground level, with outdoor café-style seating along the Sidney Street sidewalk. Owu said that MIT currently has no potential clients for the retail space, but that it was interested in increasing activity in the area.

Board member William Tibbs expressed concern regarding MIT’s plans for retail space, stating that Cambridgeport had “been burned before … by grand promises of retail in the area.”

To distinguish the dorm from the plain University Park buildings, Owu said that the institute would change the texture for the dorm’s exterior brick surface and add bay windows and French balconies to the design. Owu added that the height of the dorm’s Sidney Street side would be reduced from six floors to five. The Sidney Street side was of the greatest importance to Cambridgeport residents because it faces residences and green space.

Geneva Malenfant, a Cambridgeport resident and a former resident of Westgate, criticized MIT for taking unnecessarily from Cambridge without giving back to the community. Malenfant encouraged MIT to release several extraneous plots gained from the 1971 Simplex parcel purchase to local non-profit organizations for conversion to low-cost housing.

“There’s no institutional use for these plots,” Malenfant said. “It’s difficult for MIT students to pay for housing, but think of how it is for those without a lot of money.”

Malenfant also added that housing costs were a temporary hardship for MIT students, but a lifelong hardship for Cambridgeport’s poor.

Poor communication irks residents

Cambridgeport residents, upset with the dorm’s location in Cambridgeport, criticized MIT for its sudden announcement of building plans earlier this month.

While praising MIT for responding to community concerns, the Board also criticized the Institute for not providing its master plan of future dormitory construction. To meet its goal of housing fifty percent of undergraduate students in Institute housing, MIT will probably need to build at least one additional dorm within the next few years.

Board member Tibbs admonished Owu and other members of MIT’s application team for not being fully open with the Board.

“It’s critically important that you share your plans, especially if you intend to go further into Cambridgeport,” Tibbs said.

Board chairperson Larissa Singleton added if there are complaints.

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