

As of October 9<sup>th</sup>,

**RESPONSES FROM THE EIGHT CANDIDATES, Henrietta Davis, Jonathan Janik, Craig Kelley, David Maher, Kathryn Podgers, Sam Seidel, Tim Toomey, Larry Ward And subsequent responses from Marjorie Decker**

**TO THE FOLLOWING TWO QUESTIONS:**

1. What do you believe are the top one or two environmental and/or energy issues for Cambridge, and how will you address them if you are elected?
2. What do you do personally to improve the environmental sustainability of our society?

## **Henrietta Davis**

### **1. Top one or two environmental or energy issues for Cambridge and how to address them.**

a. Energy efficiency is the top issue for Cambridge. Approximately 80% of all of Cambridge greenhouse gas emissions come from heating and cooling buildings. The most important thing we need to do is to make buildings in all sectors more efficient whether they are old or new, residential, institutional or commercial. I will support the Cambridge Energy Alliance to reach out to the community—residential and commercial to attain the goal of retrofitting 50% of the buildings in the next 4-5 years. It is a tough goal but if we're able to accomplish it—for the financial and health benefits to our community - we can demonstrate the capacity for other cities to do the same with enormous benefits for climate protection.

b. Livable streets are the second most important goal. This is an apt phrase that encompasses the need to get around the city in a sustainable fashion. I've been an advocate for an additional \$1 million to the budget to make our sidewalks safer, recently earning support from the whole council to ask the manager for this. I will continue this pursuit to make the city safer for all, but particularly for older residents.

The infrastructure for bicycles also needs additional support—more bike racks, way-finding to encourage cross-town traffic, added trails to add to the regional bike system, including better river crossings.

Working with the T is also important, but more important is to hear from T riders about what they need and observe. I support having an annual T riders meeting in Cambridge.

c. What's green in the city—I'm a supporter of the advocacy groups who work to protect and improve our open spaces: the Charles River Conservancy, The Friends of Fresh Pond and Alewife and I was a founding member of the Friends of Magazine Beach which pressed for

improvements and an innovative joint City/DCR plan to improve and maintain that park.

I think it's critical for the city to maintain its open space and look for opportunities to expand. Also, I believe there are more opportunities to work with DCR to take advantage of their holdings for our use.

I will be advocating for improving and protecting water quality of the Charles River, aiming to protect that critical resource from harmful substances – including hot water effluent from the Mirant power plant.

## **2. What do you do personally to improve the environmental sustainability of our society?**

I'm always on the lookout for new ways to make my lifestyle more sustainable. So far this is what I have done:

My primary method of transportation around Cambridge is walking. Sometimes I take the T, and occasionally I drive, especially at night. When I do drive, I drive a Honda Civic Hybrid.

My household has undertaken a number of efforts to conserve energy and/or promote a greater reliance on clean sources of energy. We have switched nearly all of our light bulbs from incandescent to compact fluorescents; we buy only Energy Star appliances and have replaced our 10-year-old refrigerator; we have had an energy audit by NSTAR; we belong to the New England Wind Fund, contributing monthly to the development of wind energy; and we will be monitoring the use of our energy with a real-time electricity monitor.

In addition we recycle. I'm pleased to have 64-gallon toter, which I share with my tenant to put out our paper for recycling. We compost household waste in my neighbor's composter and have done so for over 20 years.

## **Marjorie Decker**

### **1. Top one or two environmental or energy issues for Cambridge and how to address them.**

Maximizing and utilizing green energy is one of our biggest environmental issues in Cambridge. The City Council is considering a proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinance to incorporate requirements for LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) standards for certain projects of 25,000 square feet or more. The amendment would address future development proposals of over 25,000 square feet that are either subject to a special permit from the planning Board or the Board of Zoning Appeals or subject to a development consultation under Article 19.50 of the zoning ordinance.

For development proposals that are between 25,000 square feet and 50,000 square feet, starting in January 2008, they would be required to include a completed LEED checklist

reflecting the intended design details of the building. Starting in January 2010, they would be required to be LEED certifiable or better. For development proposals of 50,000 square feet or greater, as of January 1, 2008, they would be required to be LEED certifiable or better and starting in January, 2010, they would have to be certifiable at the LEED Silver level or better. I will continue to actively advocate for this change.

## **2. What do you do personally to improve the environmental sustainability of our society?**

- 1- On weekends, I try not to use my car.
- 2- I use energy-efficient light bulbs
- 3- I do not use plastic bags at the supermarket
- 4- I sent a copy of "An Inconvenient Truth" to family and friends for Christmas last year
- 5- I am conscious of my water usage
- 6- I use environmentally-friendly cleaning products.

## **Jonathan Janik**

### **1. Top one or two environmental or energy issues for Cambridge and how to address them.**

The top two environmental issues facing Cambridge are air quality and energy efficiency in new housing/commercial developments.

Regarding air quality, I will address this through synchronizing traffic signals. Synchronizing traffic signals is optimal at 25mph and significantly reduces the idling of cars which in turn reduces emissions into the air.

Regarding energy efficiency, I will support offering incentives to developers to incorporate clean energy methodology in the construction and structure of new buildings. LEED standards are important to implement in commercial development.

### **2. What do you do personally to improve the environmental sustainability of our society?**

I am a living example of someone concerned about the environment. I am part of a household that composts biodegradable products, recycles, and practices prudent energy use. I support the use of public mass transit systems and I regularly encourage my colleagues to practice cleaner energy practices.

Over six years ago, I chose to sell my car and rely on public

transportation, carpooling, bicycling, and walking as my primary means of going from place to place. To date, I do not own a car and my contribution to fossil fuel emissions in our ozone is considerably less than the average person. Also, I have made it a personal responsibility to encourage others to consider the options of clean energy, such as harnessing wind and investing in ethanol and bio fuel.

## **Craig Kelley**

### **1. Top one or two environmental or energy issues for Cambridge and how to address them**

The primary environmental issue facing Cambridge is transportation. We simply need to get people out of their cars. From the City Manager on down through the City Council to the general public, cars are how we get around. This leads to problems with land use planning, in that much of our public and private space use revolves around how to place our cars. It leads to problems with air quality, in that vehicle emissions and suspended particulate matter from tires makes Cambridge's air an unhealthy, though unquantified, risk to those of us who don't drive. Finally, given the number of people who do drive, those of us who don't drive much feel like we're at the bottom of the food chain: Sidewalks aren't cleared in the winter, potholes in the bike routes are filled only after much angst, traffic laws are enforced in a haphazard and non-comprehensive manner and, overall, it is clear that moving cars and trucks through town is the City's primary aim when it comes to transportation- cyclist and pedestrian safety rates a distant second. We need to change the City's attitude and make the safety of cyclists and pedestrians a primary concern for Cambridge.

If re-elected I will continue to model by example- driving in Cambridge is something my wife and I only do on rare occasions- generally when safety concerns dictate that a bike ride is not responsible. I will continue to push for putting enforcement statistics online, so that people can review the data and come to their own conclusions about how the City values cyclist and pedestrian safety. And I'll keep pushing for the City to do a more aggressive job about filling potholes in bike routes and otherwise improving the City's infrastructure for cycling and walking about town.

### **2. What do you do personally to improve the environmental sustainability of our society?**

1. I, and my whole family, bike almost everywhere we go. If the distance is too great, such as out to Wellesley where my parents live, or there is danger to other people's kids, such as on a playdate, we may drive, but the vast majority of our local trips do not involve a car. Additionally, and more importantly, we are a vegetarian family. We buy organic when we can

and increasingly look at the environmental cost of transportation when making purchases of any kind. We try not to buy stuff for stuff's sake and, in fact, have taken to asking for no presents for birthdays and holidays. And we try to make people understand that our lifestyle- less dependent on cars, non-dependent on meat, small dependence on consumption- is one that we find very enjoyable and that there is no reason other people can't enjoy this low-impact lifestyle as well.

## **David Maher**

### **1. Top one or two environmental or energy issues for Cambridge and how to address them**

- 1). As an elected official I believe that we must do everything to promote green building development. I am intrigued with the ordinance currently pending before the City Council but am not sure if it will hold up legally because of Chapter 40 requirements that state that local building codes can not be more restrictive than state building codes. However, as your councilor, I will work to find a way to accomplish the goals of the pending ordinance by developing density incentives for developers who build LEED certified green buildings.
- 2). I believe that we must continue to support and expand our Urban Tree Program. Expanding and improving the tree canopy in our city will have a long-lasting effect on the overall quality of life in our city.
- 3). I have and will continue to support the massive storm water management initiative that Cambridge has undertaken. Going forward we need to ensure that we are meeting all EPA requirements regarding storm water.

### **2. What do you do personally to improve the environmental sustainability of our society?**

As a City Councillor, I played a major role on a number of major environmentally-friendly accomplishments in our city including leading the complex Alewife Rezoning through the county council's ordinance process. As a result of these efforts a 200 car surface parking lot was converted back to natural wetlands. In addition, I played a significant role in protecting 40,000 square feet of land along Memorial Drive (the old Mahoney's Site) from development and as a result was able to secure its conversion to a new public park. As the former president of the local chapter of the American Cancer Society and other anti-smoking initiatives I was a lead supporter of making Cambridge a smoke-free community.

In addition, I always try to do my part to preserve and protect the environment at home and work.

- I always recycle – (every ton of refuse which is recycled saves \$94.)

- ❑ Recently, I traded in my automobile for a smaller more energy efficient model.
- ❑ Cambridge is a very walkable city. I frequently leave my car at home and walk.
- ❑ I just finished a major home renovation – as part of that effort I have new energy efficient windows, insulation, energy efficient appliances and a new heating system and more natural light. I look at this project as an investment and have already started to see energy savings.

## **KATHY PODGERS**

### **1. Top one or two environmental or energy issues for Cambridge and how to address them**

I have given a great deal of thought to this question. It is difficult to zero in on two issues, when there are so many outstanding challenges that are facing us today. My "Top Two" A, the impending decision about Phase Two of the Urban Ring, and B, preservation of what little natural space we have left in Cambridge, such as along the Charles River from the BU Boat House to Western Ave.

Q. 1. A. Phase Two of the Urban Ring is a major public works project that would bring a highway through Cambridgeport, Area 4 and East Cambridge. The project was devised immediately after folks in Allston and Cambridgeport defeated a similar plan back in the 1970s when that version was called the "Inner Belt." The Inner Belt, I-695, would have connected the Turnpike at the Allston Tolls through Cambridge to the Mystic River Bridge, now called the Tobin Bridge .

Phase Two of the Urban Ring will also connect the Turnpike at the Allston Tolls to the Tobin Bridge. Although the spokespersons for this highway project deny any similarity between the Inner Belt that would have connected the Pike to I-95 at the Tobin, EOT official, Ned Cod confirmed last month at the CAC meeting, that indeed, busses would access the Tobin from the Urban Ring Highway.

Part of this cynical highway project is now being "billed" as a "multi-use path." The Multi-purpose path will be capable of carrying huge, double long "silver line" busses, therefore there is nothing "path-like" about it. It will be part of a major highway.

Even if only busses run on it as currently claimed, I believe it won't be long before folks will demand it carry more vehicles" to "alleviate" the traffic that it is sure to attract. One must suspend all common sense, and critical thinking skills to believe we would spend millions of dollars to build a highway that stops just short of the entrance to the TOBIN and the PIKE, and only carries one bus every 5 minutes.

Even more cynical is the selling of this highway project to environmental groups on the theory that this is a green public transportation solution. It not only is not environmentally friendly, but fails to solve real transportation problems that we actually have.

I oppose Phase Two of the Urban Ring, and recommend that we invest the money in a Phase Three option, with subway and commuter rail extensions. Included in this option would be connecting the Red line with the Blue Line.

I would hold info sessions and provide info to City residents about the true facts of this project and work to get federal funding for a genuine public transportation system, which is available through federal highway funding. I also support looking into the feasibility of an Aerial tram to transport students from the Allston Campus to/thru the Cambridge Campus of Harvard. I also would like to investigate the feasibility of an Aerial tram from Ruggles thru the Longwood Medical District.

Q. 1. B. I oppose continued development of Magazine "Beach," which is not a beach at all, but filled tidal marsh. The correct name for the land at the foot of Magazine St. is Captains Island, and I hope we could work together to preserve and protect this rare treasure, an undeveloped river bend park in an urban setting. When one rows by Captain's Island, one sees no lights, and the stark quiet serves as a blunt and obvious contrast to the hurly burly of the lit up skyline on both sides of the river. If I am elected to City Council, I will work with the DCR and the City, as well as the local universities, to create a natural history walk that would educate all passers by on what the Charles River Estuary looked like when we arrived 400 years ago, and how development has changed the environment. This could be a world wide attraction, and serve both as caution and encouragement for us all to care for the earth we have been given.

## **2. What do you do personally to improve the environmental sustainability of our society?**

First I limit as much as possible my dependence on energy, for example, I use a washing machine that I can control the water level, then I have never used a dryer. I switched to efficient light bulbs years ago, and have them in every room. I use elbow-grease, along with baking soda and vinegar, and avoid anti-bacterial chemical products.

Second, I advocate for sustainable solutions, and speak up when a solution that is proposed seems counter productive. for example, I oppose deforestation at the expense of wildlife habitat, and the switch to ethanol, with the unintended consequence of fuel instead of food. I attend hearings, and testify on these important challenges especially as they immediately affect Cambridge. I also publish a blog, <http://fromtheport.blogspot.com> , where I address both the built up environment (and it's attendant social problems) and the balance with the natural environment.

I support a balance between the built up environment and the natural environment, and preserving and protecting what natural environment we have left here in Cambridge. We need to work with Mother nature, and not see "open space" as an opportunity to develop every blade of

grass. Ask yourself this...Do you consider Fenway Park an Open Space? What is the difference between the Ball field currently located at Magazine Beach and the Ball field adjacent to the Morse School? (A. Lights and fencing. One is a natural space and one is a built up space. Both are considered open spaces, but at the Magazine Beach field there is still habitat and harborage for wildlife)

Other more specific examples...I proposed that Cambridge end aerial spraying for mosquitoes and switch to larvacide back in the 1990's, and I oppose using chemicals, organic or not. along the banks of the Charles, especially Magazine Beach. I keep a wildlife friendly yard, filled with "weeds" and dozens of birds munching on all kinds of natural delights. (no bird feeder) I will, if I am elected, put in an order for establishing hedgerows, to connect the islands of green we have created, so wildlife can move about our City, and I will also ask about the feasibility of "baiting" for rabies, to protect our wildlife.

## **Sam Seidel**

### **1. Top one or two environmental or energy issues for Cambridge and how to address them**

We need to reduce overall fuel consumption and reduce our Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions. I am very interested in seeking this reduction through efficiency upgrades in the homes of Cambridge, whether they be single family homes or multi-units. Getting the Cambridge Energy Alliance up and running is the first step in this process, because the Alliance makes funding available to homeowners who otherwise might not be able to benefit from it. What the Alliance also needs to do is to disseminate information, the other key piece of the puzzle. I look forward to working with other City Councillors as well as with agency staff, interested citizens and non-profits to promote the development of information to be shared with the general public. I also believe that through the Alliance's work, we can raise the standards of typical environmental home remodeling work, which in many cases is currently woefully inadequate. This is important because poor quality work negates most efforts to increase energy efficiency. As well, I intend to work with the relevant parties to urge the Alliance to set real timetables and goals for the implementation of its laudable objectives.

### **2. What do you do personally to improve the environmental sustainability of our society?**

As an individual, I have made many of the changes that homeowners throughout Cambridge have embarked upon: replacing my incandescent lightbulbs with fluorescent bulbs, downsizing my boiler unit and cleaning out the chimney flue, tightening up my windows to reduce leaks and drafts, and turning off appliances whenever they are not in use. I drive as little as possible, and walk or ride my bicycle as often as possible. I recycle, and have begun a concerted effort to reduce my use of plastic and paper shopping bags by bringing a canvass bag with me when I shop. There are, of course, more things I can do, including increasing the amount of insulation in my condo building, seeking clean renewable sources of energy, or foregoing my car altogether.

As a citizen, I have been very active with groups who share the goals that I do. I include in this my participation on the board of Green Decade/Cambridge, as well as my role as a Cambridge Conservation Commission member. As a member of the GD/C board, I have had the opportunity to explore options for multi-unit buildings when they want to improve their energy efficiency. I am hopeful that the resulting document will serve as a template for later work either by GD/C or by the city to help multi-unit buildings “green up”. As a member of the Conservation Commission, I work to ensure that Cambridge waterways and wetlands are being protected against pollutants and erosion.

## **Tim Toomey**

### **1. Top one or two environmental or energy issues for Cambridge and how to address them**

#### **City Government Actions**

1. I fully support a requirement that all new municipal construction utilize green technologies. In addition, I believe that it is important that all city funded renovations be required to recycle old building material and to use energy efficient and renewable materials wherever possible. I am a firm believer that in every attempt at new construction or renovation, environmentally friendly products and technologies should be used, as they can represent a small fraction of overall construction costs.
2. I have also supported the City's efforts to obtain solar panels for a municipal building through the Mass Wind Project. I support ride-sharing initiatives and believe that the city should look into subsidizing the cost of bicycles for city employees. I fully supported the creation of the Cambridge Energy Alliance and their goals of 10% GHG emission by 2011.
3. There are many trees in the City that lack the proper care they need to flourish. We need to better maintain and care for these trees by adding additional staff to water and prune when necessary. My goal is that every empty tree well in the city be filled with a new planting.
4. I wholeheartedly support the switch to zero emission and low speed municipal vehicles, especially with the delivery of City services that necessitate a regular travel route. With larger transport vehicles, I support the purchase of more fuel-efficient and cleaner burning vehicles.

#### **Open Space**

1. The City needs to be more aggressive with the DCR to ensure that they fulfill their obligation to maintain and oversee the open spaces for which they are responsible. Cambridge needs to explore acquiring open spaces from DCR that have been neglected.

2. I firmly believe in bonding for providing open space, requiring developers to either fund or construct a significant amount of useable open space as part of any proposal, or allocating funds as part of the budget process for creating open space. I was the only City Councilor to propose and advocate through bonding the taking, by eminent domain, 10 acres of the then abandoned and unused land in East Cambridge to be utilized to create a reservation similar to the Fresh Pond Park in West Cambridge. Today we hear residents lament that there is no more available space in the City for large scale open space and often think about the opportunity the City Council missed by not agreeing with my proposal.
3. I spend a lot of time enjoying the Charles River, including almost daily walks along the Charles, and it is a treasure that we must not take for granted. Great success has been made in cleaning the Charles, and I fully support all attempts to make the Charles swimmable and safe once again for recreation. The City should offer a subsidy and encourage local companies to take part in "Clean-Up the Charles Days" and that the City replicate the efforts of the Charles River Cleanup Boat.

### **Private Sector Actions**

1. With my support, the City Council has made it clear that we expect new construction projects over a certain size be required to meet LEED certification standards and require higher levels of LEED certification for all new developments by 2010. Cambridge has a proud history of supporting environmentally sound building practices and we intend to pass new zoning laws to insure that new construction meets LEED standards in order to continue this legacy.
2. I support airport shuttle vans, private shuttles, business shuttles, etc., anything that takes 10 or 20 drivers and their cars off the road and puts them into one van. There are just too many good economic, public safety, environmental, and public health reasons to ignore this alternative means of transportation that, with planning, can be implemented with minimal impact on our neighborhoods.

### **2. What do you do personally to improve the environmental sustainability of our society?**

I have converted to CFL bulb use in my own house and have encouraged my tenants to convert as well. I choose to walk to local meetings and use public transportation whenever possible as witnessed by the low mileage on my car. I am an avid recycler and a sticker for shutting off lights, even in City Hall.

## **Larry Ward**

### **1. Top one or two environmental or energy issues for Cambridge and how to address them**

Creating a local transportation system is one way I would suggest to address both the environment and energy issues. Having a local small energy efficient passenger bus traveling throughout Cambridge would increase independence for residents and decrease traffic and pollution. Students needing to get to various practice fields could use these services as well as residents doing short distance outings. Other cities as well as Harvard and MIT have similar transportation systems to meet the needs of their community. We should explore the possibilities of collaborating with Harvard and MIT.

### **2. What do you do personally to improve the environmental sustainability of our society?**

I walk whenever possible. We recycle and that includes giving things to others versus throwing them away. I have participated in clean up efforts of outdoor and indoor spaces. I also encourage others to do the same.