



City of Cambridge

Executive Department

YI-AN HUANG
City Manager

CMA 2026 #3
IN CITY COUNCIL
January 12, 2026

To the Honorable, the City Council:

I am writing to appoint the following Cambridge residents to the Mid Cambridge Neighborhood Conservation District (NCD) Commission **effective January 12, 2026**:

Members:

- Aaron Canto (one-year term)
- Pauke Corstens (two-year term)
- Ksenia Kaladiouk (three-year term)
- Alex Van Praagh (one-year term)

Alternates:

- Min Ho Kim (one-year term)
- Felix Rosen (two-year term)
- Jacquelyn Fahey Sandell (three-year term)

Reappointments:

- Katinka Hakuta (three-year term)
- Catherine Tice (two-year term)

I am also writing to appoint the following Cambridge resident to the Mid Cambridge NCD Commission **effective August 1, 2026**:

Member:

- Sara Gardner (two-year term)

The City Council designated the Mid Cambridge Neighborhood Conservation District (NCD) in 1985 and amended it in 1992. The district is roughly bordered by Prospect Street to the east, Prescott Street to the



West, Kirkland Street and the Somerville city line to the north, and Massachusetts Avenue to the south. It contains approximately 1,500 buildings, including residential, commercial, public, and institutional uses. Mid-Cambridge is the largest NCD in Cambridge.

NCD designation recognizes a distinctive physical environment that reflects the architectural, cultural, political, economic, and social history of the city. NCD designation encourages the conservation and maintenance of these areas so the city may be a more attractive, desirable, affordable, diverse, equitable, accessible, and inclusive place in which to live.

NCD commissions serve a quasi-judicial function in reviewing applications for demolition, new construction, and alterations in designated areas. The statutory requirements for membership are described in Art. 2.78.160 of the City Code, as amended in 2023:

“...the City Manager shall appoint a neighborhood conservation district commission to consist of seven members and three alternates who shall...have demonstrable knowledge and concern for improvement, conservation, and enhancement of the district... The membership shall be as follows:”

- Member 1. District homeowner
- Member 2. District renter
- Member 3. District resident
- Member 4. District resident
- Member 5. District business operator/owner or District resident
- Member 6. Cambridge resident
- Member 7. Cambridge resident with professional qualifications
- Alternate 1. District resident
- Alternate 2. District resident
- Alternate 3. District resident

“Members shall be appointed by the City Manager with regard to the diversity of residents within and surrounding the district. Such members shall serve for a term of three years, except that the initial appointments shall be for one member to serve one year and one member to serve two years, and vacancies shall be filled for the unexpired term of office.”

I am writing to recommend the following appointments and reappointments of members and alternates to the Mid Cambridge Neighborhood Conservation District Commission for staggered terms of one, two, and three years, as required by the ordinance, effective January 12, 2026. Members appointed to one- and two-year terms will be considered for reappointment to full three-year terms, so that in future roughly one-third of all appointments will expire in each year.

New Appointments

1. Aaron Canto, 34 Chatham Street, Apt 1

Aaron is Director of the Persistence Project at Boston Prep, advising high school students and alumni with college and career support. **Appoint as a Member (District Renter) to a 1-year term starting on**

January 12, 2026.

2. Pauke Corstens, 17R Ellsworth Avenue

Pauke is a geophysics engineer who works with direct-to-consumer and technology businesses. Her experience includes close collaboration with architects and designers. She is a renter and has previously worked on small and large-scale remodeling projects. **Appoint as a Member (Cambridge Resident) to a 2-year term starting on January 12, 2026.**

3. Ksenia Kaladiouk, 227 Prospect Street, unit 1

Ksenia is an energy and sustainability consultant with a Master of City Planning degree. Ksenia served on the Planning and Zoning Commission in Washington DC and worked for the City of Boston in the Department of Neighborhood Development as an HKS Public Policy Rappaport Fellow. **Appoint as a Member (District Homeowner) to a 3-year term starting on January 12, 2026.**

4. Min Ho Kim, 67A Dana Street

Min is a registered architect and currently a graduate student at Harvard GSD. He has lived in Cambridge for three years as a renter. He has professional experience in historic preservation as well as mixed-use developments. **Appoint as Alternate (District resident) to a 1-year term starting on January 12, 2026.**

5. Felix Rosen, 91 Trowbridge St. Apt 21

Felix is an urban planner and works for the Trust for Public Land, partnering with public housing authorities, cities, and developers to strengthen neighborhood livability through open space investment and climate-resilient design. **Appoint as Alternate (District Resident) to a 2-year term starting on January 12, 2026.**

6. Jacquelyn Fahey Sandell, 8 Clinton Street

Jacquelyn is an attorney and homeowner with experience in home renovations, including the Mid Cambridge review process. She has volunteered with the Massachusetts Life Sciences General Counsel Roundtable of MassBio and served on Women in Leadership Program at the University of Vermont Grossman School of Business. **Appoint as Alternate (District resident) to a 3-year term starting on January 12, 2026.**

7. Alex Van Praagh, 66 Antrim Street

Alex has been an architect and homeowner in Cambridge for over 25 years. He has worked on a number of historic renovation projects in addition to new construction. He is a founding board member of Grow Native Massachusetts and a board member of the East End House. **Appoint as a Member (Cambridge resident with professional qualifications) to a 1-year term starting on January 12, 2026.**

8. Sara Gardner, 56 Highland Avenue

Tony Hsiao, who has served as the Chair for several years, will be retiring in July 2026. We recommend **appointing Sara Gardner as a Member (District resident) to a 2-year term starting on August 1,**

2026. Sara is an architect experienced in a range of building types and projects. She is a homeowner who received a Preservation Award in 2018 for the restoration of her home.

Reappointments

1. Katinka Hakuta, 4 Ellery Place

Katinka is a grants and program manager and has lived in Cambridge for over ten years, first as a renter and now as a homeowner. Katinka has volunteered in Cambridge in several other capacities, including the Cambridge Community Foundation, the Cambridge Volunteer Clearinghouse, and the Cambridge Public Library. She has served as a Member for one full 3-year term, which expired April 25, 2025. **Reappoint as a Member (District resident) to a 3-year term starting on January 12, 2026.**

2. Catherine Tice, 5 Fainwood Circle

Catherine is an editorial and publishing consultant. She is a homeowner with extensive experience in renovations. Catherine is serving her first 3-year term which does not expire until June 12, 2026, but since we are refreshing all the appointments in staggered terms, we recommend **reappointment as a Member (District resident) to a 2-year term starting on January 12, 2026.**

The City Manager's office posted a request for applications for the Mid Cambridge NCD Commission on the City website via a news release on September 15, 2025, with a closing date of October 20, 2025. During that time, the CHC advertised the vacancies on its website and social media channels (8,000+ followers) as well as professional associations, including the Boston Society of Architects and Boston Society of Landscape Architects. The call for applicants was also posted in a City press release, the Daily Update newsletters, the website, and social media. The City's Civic Outreach Squad distributed flyers throughout the district, which was very successful in attracting more interest. There were 25 applicants, all of whom were interviewed except for two who withdrew and two others who did not respond. Second interviews were conducted with 13 candidates, resulting in a final list of eight recommended new appointments. No candidates could be found for the district business owner/operator position, so, as provided by the Ordinance, a district resident has been proposed instead.

The proposed distribution of one, two, and three-year terms for new members is established in Chapter 2.78.160. Proposed terms were assigned to new members listed in alphabetical order (except for Sara Gardner who is a later appointment). The new members appointed to one- and two-year terms are expected to be reappointed to three-year terms beginning in 2027.

I appreciate the willingness of these community members to serve on the Mid Cambridge NCD Commission, and with your approval, look forward to their appointments.

Sincerely,



Yi-An Huang
City Manager