

TOWN OF BELMONT
COMMUNITY PATH PROJECT COMMITTEE
<https://www.belmont-ma.gov/community-path-project-committee>

RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK
BELMONT, MA

DATE: January 10, 2024
TIME: 3:09 PM

MEETING MINUTES
December 13, 2023
Remote Meeting (held via Zoom)

CPCC Members: Holly Muson, Bonnie Friedman, Mark Kagan (Joined 8:36 AM), Vincent Stanton, Ellen Sugarman, Steve Engler, Eric Perkins (School Committee Liaison), Phil Lawrence

Members of Public: Aleida Leza, Allison Lenk, Jarrod Goentzel (Left 9:05 AM)

Town: Glenn Clancy

Nitsch Engineering: John Michalak

Called to order 8:05 AM

1. Phase 1 Update: John Michalak of Nitsch Engineering provided updates:
 - a. Bridge Type Selection Worksheet: MassDOT met in October and decided that a Bridge Type Selection Worksheet is required (typically takes two months). Nitsch will review Worksheet by end of the day (will update Glenn) and expects to submit Worksheet before Christmas, after which MassDOT will review within 30 days and Nitsch will resubmit sketch plans to MassDOT.
 - b. 25% Design Public Hearing: After approval of the sketch plans, MassDOT has a 42-day window to schedule public hearing. This would put the design public hearing in early April. Nitsch has already received comments from MBTA railroad operations on 25% plans which will be addressed on the 75% plans.
 - c. 75% to Final Design: After 25% design public hearing Nitsch can proceed with final design. Nitsch will need to send survey crew out to get anything that changed (propane tanks). Nitsch is reaching out to MBTA to get license in place for survey work. Will be opportunity for town input during 75% design. Would schedule for June 2024 with 75% submission in July. John Michalak stated they could meet with abutters in field.
 - d. Right-of-Way: Once 75% plans are approved, Glenn can proceed with work needed for any temporary or permanent easements, including title exams, with appraisal process (8-9 months). Still estimating that 12-15 properties will be affected.
 - e. Discussion: Phil Lawrence, Vince Stanton, and Ellen Sugarman discussed with John Michalak why the Bridge Selection process was necessary, the additional cost to the town and how the committee could help reduce costs going forward by getting more timely information after the 25% Design Public Hearing. John Michalak proposed to join regular future meetings of the CPCC.

2. Phase 2 Update: Glenn Clancy provided an update on Phase 2.
 - a. Additional Surveys: Select Board asked Pare to provide more details on the bridge's location on the Housing Authority property vis-à-vis the MBTA property line, and how it

might affect Belmont Village redevelopment plans. Glenn has been working with Pare to narrow the scope of the proposed survey, and once the survey proposal is finalized, survey work can begin.

- b. Belmont Village Re-Development: Vince Stanton, Ellen Sugarman, Phil Lawrence, and Glenn Clancy discussed how the path project might move forward in the light of pending redevelopment of Belmont Village.
3. Minutes: Committee reviewed minutes for November 13th. Approved unanimously as amended.
4. Phase 1 Schedule: The committee agreed that the plan is aggressive, with the project start date now being at risk, and discussed what the committee can do to ensure that the project stays on target for the FFY 2026 start date.
5. Open to Do Items: "To Do" items remain open from previous meetings:
 - a. Get guidelines from Age-friendly committee to Nitsch – Assigned to: Mark Kagan
6. Future Agenda Items: Carried over from previous minutes
 - a. Waverley Square Business Owner Interviews to get their feedback on the Path, because Phase 2 of the Path will go through the Square.
7. Next meetings:
 - a. Wednesday, January 10th, 2024.
8. Adjourned at 9:29 AM.

Minutes Submitted by Mark Kagan