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Town of Belmont
COMMUNITY PATH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 9th, 2013
Town Hall, Conference Room 4
MEETING NOTES

The Community Path Advisory Committee (CPAC) meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by its Chairperson Jeffrey Roth.

Attendance: Constituting a quorum, 8 of 10 members present.

Committee Members	
Jeffrey Roth - Chairperson	John Dieckmann - Co-Chairperson
Brian Burke Sr.	Kevin Sullivan
Amy DeDeo	Price Armstrong
Charlie Conroy (revolving Secretary)	Tommasina Olson

Absent: Cosmo Caterino, Joseph Noone
Town Official: Jeffrey Wheeler, Planning Coordinator
Others: Community member Vincent Stanton

Approval of Minutes from December 12, 2012 Meeting

Motion put forward to accept with amendments was seconded and unanimously approved.

Jeff passed out some photos of alternative uses of Arlington's Minuteman Bikeway - an outdoor art exhibit this past summer. A brief discussion ensued on alternative benefits and uses for a community path.

1. Survey Review

The survey was sent to committee members with the minutes for December meeting. Several members took it, and others are still in process of taking it. Thorough discussion on questions. Several changes were discussed:

- Intro - Need to reword so that it promotes community interests rather than recreational activities
- Q1 - List adjacent towns, rather than free text
- Q6 - Text edits (Jeffrey Wheeler to send to Amy DeDeo after meeting)
- Q7 - Reword to indicate utilizing rated than locating
- Q8 - Comment regarding underpass seemed out of context with rest of survey. Detailed discussion on this topic ensued with several options to make the question more generic, or to drop this question. The final agreement was to drop the question from the survey.

A general comment from Brian Burke was that the survey was smooth and flowed easily.

Motion to finalize the survey with amendments discussed was proposed by Tomi Olson, seconded by Kevin Sullivan and approved unanimously by the committee.

2. Survey distribution

Kevin Sullivan commented that an introduction needs to be added to the CPAC committee website to offer more context. Jeff Roth read out the proposed text. A few minor edits were proposed.

Action: Jeffrey Wheeler will add the same text to the Committee website.

The Committee agreed to use email list serves (not email addresses) for survey link distribution, and also to include info with the MBLD electric bills. Surveys will also be available at the Belmont Public Library.

The electric bill option would ensure coverage to abutter's homes. Three options from BMLD were discussed, and their associated costs.

The preferred approach was to include an insert with the electric bill - starting with the February bill. There is a cost associated with this.

Action: Cost of including the CPAC insert with the electric bill will be researched by Jeffrey Wheeler and determined how it would be covered.

Kevin Sullivan read out proposed text for the insert. Some small edits were discussed. Brian Burke offered to help distribute to merchants by creating a hard-card of notice.

A discussion on adding a graphical logo to the Committee's communications was discussed. Tomi Olsen volunteered to sketch out. The Committee will review this at future meetings.

Based on the timing of the survey being distributed, and the preference of the Committee to have some feedback from residents, the Public forum meeting will be pushed from February 13th to February 27th.

3. Evaluation Criteria

The Committee discussed the evaluation form and shared experiences filling out the evaluation criteria. There were differing opinions on some of the sections in the evaluation criteria. Price suggested keeping the form as is and gather information from all committee members and then focus on non-zero categories once complete. Committee agreed on this approach.

Action: Committee was asked to put their numerical rankings on the form and send it to Jeff Roth once complete.

4. Rails with Trails report

Joe Noone had prepared a summary of the 2000 Rails with Trails report. Jeff Roth shared Joe's summary. The Committee discussed some of the highlights from the report and Joe's summary. Discussion focused on railroad support for adjacent paths, and how liability is handled.

It was noted that the report is 13 years old.

Action: Price will research to see if there is a more up to date report.

5. Upcoming Events

- Board of Selectman update - 1/30
- Public forum - moved from 2/13 -> 2/27 (tentative based on no other conflicting town meetings that night)
- Next Committee meeting - 1/23. Jeffrey Wheeler strongly recommended we use next meeting to prepare for Public meeting on 2/27
- Site Visit - 1/12 at 2pm - Belmont Center Train station, West-bound side.

6. Waltham Mass Central Rail Trail Project Status

John Dieckmann updated the Committee that part of the Waltham Mass-Central Rail-Trail path was built. The section built is small, but is a symbolic section in the sense that the project has started. Some volunteer efforts had cleared some of the less "political" hotspots on the path and progress was being made. John also mentioned that towns along the proposed trail are starting work ahead of the DCR work in their towns.

John mentioned that he would invite the Waltham planner to a future meeting - likely after the public forum at the end of February.

Motion to Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 9:06pm via a motion by Kevin Sullivan and seconded by Amy DeDeo.