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Community Path Advisory Committee
October 9, 2013
Minutes

Attendance: Jeff Roth, Chair, John Dieckman, Vice Chair, Price Armstrong, Amy Dedeo, Brian Burke, Joe Noone, Cosmo Caterino, Charlie Conroy, Kevin Sullivan, Vincent Stanton, Tomi Olson (revolving secretary).

The **Minutes** of the prior meeting were discussed. A discussion occurred about why the Committee decided against explicitly including a wall option in the questionnaire to potential abutters. Mr Caterino and Ms. Olson suggested rewording the minutes to read: "It was generally agreed that a wall would limit access to a Trail and therefore it was not included." Additionally, there was a minor date change from 2014 to 2015 for the MBTA track improvement program.

The Minutes were approved with the above amendments.

Discussion of Ranking Methodology: Routes 1-A to 1-E

Clarification of approaches used by different Committee members in order to grade the different paths from 1-A to 1-E. The generally preferred routes were 1-E, 1-D and 1-A.

Suggestions to consider included adding a zero or N/A category, and having consistent termini for each of the routes.

It was decided that the zero or N/A category would be added to the evaluation format.

Price offered to adjust the wording of the criteria to make it easier for people to perform the evaluations. Price requested that the Committee submit to Jeff any suggested wording changes before the coming weekend so that he change anything needed on the Monday holiday.

Jeff requested that the Committee evaluate the remaining three route areas, and submit them to him by October 21 to be ready for the October 23 (next) Meeting.

John D. offered that any route would need to be ADA compliant. It was commented that ADA compliance only allows a 5% increase in grade, unless there is a hand railing for people to hold on to in which case the grade can increase by 8.3%.

Jeff suggested that committee members indicate for each route evaluated a list of pros and cons. Kevin S. suggested that there be Subcommittees to evaluate specific routes. Price also felt that Subcommittees might be useful as the secondary evaluation of the non-quantifiable data for the top routes identified by the first evaluation by the committee. It was generally agreed that it would be most efficient to perform such subcommittee work after the full list of routes had been initially screened using the evaluation criteria and then whittled down to only those routes that ranked highest.

Vince reiterated that it is his belief that a "network" of routes might be preferable to coming up with one best route.

Discussion of the CPA proposal. The Draft for the CPA presentation on Oct. 10 was circulated to the Committee members by Jeff Wheeler. This preliminary presentation to the CPA will be Thursday night Oct 10. All committee members and public were invited to attend.

Tomi O requested help from Jeff W. on the section "Feasibility" for the CPA application that needs to be submitted to Jeff R. by October 15.

Questionnaire to the abutters: 200 copies are available but the full list of those who need to receive a survey is not yet available. Suggestions:

1. Surveys to be hand delivered by committee members who can offer background on the survey.
2. One survey per household.
3. Once the routes had been narrowed down, the questionnaire would be sent to those households only since it didn't make sense to query households on routes that were unlikely to be proposed by the CPAC.

The committee discussed the merits of hand delivery versus mail. It was suggested that those surveyed be advised that they are being surveyed because they are specially sited near a potential trail.

Survey participants should be encouraged to mail it in or bring it to the public forum

It was determined that abutters on both sides of Concord Ave will be notified. Jeff W clarified that if the Path goes down any road abutters on both sides would be surveyed. This will include both residential and commercial abutters. However, for off-road routes only direct abutters would be surveyed.

The Committee will establish a subset of routes based on the evaluation criteria analysis as discussed in #3 above. As the committee determines the potential routes, then the list of abutters will be generated. Once the potential routes are established, abutters will be notified about the questionnaire and also about a future Public Forum specifically for potential abutters. It was suggested that this meeting with the abutters might include a presentation of the routes and then be followed by a Q & A session. A Town-wide Public Forum would also be scheduled subsequently.

Opening of Alewife Park : Tuesday Oct. 15th from 2:00p to 5:00p.

CPAC Bike Ride on Sunday October 13 at 2:00p. Family friendly route on local trails and roads. Helmets are encouraged.

Next meetings 10/23 and 11/6. Meeting with the Selectmen on Monday October 28.

New email list: Google group. Now has 100 members. Thank you to Amy for setting it up. Thank you also to volunteer Jarrod Goentzel for drafting a flyer to post in local businesses.

Action items: Oct 21 deadline for route evaluations. Comments to Price by Saturday Oct. 12. CPA final application is due Nov. 1.

The meeting was adjourned 9:10pm