

Town of Belmont

2014 JUL 21 AM 9:02

COMMUNITY PATH ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CPAC)

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Town Hall, Conference Room 2

MEETING NOTES

Meeting Attendance:

CPAC members in attendance included Jeff Roth; Brian Burke; Charlie Conroy; Amy DeDeo; Tomi Olson; Price Armstrong; John Dieckmann; Vincent Stanton (departed early). Charlie Conroy was the volunteer note-taker for this meeting.

Absent were Cosmo Caterino, Kevin Sullivan, and Joe Noone.

Community members present included Hank Thidemann (Warwick Road), Jarrod Goentzel (Aggasiz Avenue), and Paul Healy (Channing Road).

The meeting was called to order at 7:07pm by Chairman Roth.

Minutes from the prior meeting on May 14th were reviewed. Minor comments were provided. Vince motioned to approve as amended; Brian seconded. All voted in favor of approving the minutes as amended.

Jeff updated the Committee members on the following key dates:

- The public forum, notionally scheduled for June 18th, was cancelled per the request from the Selectmen (Andy Rojas email).
- There will be an update to the Board of Selectmen at their standard meeting on June 9th – starting at 7pm. Jeff requested all CPAC members to attend if possible.
- Final meeting will be held on June 18th. A discussion followed if we could display routes during that meeting. It was decided to display the routes if the public wished to see them.
- The June 18th meeting will wrap up the committee work.
- A brief discussion followed to see if we could move this final meeting to 6/11 (Town Meeting contingency date) to accommodate Tomi Olson, who has a conflict on 6/18 (1st night of Payson Park Concert of which she is integral part of that organizing committee). Jeff will see if this is feasible. If not, it was agreed to stick to the 6/18 date. Other weekdays are not feasible.

The Committee then reviewed the Belmont Center Redesign project as presented at Town Meeting by Town Engineer Glenn Clancy. The Committee noted there has been no recent engagement with the Town engineer, since the CPAC path recommendations were defined. The Belmont Center

redesign plan was formulated prior to the formation of the CPAC. There was a general review of the redesign plan and a discussion. The Committee focused on the Concord Ave. changes north of the tracks between Belmont Station and the Belmont Savings Bank. It was discussed that this would be a good location for an on/off ramp for any Community Path that leverages the MBTA right of way through Belmont Center.

The Committee agreed to add to the list of outstanding items in the CPAC report (described below) engaging with the Belmont Center Redesign project to incorporate some thought into the proposed Community Path routes through Belmont Center. This should be a task for the yet-to-be established permanent Community Path committee.

Jeff Roth took an action item to write a letter to Town Engineer Glenn Clancy documenting the CPAC concerns. The following points would be mentioned in this letter. See the letter for more details.

1. The Belmont Center plan predates work done by CPAC to identify potential routes for the Belmont Community Path. The two primary Path routes being recommended are on the north and south sides parallel to the Fitchburg Line. No matter which of these routes are chosen, the selected route would need to be connected to the main part of Belmont Center north of Belmont Station. The proposed modifications to Concord Ave. near Belmont Station may limit the ability to access a path on the northern side from Belmont Center.
2. The proposed Belmont Center Redesign modifies the northern access to the existing underpass by removing one of the ramps down into it. Instead, there would be stairs and a sharp turn to access the ramp. Would it be possible to consider modifying this design to better support Community Path users, given the sharp turn on the northern side?
3. The portion of the Redesign along the northern section of Concord Ave. is likely to be relevant to a future Community Path, given the issues of access raised above. One possible approach would be to hold off on implementing this part of the design until more information is known about the design of the Community Path.
4. It appears that the new sidewalks and crosswalks traversing the Leonard Street/Channing/Concord intersection near the bridge are not designed for Community Path traffic, and the current assessment by CPAC is that the proposed crosswalk infrastructures would not support routing of a Community Path. The CPAC anticipates that the use of the railroad bridge (either the northern or southern side) will remain the preferred means to traverse Belmont Center.
5. The possibility of the access adjacent to the Coldwell-Banker building on Channing Road. What consideration has been given to this?

The CPAC committee then moved onto reviewing the Arlington Police Department statistics on crime in and around the Minuteman Bikeway in Arlington. It was agreed that the proposed text to support the statistics should be edited from the proposed version. Price volunteered to add this to the document and the supporting text. Charlie commented that the statistics are actually quite

favorable to show that there was low crime around the Minuteman Bikeway over this five-year period. Also, the data is over five years old. Brian agreed to this also.

Price motioned to accept the commentary as amended; Brian seconded, all approved.

Additionally Price will create a list of outstanding items that require follow up by the permanent Community Path committee (yet-to-be formed). Tomi agree to create a bibliography from Chapter 5 to add to the report. A brief discussion about creating bound copies pursued and it was suggested to have the Town create bound copies for presentation to the Board of Selectmen, in addition to leaving at copy at various Town departments and at the Public library for ongoing reference by the community.

Jeff recapped all the hard work the CPAC members accomplished over the past 21 months. He thanked the committee for their dedication and perseverance in sometimes challenging circumstances.

Brian motioned to adjourn the meeting, and Amy seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.