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**Town of Belmont
COMMUNITY PATH ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, March 12, 2014
Homer Municipal Building, 3rd Floor Art Gallery Room**

MEETING NOTES

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

CPAC Members present at the meeting included Jeffrey Roth, John Dieckmann, Joe Noone, Brian Burke, Cosmo Caterino, Amy DeDeo, Price Armstrong, Tomi Olson, Vince Stanton, and Kevin Sullivan, constituting a quorum, with 10 of 11 members present. Absent was member Charlie Conroy. Also present was Jeffrey Wheeler, Planning Coordinator. Philip Lawrence (Agassiz Avenue), Kim Slack (Taylor Road), Mary Bradley (Palfrey Road), and School Committee Chair Laurie Graham (Belmont Street) also attended.

Note taker for this meeting

John Dieckmann was assigned to take notes.

Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings

Minutes for the February 26th meeting were reviewed. Price Armstrong moved to approve the minutes with minor edits, and Joe Noone seconded. Voted to approve 7 – 0 (three of the CPAC members arrived after this vote was taken).

Notes and Correspondence Received

Jeff Roth distributed copies of 4 letters that were addressed to the CPAC and they were briefly discussed. The letters were from Mary Bradley, Sarah Jensen, David Benoit, and Patrick Murphy.

The April 12 Mass Central Rail-Trail Coalition “Golden Spike” meeting was mentioned briefly. John Dieckmann stated that he planned to attend and to provide a short briefing on the status of the Belmont segment.

Jeff Roth reported that the Transportation Bond Bill that recently passed the State Senate includes funding for the Watertown Greenway and for a pedestrian/bicycle bridge across the Fitchburg Line to connect the so-called Cambridge Quadrangle (off of Concord Avenue) with Cambridge Park drive.

Cosmo mentioned that he had received an MBTA alert regarding the upcoming track improvement work.

Summary of Responses from the Potential Abutters Questionnaire

The committee reviewed a summary of the results that had been prepared by volunteer Yvette Tenney.

Cosmo asked if “Channing Road” responses were from both sides of Channing Road or just the railroad side. The answer is both sides and the description of Channing Road in this context will be revised to clarify that it is both sides of the road.

The Summary will be included as an Appendix to the Final Report.

The version that was reviewed had two blank pages which were supposed to include copies of the questionnaire. This material will be added to the summary.

Price Armstrong moved, and Kevin Sullivan seconded, that this summary (including the above updates) be posted to the CPAC web page, as amended. This was approved by a vote of 10 – 0 in favor.

Review of Recent Soil Contamination Studies Along the Fitchburg Line

A summary of soil contamination studies was reviewed, noteworthy those associated with the French and Mahoney development at 50 Brighton Avenue and with the new 115 kV electric power transmission line. The studies showed no evidence of soil or water contamination along the former Mass Central Railroad line near Brighton Street and Channing Road, while some minor contamination (likely from Boston Blue Clay deposits) exists on the south side of the tracks in Cambridge. Neither of these environmental assessments showed any contamination levels that would limit any future development, and the assessments also did not impose any limits on the types of future developments for these lands.

CPAC Route Recommendations (continued from the previous meeting)

There was a brief discussion of whether to vote on a priority route alternative in each section of Town.

There was a brief presentation of potential synergy between potential Community Path routes and the Belmont Safe Routes to School Task (SRTS) Force's initiatives. With some edits, these SRTS routes will be presented by Tomi Olson to TAC and the Safe Routes to School group, asking for feedback to CPAC.

There was a brief presentation of route modifications to the Clark Lane/Pearson street route segment, to include a setback near the private residence at 4 Clark Lane closest to Pearson Road.

Laurie Graham, chair of the School Committee, clarified that even though School lands may be titled to the Town of Belmont, the School Committee has final authority over use of all of these lands. This jurisdiction encompasses all of the High School campus, including all of the sports fields, the ice rink area, the parking lots, the tennis courts, the High School fire land, and any other school lands or school athletics facility lands.

CPAC Final Report

Committee members were asked to review and comment on the current draft before the March 26th meeting.

CPAC Calendar, Schedule and Planned Events

Next meetings – March 26th and April 9th

CPAC Status Update to Board of Selectmen is scheduled for March 17th.

Public Forum #3: This is tentatively scheduled for April 23rd, is though likely to move later since April 23rd is during school vacation week. The purpose of this forum would be to read out to the general public the recommendations, outcomes and next steps suggested by CPAC.

Draft responses to Public Forum #2 questions were emailed to committee members on the day of this meeting (March 12th), and members were asked to review and add suggestions if they had any.

Adjournment

Kevin Sullivan moved to adjourn the meeting, and Brian Burke seconded it. The meeting was adjourned at 9p.