

SEP 6 2 45 PM '13

**Belmont Community Path Advisory Committee (CPAC)**

**Meeting Notes**

**July 10, 2013**

Present: Cosmo Caterino, Kevin Sullivan, John Dieckmann (Vice Chair), Amy Dedeo, Jeff Roth (Chair), Price Armstrong (rotating secretary), Charlie Conroy, Tomi Olson, Vince Stanton, and Jeffrey Wheeler (Office of Community Development).

Visiting: Shiela Flewelling, Judith Ananian Sarno, Chief David Frizzell (Belmont Fire Department), and Cindy Taylor.

Belmont Fire Department (BFD) Chief David Frizzell was present to answer questions. A summary of the question and answer session is provided below:

- Could we use the fire lane behind the high school for part of the path?
  - His main concern was maintaining fire access along that roadway.
  - Chief Frizzell gave the history of the school in terms of why the fire hydrants and their water mains are located behind and along the ends of the school, rather than in front of the school. He said it is important to keep those hydrants open and accessible, therefore the town could not close that road off to motor vehicles for use by a path.
  - Removable bollards to keep motor vehicles out of a pathway are also not an option along the fire lane.
- Other fire concerns regarding design of a Community Path:
  - The asphalt surface of an off-road trail needs to be at least 12 feet wide, with an additional 1 foot shoulders on each side cleared of vegetation (grass acceptable). It is preferable for foliage to be cleared to a 14 feet height above trail, to avoid having to trim trees more than once a year. The minimum height for over-hanging vegetation above a trail would be 10 feet.
  - No new fire hydrants would need to be added in wooded areas that a trail would pass through, and in residential areas existing fire hydrants could be used if necessary.
  - If there were a fence between a trail and the rail line, there might need to be access points along that fence for fire emergencies.
- Rail-With Trail discussion notes:
  - Currently, the BFD cannot utilize the existing unimproved pathway adjacent to the rail line (between Belmont Center and Brighton Street) to respond to fire emergencies that occur along the rail corridor.

- The path design should include access options to the Community Path, to allow use by emergency responders.

Minutes were then reviewed and approved from the June 4th meeting.

News and other topics:

- Jeff Roth noted that land has been acquired for the Watertown/Cambridge Greenway, and that trail development is proceeding forward there.
- Definitions of various types of bicycle/pedestrian infrastructure were explained (multi-use path versus raised cycle tracks versus bicycle lanes). These definitions are to provide general agreement about how each route segment would be categorized.
- Cosmo Caterino stated that most abutting residents on Channing Road want a substantial wall barrier along any path that goes near their property.

Photos

- Jeff Roth shared panoramic photos of the Minuteman Bikeway that he took, illustrating how most adjacent homeowners in those towns have addressed privacy and security.
  - Cindy Taylor expressed concern over having a trail next to rail line, and she noted that as a primary concern for Channing Road residents.
  - Charlie noted that there would be a safety barrier between the path and the rail line.

Forum Feedback – The document responding to the first forum’s comments was discussed.

- Price recommended changing the tributary trails section.
- Document was adopted as amended.

Crime and paths

- Cosmo provided an editorial published in Weston that discussed a proposed trail that was formerly rejected, based in part on crime. That trail has since been accepted by Weston and development of it is moving forward.
- Bedford had no reported problems on the Minuteman Bikeway, according to the Bedford police department. The officer explained that crime is less likely to take place because the path is patrolled, and there are more secluded places in Bedford where criminal activities would be more likely to occur.

The next CPAC meetings will be held on July 23 and August 21. A Board of Selectmen update will be given on July 15.

Charlie volunteered to fill out the Community Preservation Act (CPA) funding application for a feasibility study of a pedestrian/bicycle connection under the Fitchburg rail line.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:00p.