



Town of Belmont Community Path Advisory Committee (CPAC)

2012 Town Annual Report Submission 20 February 2013

Abstract

This document provide a brief summary of the activities and accomplishments in 2012 of the Belmont Community Path Advisory Committee. This information is being provided for the 2012 Belmont Town Annual Report.

Committee Establishment and Membership

The Board of Selectmen voted to establish the Community Path Advisory Committee (CPAC) on 15 August 2011. The charge for this committee, adopted by the Board of Selectmen on 5 March 2012, is to conduct research and offer recommendations about a shared-use community path in Belmont that could be utilized for recreation, exercise, and transportation. Committee appointments were made by the Board of Selectmen in May 2012. The CPAC formally convened as a Town committee on 8 August 2012.

The CPAC currently includes ten members. These members are listed below.

1. Jeff Roth, committee chairperson (78 Watson Road)
2. John Dieckmann, committee vice-chairperson (47 Lorimer Road)
3. Price Armstrong (34 Grove Street)
4. Brian Burke, Sr. (Belmont business owner)
5. Cosmo Caterino (241 Channing Road)
6. Charlie Conroy (80 Channing Road)
7. Amy DeDeo (76 School Street)
8. Joseph Noone (271 Channing Road)
9. Tommasina Anne Olson (10 Bay State Road)
10. Kevin Sullivan (9 B Street)

Rules of Governance

One of the initial actions of the committee was to establish ground-rules and bylaws for the committee. The committee unanimously adopted such a set of rules of governance on 17 October 2012. This document can be obtained from the Town or the Committee chairs.

Calendar of Meetings

In 2012 the CPAC held the following meetings and events listed in the table below.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
August 8, 2012 – Wednesday	Public CPAC Meeting
September 5, 2012 – Wednesday	Public CPAC Meeting
September 19, 2012 – Wednesday	Public CPAC Meeting
October 3, 2012 – Wednesday	Public CPAC Meeting
October 17, 2012 – Wednesday	Public CPAC Meeting
October 22, 2012 – Monday	Update to Board of Selectmen
November 4, 2012 – Sunday (occurred on rain date)	CPAC Bike Ride (Belmont/Cambridge/Arlington)
November 7, 2012 – Wednesday	Public CPAC Meeting
November 28, 2012 – Wednesday	Public CPAC Meeting
December 8, 2012 – Saturday	West Belmont Site Visit
December 12, 2012 – Wednesday	Public CPAC Meeting

Activities and Accomplishments

In addition to the tasks and events discussed above, the list below summarizes further activities and accomplishments for the CPAC in 2012.

1. Research of Previous Reports and Studies: The CPAC studied a number of reports, some of which are listed below. Many of these reports were summarized in documents prepared by the CPAC.
 - Central Mass Rail-Trail Feasibility Study
(April 1997)
 - Belmont Bikeway Preliminary Feasibility Analysis
(September 1997 and addendum dated November 5, 1997)
 - Metropolitan Area Planning Council

Belmont/Waltham Community Trail Alignment Study (January 2012
)

2. Evaluation Criteria: The CPAC drafted a set of evaluation criteria for ranking and assessing trail route options. The purpose of these criteria is to provide a comprehensive set of benchmarks, both positive and negative, that can at a high level assess the feasibility and desirability of potential path locations. Prioritization of these criteria will facilitate comparisons of different trail route options.
3. CPAC Bike Ride: The CPAC organized a bike ride that toured local trails and greenways in and around the Belmont area. This bike ride, which occurred on November 4, 2012, observed the new trail (c. 2011) from Brighton Street in Belmont to Alewife, the Alewife Brook Greenway in Arlington, the Minuteman Bikeway in Arlington, the Spy Pond Path in Arlington, Lake Street, Oliver Road, and other sites. During the ride, a residential landowner on the Minuteman Bikeway answered questions from the ride participants. Photos were documented of the locations visited on this bike ride.

4. West Belmont Site Visit: The CPAC held a walking site visit of potential trail routes west of Belmont Center, and extending all the way to the Waltham border. The approximate route for this walk can be seen at the following link:
<http://veloroutes.org/r/91202>

This visit included areas such as the Royal Road forest/wetland, the Clark Street footbridge, the McLean Conservation Land, Pleasant Street, Waverly Square, the Belmont Department of Public Works Yard, and the Belmont Housing Authority. A photo collection was documented for the areas visited during this site visit.

5. Identification of Additional Site Visits: The CPAC created a list of additional site visits in Belmont to be conducted in 2013.
6. Public Questionnaire: A key objective of the CPAC is to communicate with, solicit input from, and involve the Belmont community as part of its research and information gathering work. To that end, the CPAC has drafted an online public questionnaire to solicit input from the community on a potential trail, and help identify features, issues, and objectives related to such a trail.
7. Public Forum: To further involve the community as discussed in item #6 above, the CPAC also scheduled and performed planning for a charette-type public forum for February 27th, 2013. The purpose of this public forum will be to solicit ideas on a potential community path in Belmont that could connect Belmont to other existing and planned trails. We would like to hear what people want a trail to connect to, and where it should go. The interactive forum will allow people to review

maps of Belmont, propose community path routes, offer points of view, and suggest additional trail options. This public forum will be followed later in the year by another public forum that will present committee findings to the public.

8. Final Report Outline: A final report is the primary deliverable to the Town from the CPAC. The CPAC has created a preliminary outline of what will be provided in the final report. This outline identifies the work areas which the CPAC has been tasked with by the Town's leadership, therefore the topics listed in the outline indicate the tasks which the committee should focus on and subsequently document in the final report. The final report will include a number of topics, for example background and context, an update on other trail projects and how a project in Belmont could tie into them, potential segments for a community path in Belmont, community feedback obtained from the questionnaire and public forums, and the CPAC's assessments and recommendations of path routes.
9. List of Milestones and Deliverables: The CPAC has created a working list of milestones and deliverables for the committee. The intent of this document is to guide the committee's work and keep the committee focused on its goals and objectives. These milestones and deliverables reflect a June 2013 time-frame for completion of the initial phase of the committee's work.
10. Committee Webpage: The CPAC has established a webpage on the Belmont Town website with further information on the committee. This webpage includes some of the reports studied, a roster of the committee members, and agendas and minutes from previous meetings.

Summary

The CPAC was chartered in 2012 to gather information and provide recommendations regarding a potential community path in Belmont. The CPAC began the work of undertaking these tasks when it started convening in August 2012. Many work projects related to the charter for the committee were initiated in 2012, and are continuing into 2013. The CPAC has also held regular public meetings, organized a local trail bike ride and a site visit, provided an update to the Board of Selectmen, and established a page on the Town website with further information on the Committee.