Quick review of Community Path evolution

1994 - Bikeway Planning Committee created in response to funding provided by the federal government to create a link from Alewife Station (Paul Dudley White Bike Path, which runs along the Charles River in Boston) to Belmont Center - (The segment behind Channing Road was identified when the Minuteman Bike path was first discussed as a possible rail trail)

It was soon discovered that CTPS was conducting a feasibility study to convert the Central Mass Rail into a bike path (starting in Waltham and running west)

1995 - At the request of the Bikeway Planning Committee, TOB became part of the CTPS study

- Belmont seen as critical to link Alewife (and Boston) to the rest of the Central Mass Trail
- > Alewife was seen as the hub where several paths intersect
- 1997 CTPS study released -
 - > a path through Belmont is possible, but did not recommend a specific route
 - Belmont is unique because path cannot be a continuous off road facility, unlike the other communities where the abandoned corridor still exists
 - much opposition from Channing Road

1997 - TOB conducts further study (Wallace Floyd) to determine a route through Town

> Additional engineering research is conducted for the south of the railroad tracks

1998 - BOS voted to participate in design process for the Wayside Trail (Central Mass Trail)

Caveat - TOB must be satisfied with design or TOB will back out of process

Design process stalled -

- Funding became tight
- Issues on Channing Road seemed insurmountable

Waltham and other communities decide to go on their own -

2010 - MHD took over the design and construction of the path from Alewife to Brighton Street

- 2011 Brighton Street segment opens -
- 2012 MAPC releases 'Belmont/Waltham Community Trail Alignment Study'
 - Reviewed various route options though Town
 - Recommended creation of Community Path Advisory Committee
- 2012 Board of Selectmen appoint Community Path Advisory Committee
- 2014 CPAC release report
 - Recommends several path options
 - Recommends feasibility study to investigate design and engineering issues