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Town of Belmont
COMMUNITY PATH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, December 12, 2012
Town Hall, Conference Room 4

MEETING NOTES

The Community Path Advisory Committee (CPAC) meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM by it's Chairman Jeffrey Roth.

Attendance

Committee Members: Jeffrey Roth Chairperson, John Dieckmann Co-Chairperson, Brian Burke Sr. Revolving Secretary, Cosmo Caterino, Joe Noone, Kevin Sullivan, Amy DeDeo, Charlie Conroy and Tommasina Olson. Constituting a quorum, 9 of 10 members present.

Town Official: Jeffrey Wheeler, Planning Coordinator

Others: Community member Vincent Stanton

Approval of Minutes from November 28, 2012 Meeting

Motion to accept minutes as amended by Amy DeDeo, seconded by Joe Noone, and unanimously approved.

Discussion of Path Questionnaire

Chairperson noted that an introduction was added as well as a question regarding locating a path next to a live rail bed and one regarding the underpass use. Kevin raised a point about the cost question being combined with maintenance. Amy suggested a pop up of some sort dealing with the High School tunnel access to Winn Brook neighborhood. Regarding inclusion of the impact question, Amy was trying to keep it neutral and Jeff thought it best to eliminate. The consensus was to strike it. Question arose about the timeliness of distribution. The direct abutters were of concern for notification, with some suggesting direct mail. The number of households seemed cost prohibitive for direct mail, with members reverting back to the plan for on-line notification, mass mailing via electric bills, posting on the Town website and articles in the Belmont newspapers. John had graciously volunteered to sponsor the mailing to which the board concluded such be unnecessary. Jeffrey Wheeler was going to check on funding. He knew the printing would not be problematic. Kevin volunteered to do a postcard draft and the public notice. Charley suggested a trial questionnaire distribution amongst the members. Jeff cautioned that all correspondences regarding modification and such was to be directed to himself or the Chairperson to conform to the open meeting rules.

Discussion of Evaluation Criterion

The Chairperson suggested a rating system on charts provided to members with a total of 100 points and all sub categories given a weight collectively not to exceed 100. Tomi questioned overlap on some categories. Vince raised the question regarding grades under safety. It was agreed that it should be added to the Engineering category. It was also suggested that land use be combined with availability of land as a subset under the Feasibility category. Jeffrey Wheeler

suggested moving emergency access to safety. The grading system was explained to the new members Tomi and Charley. Joe questioned if the value could be zero on any given subset. The board thought some value should be reflected and a trial posting by members could work out the kinks. Jeff asked if the members would like to move Access to open spaces under recreation instead of transportation. Members were comfortable leaving it under transportation. Motion was made by Tomi to accept the revised draft criteria, a second by John, and the board voted unanimously to adopt.

Discussion of Site Visit

Chairman walked all present through the site visit experience. He was accompanied by John, Price, Vince, Tomi, and some residents on a rainy visit to the Belmont Center, Pleasant St, Waverly Square, DPW yards, McLean and Town lands. Photos were presented and circulated showing terrain and setbacks. Jeffrey Wheeler later added a combined map showing all parcels lot lines and setbacks relative to the streets and the rail-bed in question. Some concerns discussed included the platform at Waverly and how to traverse that busy intersection, the wetlands next to the Royal Road section which lent itself to a platform of sorts, two paths and accessory recreational use. Tomi questioned whether there is funding for trails from the State or Federal Parks program. Jeffrey Wheeler stated that there was little funding there, and quite typically other towns have used State or Federal transportation funds for shared-use trails. It was also noted that in fact the DCR (State agency) took over sections of the trail development between Brighton St. and Alewife.

Update of The Board of Selectman and Public Forum

It was suggested and agreed to put off the forum to mid-February to allow more time for preparation and input.

Rail Trail Liability

Member Attorney Joe Noone gave a summary of a report he was assigned to review for the Committee. He felt the report was vague in nature dealing with going over the rail-with-trail concept and the mitigation of liability, insurance and liability. The tort immunity statute cap is \$100,000. He indicated that this applies to the Town, but not to the MBTA. They have no cap and live rail lines allowing use would require an indemnification by the Town. Jeffrey Wheeler noted the report was over 12 years old and much has changed. The Chairman asked Joe to review an additional report specific to rails-with-trails, to which he agreed.

Field Report

A field report by John was deferred. He noted his meeting/discussion with the Town of Acton official Larry Healand, and others in towns West of Belmont involved in the Mass Central and other similar rail-trails. John also plans to attend a meeting in Waltham to learn about their Mass Central Rail-Trail project. John will brief the Committee on these discussions/meetings at the next meeting.

Action Items

- Binders available for new members from Kelly at Town Hall
- Questionnaire to be corrected and revised
- Postcard and mailer edited by Kevin in time for insert

- Update of evaluation criterion by the Chairperson
- John provided the committee with updated maps showing three possible Western routes for the path.

Motion to Adjourn

Motion made by Kevin with second by Joe and voted unanimously, at 8:43 PM.