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**TOWN OF BELMONT
COMMUNITY PATH IMPLEMENTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**MEETING MINUTES
February 08, 2017**

Present: Russel Leino, Chair; Brian Burke; Michael Cicalese; Heather Ivester

Absent: Vincent Stanton

Staff: Jeffrey Wheeler and Spencer Gober, Office of Community Development

The Committee and Pare held a public engagement meeting focused on the western end of the Path – Waverley Square to eastern end of the DPW yards.

Prior to the meeting, presentation materials were available for the public to review at 6:30 p.m.

1. **7:00 PM** - Mr. Leino, introduced the consultants and opened the meeting. He provided a brief overview of Study and the purpose of the meeting.

2. **Presentation:**

The consultants presented a PowerPoint presentation on the matrix used for scoring, and the alternative Western routes for the Belmont Community Path and how well each alternative route scored using the matrix.

3. **Discussion:**

- Question raised about where the bus stop and taxi parking area would be relocated if the park version was implemented.
- Discussion about bike parking and whether or not it would be "Alewife style."
- Concern over the suggestion that a third light be added on Lexington Street and whether or not the cost of signal synchronization had been included in the estimates. Concerns expressed about the negative impacts on vehicular traffic.
- Discussion surrounding the user experience in Beaver Brook considering the amount of off-leash dogs that utilize that area.
- Discussion about the uncertainty and assumptions of where the Waltham path will end.
- Questions raised about whether or not there had been conversations with the Land Management Committee and the Trustees of Reservations, who manage Lone Tree Hill. Suggested that a special meeting be setup to discuss the route that would impact these areas.
- Concerns over how it was determined that the scores between the overall routes was "a wash." Is this based on a percentage? Is it quantitative? What is the cutoff?

- The difference in lengths, elevation change, and wildlife impacts between Route 1 and Route 2 was discussed. Concerns over ease of access for handicapped individuals was expressed.
- The need to consider net elevation change over the length of the entire route was expressed, as was directness of the alternative. Commuters will be using the path to Alewife and it should be direct and relatively flat.
- Question raised as to whether or not MBTA would provide funding for the Waverley Square park alternative. Strong support for the park alternative was expressed.
- Discussion surrounding the value and reliability of the matrix. Request to rethink the matrix and scoring. Question raised about whether or not the matrix technique had been used/proven effective in other communities.
- The route through the conservation lands should be a fatal flaw. Also, it isn't direct for commuters.
- The Beaver Brook Route isn't a good option because bikers would simply cut through Moraine Street and Star Market parking lot.
- Question about when property owners will be approached and how/when this will impact the matrix. Continued discussion about the dog park and how it would conflict with cyclists.
- It was expressed that the route through the woods is not a good option, however, 5b is a good route and may encourage users to engage with the Lone Tree Hill area more.
- Continued discussion about how the Beaver Brook route is not a good route for commuters, but that a spur into Beaver Brook would be valuable.
- The question was raised about why the Path needed to be 16' wide, that this width seemed to be really wide especially concerned to other paths in the area. Discussion on how it will connect with the more narrow paths in Cambridge and potentially Waltham. Expressed additional concern about how the width will impact stormwater runoff.
- Expressed opinion that the McLean route would be beautiful, but that ultimately the southern alternatives are the best. Stated that the Path is ultimately a commuter path and should be direct.
- Discussion surrounding the importance of connections/spurs so that the community could access the Path. It was expressed that not every connection has to be a premier path.
- Discussion around Route W9b and its pinch points. Question asked about how the setbacks compare to the Minuteman Trail.
- Suggestion given to consolidate crosswalks in the Waverley Square park alternative.
- Discussion surrounding how the overall routes will be scored once all three sections (West, Central, and East) are combined. A desire to weight directness more heavily was expressed.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the consultants noted that the PowerPoint presentation and a link to the Belmont Media Center broadcast of the meeting will be made available online through the Town of Belmont webpage.

The meeting concluded at 9:25 p.m.