



Friends of the Community Path
www.pathfriends.org/sep/

August 12, 2013
Minutes by Jonah Petri

1. **Next Meeting: Monday, September 16th, 7-9 PM at The VNA, 259 Lowell St., Somerville**
 - **Lynn to double-check Cambridge city council meeting re: GJT**
2. **Attendees: Jonah Petri, Max Morrow, Rebecca Schrumm, Lynn Weissman, Robin Ray, Lynn Weissman**
3. **Emails to add to the listserv**
 - **Jonah to add emails, and give back to Lynn**
4. **Donations**
 - \$400 coming
 - **Rebecca to inform Jonah when received, Jonah to write a thank you letter.**
 - Some outstanding checks and bills from our fiscal sponsor need to be dealt with. **Rebecca to address this.**
5. **State Transportation Funding Bill**
 - Passed. The Secretary of MassDOT believes the funding is adequate for the GLX New Starts application.
6. **GreenRoutes Tour (Max)**
 - Ride was great!
 - Lots of paths along the Mystic River, and the Fitchburg Cutoff path were toured.
 - "Mystic River Greenway" is one proposed name of an integrated path network in the area.
7. **Path Possibilities**
 - (Alan) Consider finding a wide area of the Path (high school?) for special" area like the High Line in NYC
 - (Robin) How about a vertical garden? Perhaps the community would be interested in curating it?
8. **Planning/Outreach**
 - **MOVING TOGETHER 2013 Conference**
 - Wednesday, 10/23, 7:45 AM – 4:00 PM
 - Park Plaza Hotel, 50 Park Plaza, Boston, MA
 - Register: <http://baystateroads.eot.state.ma.us/movingtogether/>
 - Plenary - participants will prioritize Mode Shift strategies for MassDOT's consideration.
 - (Lynn) Some sort of greenways coalition could be effective at pushing multiuse paths at a venue like this.
 - **Lynn to register, check agenda when it's published, and organize shifts via email.**
9. **Pending (Lynn)**
 - MAPC Metrics Report

- Ask for presentation to the public? Lots of good work, and this would help raise awareness with the public.
- **Lynn will ask MAPC**
- McGrath bike/ped connections on and to CPX, north of Gilman Street and railroad Bridges
 - Alex Epstein, Lynn and Alan came up with some ideas for a cycletrack layout in that area, and proposed the idea to MassDOT. No response to date.
- Ethanol rail routes update

10. GLX/CPX Updates

- **August 26 Mtg with City about CPX**
 - Hayes suggested that there be a regular FCP/City meeting. This will be the first instance of that meeting.
 - GLX update, maybe mitigation update (NOTE: MassDOT to propose GLX mitigation projects in December 2013)
- **22 Water Street in Northpoint**
 - Not part of the North Point development, but rather a separate firm.
 - Original development firm sold the building development to Wood Partners.
 - Their permits include the construction of the path, but on NP property.
 - Alan called new developer to introduce our group, and try to coordinate their section's plans with the newest GLX plans.
 - **Alan to continue trying to connect with Wood Partners**
- **Grand Junction Trail (GJT)**
 - Potential path, running from the area of the Fitchburg Crossing down the Grand Junction Rail line, which runs parallel to Vassar St. in Cambridge, and across the BU bridge into Allston.
 - MIT and/or Cambridge might fund feasibility study and possible construction from Main to Binney) for the GJT. Hopefully this could include Twin Cities Somerville area. The final connection area is in Somerville, so the two cities need to partner on getting the connection area studied.
- **Cedar/Lowell Update**
 - Construction looking slow. Some storm drains have been installed.
 - Hopefully more info on the 26th.

11. Davis Square Planning

- Jonah and Alan attended the Davis Square community meeting event. Lots of pro-path sentiment.
- Rebecca mentioned a new Davis Square Action Group which might be forming.
- We should network with the bike committee & possibly some other community groups to discuss a shared vision for connecting through the square.
- **Alan to raise the issue of connecting through the square with the bike committee to gauge interest.**

12. Community Preservation Committee (CPC) Recommendations

- CPC, which will decide the allocation of CPA funds. The CPA law says that the parks commission gets a seat, but the city has no such commission. So, the City will try to form one, and in the interim we've recommended that Lisa B have the seat until the committee is formed.
- We also recommended groups to have a seat on the Parks Commission, including FCP.