



Friends of the Community Path
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September 8th, 2014
Minutes by Jonah Petri

1. **Attendees:** Jonah Petri, Lynn Weissman, Alan Moore, Rachel Burckardt, Hunter Gates

2. **Next Meeting:** Oct 16, 2014, 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM @ VNA

3. **Party on the Path!**

- Saturday 9/20 (Raindate) CPX Celebration 2-6 pm, Cedar-Willow St. /Lexington Park
<https://www.facebook.com/events/681453208605532/?ref=22>
- Zero-waste
- City using compostable dishware/utensils. Groundworks Composting via Bootstrap Compost
- Somerville Bicycle Tour same day, @ 2 PM
- Alan to invite riders to join him to CPX party on 3:30 or stop by CPX party after the Tour
- Food Donations - Volunteers to pick-up on morning of 9/20
- Iggies (near Fresh Pond) - Bread rolls, bagels other?
- Flatbread's (Davis Square) 20 Pizzas - pick-up 2:30 pm.
- Whole Foods (Inman Square): 1 case of bananas, 2 large crudité platters (mixed veggies and dips) , \$50 gift card , which we'll use for butter, cheese, fruit, cookies, and/or cake when we pick up
- Shaws/Star (Porter Square): 10 Watermelons + a \$100 gift certificate, which we'll use for butter, cheese, fruit, cookies, and/or cake when we pick up
- Sheet Cake(s) – somewhere in Somerville. Lynn will order them.
- Hunter to ask Gentle Giant for van donation for food-pickup
- Thank you letters/tax-deductible – Max?

4. **Cedar St. to Lowell St. CPX**

- **Construction progress**
 - (Alan heard from MassDOT) “Our intention, MassDOT and the City of Somerville, is to open this section of the community path as soon as construction progresses to the point where it would be safe to do so. I anticipate that we will be open well before November 30th.”
 - From Sarah Spicer: “Asphalt lumps: I was out there to see what you are talking about, and these are grading materials to begin the grading and landscaping process at that area. They are indicated on the plans, sheet 10.”
 - Curb cut for Warwick St. connection – no update from George yet
 - Lynn to follow up with George about connection. Questions:

- Will it be done before opening?
 - Will it be ADA?
 - Request review of design.
 - \$220k spending breakout.
- From Sarah Spicer “Maxwell’s Green: has been sold. I believe we settled issues regarding the covenant and the associated traffic monies.”

• **Lowell St Station to expand scope and extend the scope to connect to the path**

- TBD November meeting on Lowell St corridor mitigations
- From Sarah Spicer:
 - Lowell St. Station: “We received your comments via cc”
 - Lowell Street: “We are still monitoring results but preliminary data show that we have achieved our speed reduction goal for the project.”

5. Latest (4/30/2014) Davis Square plans/Path

- 'Wayfinding and Multi-use Path' includes a 1/5 mile(!) "Walk-your-bike" section from Grove St/ (and MBTA busway) all the way to Buena Vista Rd (Path at Seven Hills Park):
<http://www.somervillema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/somerville-by-design-update-05-09-2014.pdf>
- Busway sidewalk was originally made wide to accommodate cyclists and pedestrians, but this plan revises that to make it a “walk your bike” section.
- Grove Street access not included but according to Sarah, the gate will be replaced with bollards as part of another project
- From Sarah Spicer:
 - Davis Square: “This has been discussed at every meeting for the project. Alternatives have been discussed, vetted, and incorporated where possible. Busway sidewalk is for pedestrians including those walking bikes. The on-road option is the alternative for those who do not want to walk their bike, and is intended to be signed as such.”
 - “Grove Street gate is a known issue that is not within the project limits and will be addressed separately.”

6. GLX/CPX Status

- 3 connections we need to make: Lowell Street Bridge, Gilman Street Bridge/McGrath, CPX/GJP spur (Northeastern student GJP report finished – need a presentation)
- From Sarah Spicer:
 - Lowell Street Station: “We received your comments via cc regarding Lowell Street Station.”
 - Gilman Street Bridge: “Construction well underway. Comments were received, considered, incorporated where possible. We don’t have further comment.”
 - Twin Cities spur: “We do not support an expansion of the GLX-CPX scope. Public pathway near Refrigerator Building should be discussed separately.”
- Alan to ask Tegin about next GJP meeting. Ask about presentations on MIT GJP report and Northeastern student’s report.
- GLX Team FCP Draft letter on recommended design changes – no reply yet, Alan asked David Farmer for comments or a meeting. He said he would suggest this to Mary.

- GLX Mitigation comments Deadline?
 - Alan to ask Rafael if CLF is planning on doing anything about mitigation, and what role does the upcoming DEP SIP hearings offer for advocacy opportunities.
- **Alan/Lynn ask City for GLX/CPX MOU**
- **9/18, 6-8 pm GLX Pre-Construction Public Meeting**
 Holiday Inn, 30 Washington Street, Somerville, MA
 - Early Gilman Square utility work: Medford St. Bridge, School Street Bridge
 - GLX Medford Branch between Lechmere and Washington St. Stations: Including site work, limited viaduct foundations, drainage & utilities
- 10/2 Official GLX Working Group Mtg – present suggestions on CPX Advisors, Charrette, Greening the GLX
- 10/2 and 10/6 DEP GLX/SIP Public Hearings

7. Minutes

- Lynn to ask Jonah for any Jan-May minutes needed
- Alan/Lynn to recreate or find June & July minutes

8. Strategic Planning/Outreach: Upcoming Meetings and Events

- Next meeting with City – Doodle unanswered by City.
 - Lynn to update agenda and re-ask for meeting.
- CPA – \$4.5M. Applications FY2015 due 9/26 <http://www.somervillema.gov/CPA> (Alan)
 - **Alan to send around CPA application draft, then apply ASAP.**
 - Ideas:
 - Community gardens
 - Drainage
 - Paving repairs
 - Incorporate historical artifacts into the path (as historical preservation)
 - Community Path counting - MAPC/MassDOT new sensors project. CPX 1st?
 - **Lynn to ask Pete Sutton about bike/ped counting on the path.**
- MassDOT transportation project criteria comments – need to draft a letter (by when?)
 - **Lynn to ask STEP to add this to their agenda**
- 10/30 MassDOT Moving Together Conference
 - <http://baystateroads.eot.state.ma.us/workshops/view/1857/2014-moving-together-conference>
 - Lynn to do the presentation. Another ticket purchased – attend in shifts. Lynn will attend all or most of day on presenters ticket. Rachel will attend through here work. **Alan/Max may split other ticket, so Alan to get in touch with Max about whether Max wants to go and at what time.**