



Friends of the Community Path  
[www.pathfriends.org/scp/](http://www.pathfriends.org/scp/)

Monday February 13th, 2012  
Minutes by Jonah Petri

Next meeting: Monday 3/5/2012, 7:00 PM, at The VNA, 259

Lowell Street, Somerville

1. **Attendees:** Jonah Petri, Lynn Weissman, Heather Van Aelst, Alan Moore, Rachel Burckardt, Rebecca Schrumm

2. **Cedar/Lowell Section**

• Violations of the covenant

- There are still some outstanding issues:
- Grading in two places along the path has been altered by the MaxWell's Green (MWG) developer depositing soil there. According to the developer, it's the same soil that they're using for the fill at MWG. There could be potential problems here from unknown fill — contamination and/or quality. We wrote to the city with our concerns.
  - City doesn't have the soil characteristics information, and has not responded to our concerns in writing
- Breaches to the covenant: Construction workers parking cars on path right-of-way, cutting of trees, widening the a right-of-way and thereby disturbing of soil there, using the Path as a staging area, etc.
  - **Alan will ask developer directly for fill documentation and covenant issues before we decide next steps.**
  - **Lynn will email Alan the letters**
- We shared this info with Weston and Sampson
  - **Alan will look at the actual W&S contract to see if it includes explicit instructions with respect to the involvement of community groups. Note: we have the proposed Scope of Work but not the final contract. The SOW makes reference to up to 6 public meetings but nothing about communicating or not communicating with community groups.**

Stairway at Lowell

- Mass Architectural Access Board Hearing on 2/27, and potential ADA issues (federal, not state).
  - **We will not retract our letter. Lynn may write to city, outlining our position on the MAAB letter and future ADA lawsuits with respect to the Lowell staircase, reserving the right to retract support if it holds up the Cedar-to-Lowell construction.**
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### **Somerville Junction Park Connection**

- The connection to Somerville Junction Park isn't part of the W&S design. We believe if the current slope design is used, then the switchbacked ramp will need to be temporarily closed later in order to construct the connection to Somerville Junction Park, which will require be a retaining wall. Instead of the sloping design, we want the City to include the first part of this retaining wall in their design. Then the path could remain open and this will also save money and construction. The retaining wall design may also enable the City to build the rest of the way to Somerville Junction Park and Central St before the GLX construction happens.
  - **Lynn is next on the letter draft list**
  - **Alan/Rachel need to verify some info about GLX design**

### **30% Design Letter**

- **We wrote a long letter about the 30% design to the City about encroachments and other issues but have received no written response**

### **MBTA lease**

- The new lease will cover the entire path, all the way west to the Cambridge line
- There are potential problems with the lease
  - The lease requires the City to indemnify the MBTA for costs for cleanup of any contamination of the site.
  - The MBTA can take the land back at any time, and they don't have to pay back the costs of improvement (unlike other comparable leases).

### **3. 2/8 GLX Washington St / Union Square Stations Design Meeting**

- Lots of good design improvements
- Because the City explicitly supports the path via the Urban Ring Bridge, HDR isn't going to do any more design work on a former Red Bridge area crossing for the Community Path, even though the Friends of the Community Path prefer this option.
- How can we ensure that the crossing to Lechmere in the former Red Bridge area is still viable?
- We also want to get a path to Brickbottom back on the plans.
- Station design issues: Hubway station? Way finding? Intersection of Path with Washington Street underpass path, in front of Wash St station (ped traffic from the station)

### **4. We will plan a meeting with the Mayor on Community Path issues**

### **5. RTC conference update (Alan)**

- Notably, Philadelphia has \$125 million for bike-ped facilities in their 4-year MPO TIP (plans)
- Alan will share additional notes from the conference

### **6. Great Neighborhood Initiative**

- There are some discussions ongoing about the distribution of funds within the group of organizations collaborating in Somerville.

### **7. Upcoming**

- **2/27 MAAB Hearing on variance on western stairs (Friends will not attend)**

- **2/28, 6-8 pm MBTA Public Hearing Somerville HS – fare hikes, service cuts**
- **2/29, 6:30 pm Community Corridor Project (CCP) Community Check-in**
  - We need someone to represent the Friends there – Lynn will attend
- **3/1 Metro Greenways kick-up meeting (Alan will attend)**
- **3/1 MBTA Public Comments**
  - are due to [fareproposal@mbta.com](mailto:fareproposal@mbta.com) - Note: deadline extended to March 12th
  - and/or call MBTA at 617-222-3200
- **3/7 GLX meeting on Lowell and Gilman stations – S’ville High School, 6-8 pm**