



Friends of the Community Path
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July 8, 2013
Meeting Minutes by Jonah Petri

- 1. Next Meeting: Monday, August 12th, 7-9 PM at The VNA, 259 Lowell St., Somerville**
- 2. Attendees: Jonah Petri, Max Morrow, Alan Moore, Rebecca Schrumm, Lynn Weissman, Frank Moore, Katharyn Hurd**
 - Alan: Let's try standardizing our meeting time to the 2nd Monday of the month.
- 3. GLX & CPX**
 - **CPX 100% Design will be done by GLX Design Team, Hooray!**
 - MBTA announced at the June 11 GLX Design meeting about the Washington St. and Lechmere Stations that they will design the CPX all the way to the North Point paths, which therefore gets the SCP all the way to the Charles River and Beyond!
- 4. GLX Meetings**
 - Washington Street, Union Square and Lechmere station design meetings happened in June
 - Planned bicycle parking has increased 50% over what was committed to providing in the Environmental Assessment report. Hooray!
- 5. CPA**
 - City of Somerville is gearing up to spend CPA funding, by creating a City Community Preservation Committee to allocate CPA funds.. FCP helped the CPA pass in Somerville in November of 2012.
 - Lynn will attend a group meeting with Mayor about the Community Preservation Committee on 7/10
 - Some possible CPX uses for CPA funding, besides CPX in GLX corridor
 - Drainage work on existing Path sections: Willow St. and by Thorndike Street
 - Erosion control along side of Path with plantings, wood chips
 - Davis Square interface Path improvements
 - Path re-paving? Or maybe City can use other (non-CPA funds) for this
- 6. Cedar-Lowell segment**
 - When will construction begin? No significant work yet.
 - No news from City on ramp width issue

- Synthetic surfaces: Maintenance and alternatives discussion. The City says there will be no changes/improvements to the plan.
- **Maxwell's Green**
 - Mitigation Progress – waiting for letter from City
 - Path access Update: Curb cuts and obstructing gate. Max: there's a shortened gate installed currently, with 4-5' of space to pass through.
 - Fill/drainage: We asked the City to test the soil for drainage and other construction-worthy characteristics but the City would like plan to rely only on the KSS testing which was already done 1+ years ago and only to show that the soil is of adequate quality. It's not clear whether testing was done on the soil pile which is currently present on the Path ROW (behind the VNA) or not.
 - What to do about Dog Park? Since City already approved it, there is only an appeals process as recourse: Bldg Commissioner, then ZBA, then Superior Court. Time limit? We will likely just 'let this dog lie' and not pursue an appeals process that is unlikely to get the Dog Park removed.

7. Sat 7/20 ArtBeat – (Rain Date July 21). 10am-6pm?

- Table Next to STEP. Tent
 - **Alan to borrow from Ken Carlson this week**
- Tabling Shifts
 - Frank created the signup document, gave Lynn privileges to edit
 - **Frank will send link to the poll to Lynn**
 - **Lynn will send out signup link to core group, then more folks as needed**
- Priorities:
 - New members to sign up for listserv.
 - Maybe a letter Campaign? If Transportation Bill is still up in the air, we would be asking for support for a deal which includes adequate funding for the GLX / SCP.
- Other Materials:
 - **Frank to drop easels to Lynn's foyer**
- Printing:
 - Frank - Stickers ordered: 1000 4" Stickers
 - Lynn - Flier, Sign-up sheets, Letter? Map updates (Design)
 - Jonah - Pick-up printing

8. Strategic Planning / Outreach

- **State Transportation Bill**
 - Going back and forth between legislature and Governor.
 - Without adequate support for MBTA, it may not be possible to get federal New Starts money for the GLX.

- **Orange Line Mystic River Greenway Corridor Coordination**

Thursday, July 18, 2013 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

MAPC 3rd Floor Conference Room, 60 Temple Place Boston (**Alan to attend**)

- As part of the Orange Line Opportunity Study, we invite you to join representatives from Boston, Somerville, Medford, and Everett, and advocacy and citizens groups to coordinate and identify potential alignment(s) for a continuous greenway between North Station and the southern terminus with the Northern Strand Trail, including the potential for a future Mystic River crossing and spurs to Wellington Station and Assembly Square. The main greenway corridor will likely also serve as the ultimate alignment for the East Coast Greenway.

- **MOVING TOGETHER 2013 Conference (FCP folks will likely attend again this year in shifts)**

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/>

- GreenDOT is MassDOT's comprehensive sustainability policy that promotes the healthy transportation modes of walking, bicycling and transit. MT13 features leaders who are advancing Healthy Transportation, and offers an array of workshops geared to the central theme. TRANSIT + WALKING + BICYCLING = MOBILITY
- MT13 will feature a Plenary where participants will prioritize Mode Shift strategies for MassDOT's consideration.

9. Debriefings/Updates

- MAPC Metrics Report online: <http://www.mapc.org/communitypath>
- McGrath bike/ped connections on and to CPX west of Gilman Street and railroad Bridges
 - **Lynn will ask MassDOT about a response to our comments on** Gilman Street Bridge replacement
- Ethanol rail routes update
 - **Lynn to send an email to listserv about comments to the Governor**

10. Misc

- PDF program for letters (Lynn)? \$139 or other alternatives.
 - **Lynn to write to Jonah and Katharyn about her computer specs, so they can help her to identify free DOC-to-PDF programs**