



Friends of the Community Path
112 Belmont Street, Somerville, MA 02143
617.776.7769 friendspath@yahoo.com
facebook.com/FriendsoftheCommunityPath
twitter.com/pathfriends
June 10, 2013

1. **Next Meeting: Monday, July 8th, 7-9 PM at The VNA, 259 Lowell St., Somerville**
2. **Attendees: Jonah Petri, Lynn Weissman, Jeff Leclair, Heather van Aelst, Alan Moore, Frank Moore, Rebecca Schrumm**
3. **GLX & CPX**
 - Discussed current GLX/CPX status
 - Maintenance of a future completed CPX is not determined at this point
 - GLX Meetings

Tue. June 11 6:00 - 8:00 PM - Washington and Union Square Stations
- Holiday Inn 30 Washington Street, Somerville
- **Rachel, Heather to attend**

Tue. June 18 6:00 - 8:00 PM- Lechmere Station
- Cambridge Multicultural Arts Center 41 Second Street, East Cambridge

Thu. June 20 6:00 - 8:00 PM - College Avenue Station
- St. Clement School 579 Boston Avenue, Medford

- McGrath bike/ped connections on and to CPX west of Gilman Street and railroad Bridges
 - Poor bike access on bridge. Bike lanes were added to design, but they're not protected from the high-speed vehicle traffic.
 - Possibility of improving the design before construction, but would require advocacy.
 - **Lynn to draft letter to MassDOT**
- Grand Junction Path
 - New GJP group in Cambridge
 - There is no feasibility study yet for connecting the CPX to GJP
 - Cambridge may do such a feasibility study, as the GJP connects Cambridge to Cambridge
- Ethanol rail routes
 - Train routes run through Somerville, and put the community and the SCP at risk, with no damage liability for Global Oil, who would receive the trains.
 - 6/5 meeting in Cambridge (Lynn to attend): Routes, challenges, support, Chapter 91 amendment proposal

- **Lynn to write a letter**

4. Cedar-to Lowell CPX section

- Groundbreaking ceremony
- Update: Ramp width and flooring material
 - Ramp coming back to Lowell St @ VNA is 8 ft wide, city thinks it cannot be wider. Construction firm thinks it can be. Alan to contact contractor
- Synthetic surfaces: Maintenance and alternatives
 - Some synthetic turf material by benches, but alternative is concrete, so not much to oppose there.
- Maxwell's Green
 - Mitigation money (\$220k) is in escrow
 - What should it be used for?
 - Fix drainage on Willow/Cedar section?
 - Path access Update: Curb cuts and obstructing gate
 - City will enforce curb cuts to be made at the Warwick Street corner
 - Gate is broken and needs to be replaced, so Alan has sent suggestions for bike-friendly gates to George Proakis at the city
 - Dog park next to path
 - Was already approved by City
 - Appeal process is complex, first building commissioner, then zoning board of appeals, then district court.
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 - Path fill
 - Extensive ponding/flooding on undeveloped path area in Cedar/Lowell segment.
 - Lots of extra Maxwell's Green fill available, but of unknown quality for drainage. Maxwell's Green wants the fill used for CPX.
 - City can test dumped soil for drainage.

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

- Frank registered a space, rented 6' table and folding chairs, same as last year. Has two easels. Our space is next to STEP.
- Unknown but doubtful if bike committee will attend. We will propose that we use their tent.
- Jonah, Alan, Lynn are in. Heather is a maybe.
 - **Frank will keep and develop a shift list**, pairing inexperienced folks with experienced ones, and around 2 hour shifts. He will share it with Lynn.
- Printing (**Lynn**): Flier, Sign-up sheets, Letter?, Map updates (Design) & Pick-up (**Jonah**)

6. Strategic Planning/Outreach

- **State Transportation funding bill**

- Conference Committee hashing out the transportation bill and the budget.
- Lynn to draft letter + ethanol amendments to Conference Committee and FCP supporters
- More letters needed to Conference Committee members and then legislature: Need a plan in place for 'state of good repair' for entire system in order to be eligible for New Starts. State must show that they've allocated enough to maintain vehicles and to maintain the system.

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7. Debriefings/Updates

- Jonah – Treasury Responsibilities?
 - Rebecca, as donations come in, will send name, address and amount to Jonah, who will write and send thank you letter.
- MAPC Metrics Report
 - We received the final metrics report. It will be posted online.
- Nicole Freedman (Lynn)
 - Boston Bike Czar
 - Meeting postponed indefinitely due to developments in the CPX/GLX situation
- 5/7, 4-6 pm DCR Lower Basin subcommittee (on Charles river bike/ped bridges) - FCP (Alan/Lynn presented)
 - Harborwalk and Northpoint paths were developed via permitting leverage from Boston and Cambridge. Somerville doesn't ask the same thing of their developers.
- 5/15, 6:00-8:00 PM Grounding McGrath planning study Public meeting
 - (Heather, Alan) Not too much progress towards the vision of a smaller McGrath. It's not elevated in current proposal, but number of lanes remains equivalent.
 - (Heather) One problem is that traffic projections must be made using models which assume a 1% increase in traffic per year, which doesn't match the 1/2% decrease per year which McGrath has seen.
- 5/15 Inner Belt Committee meeting (Alan)
 - Very general meeting, including land use, heights, etc.
 - Next meeting will be around transportation.
 - Next meeting postponed until July