



Friends of the Community Path

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MINUTES

November 6, 2013

By Lynn Weissman

1. Next FCP Meeting - Dec 9 at VNA

2. GLX/CPX Updates

- 22 Water Street update-nothing new
- Gilman Street Bridge- Our bike/ped recommendations to MassDOT for cycletracks, etc. not included. Alan and Alex Epstein (Somerville Bike Committee) will draft a reply; Lyn will help edit.

3. 11/13 Meeting with City about CPX

- **Cedar-to Lowell**
 - **CPX Construction contract** goes through July 2014, but we've heard that contractor may apply for extension through September 2014.
 - **Maxwells Green – for sale**
 - Path access Update: Curb cuts and obstructing gate
 - Fill/drainage
 - Other Bike/Ped issues
- **CPX Davis Square** – We will ask City about Grove Street gate pilot.

4. Strategic Planning/Outreach

- **Debriefings**
 - **10/24 The New England Bike-Walk Summit**
<http://www.greenway.org/pdf/NEBWS2013program.pdf>
 - **10/15 Opening of the Alewife wetland and bicycle path**
 - **10/15, 10/16 October Citizens Legislative Seminar**
 - **MOVING TOGETHER 2013 Conference 10/23**
 - **10/29 Massachusetts Smart Growth Association Great Neighborhoods Network 'Learning Journey' to Somerville**
 - **10/27 Review of GLX plans for CPX (Alan)**

- **Upcoming**

- TBD – 2nd Office visit to GLX team to look at CPX plans
- **Wed., 11/20** - 2013 Massachusetts Smart Growth Conference at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center. FCP Invited to have a small CPX exhibit there. Max will attend, and maybe Alan.
- **Tues, 12/10 MAPC Metrics Report – 12:30 to 1:30 YPT Lunch at MAPC.**
 - Lynn will post announcements
- MCRT - Think about organizing a Spring 2014 Somerville to Northampton bike ride

5. Easy Ride Travel Time update

6. Community Preservation Committee Selected – members not yet officially announced

7. Treasury/Accounting

- SCC fiscal sponsorship fees due for MAPC grant
- Rebecca to shift responsibilities to Max. Meeting date TBD.
- Renew memberships under ‘FCP’

8 . Grand Junction Path: 9 & 39 Medford Street Residential development proposed for the refrigerator building site near Twin City Plaza - may preclude room for GJP!

<http://www.somervillema.gov/departments/planning-board/reports-and-decisions> - search PB 2013-17

- Development hoping to get "conditional approval" at 11/7 Planning Board meeting. Who from FCP/FGJP can attend?
- Developer is making half the MBTA Right of way (ROW) into a meadow.
- ROW was envisioned as a rail-with-trail - let us have the plan that fills the vacuum.
- Developer is removing pavement and some of the 1-story structure that is in the ROW
- What does "conditional approval" mean for the development and the GJP, the possibilities of the GJP as (traffic and other?) mitigation, and our next steps?
- Request room for GJP, proper setbacks for the building from the GJP route, and GJP section as mitigation.
- Urban Ring Project: latest plans do not coming up this far north on the GJ
- GJ Commuter Rail:
 - MassDOT report is woefully void of detail (mostly a CTPS ridership analysis).
 - Commuter Rail operators should not require 2 tracks on the GJ.
 - Yet, for GLX, MBTA CR was talking about a 2-track GJ merging with a 2-track Fitchburg Line under McGrath.
- Key stakeholders: FGJP, FCP, Rep Toomey, Melissa/George, City of Somerville, Developer (Berkeley), Jeff R., Matt/MassDOT, Wig?, Ald, Heuston
- Next steps
 - What is our ask for 11/7 PB meeting? What if they say ‘No’?
 - FGJP to create a more detailed plan showing the path in this area, just to be the first one to put down the idea!
 - Convene a meeting of key stakeholders?

