

Pedestrian Committee

Meeting Notes 6-25-15

Present: Helen Rose, Debby Galef, Carrie Jung, Sean Peirce, Liza Cohen, Sam Stern, Jodie Cohen-Tanugi, Cara Seiderman (CDD), Jen Lawrence (CDD), Bill Dwyer (DPW); David Beller (visitor)

I. Agenda Review

- Approved Minutes from May.

II. Events

Parking Day

- Sam to go look for good spots in Harvard or Central squares – can get a tent for our spot
- DPW could drop it off – but somebody has to be there on a Friday, September 18
- Someone needs to be there all day to guard the tent and the stuff...
- Sam to fill out the form
- Hand out maps...etc.
- Have activities – some sort of ground cover, chairs, sort of landscape the spot...
 - Hours from 8-5
- Sam, Debby, Carianne could do it...Liza can't do it...
- Where? Harvard/Central...Sam to send pictures and proposed locations to the group...
- Need a fun name for the spot – Walk To The PARKing Day Pedestrian Committee Spot?

Northpoint walk – recap

- Walk went long, but otherwise was a big success...
- For next year, maybe just a start time, and open-ended on the end time...
- Karl Haglund from DCR offered to do more walks...
- So what do we do next time?
 - Debby: Brochure took a lot of rounds...So next time sit down in person to do it, just work it out in person
 - Used “next door” to promote the walk...That helped.
- Going to put the walks on line to promote for people to do...
- Business community was really supportive...Wants to be involved...
- Maybe start a bit earlier next year? 10:30 even would help...10ish...
- To-Do: Debby to write/send thank you notes to the businesses that participated and the speakers...
 - Need to get contact info for the Galleria person (Cara has it, will send to Debby)
 - Karl (DCR), Renata (CRC), Doug/Mike (HYM), Galleria, EF/Lingo, ...

- Link to the brochure & the EF video history of Northpoint as follow-ups...

Other

- Sean mentioned the bike counter installed on Broadway near the Marriott in Kendall square. Walking counters...All seem to have fatal flaws...What about the Kroger store trackers? Liza mentioned another kind of pedestrian tracker (missed the name of it)

III. Updates

DPW

- Huron A and Huron B are north and south of the street? Seems a bit more like a West/East divide...
- When finished? Concord Ave 2017 summer
- Western Ave. – Helen confirms it looks nice...
- Binney St. – paved on Saturday...
- And then lots of other stuff happening...
- 2284 Mass Ave – going to do a pop-up café, taking a parking spot, to show a self-watering garden...As of today! Interactive features, tied in w/ MIT Media Lab

Infrastructure Projects

- Nothing immediate to review – but 2 big development proposals coming up:
 - 1) MIT: South of Main Street, bordered by Main Street, near the T station, they're planning to do a lot of development in those surface parking lots...
 - 2) Cambridge Redevelopment Authority...Proposals for everything other than Binney...PUD Proposal (Planning And Urban Development)

Watertown Branch Path – aka Watertown – Cambridge Greenway

- Debby and other committee members were there, and so were members of the bike committee
- Pushing for a wider right of way than the DCR wants (10' vs. 14')
- Sean offered to send a letter on behalf of the pedestrian committee to advocate for 1) wider trail 2) better lighting 3) the value of access... (as approved unanimously by the committee)

Community Preservation Act

- We pay for it out of our taxes
- Has to be given either for affordable housing, preserving historic properties, or for open space...Open space can now be recreational facilities as well.
 - Each one of the three must get at least 10%, historically affordable housing has received 80%
 - We could advocate for more \$\$\$ for this path and the grand junction path, and maybe some other paths...

- Can we push for a few percentage points more, and do we know how much we really need to spend/budget?
- Submit one of the paths for the participatory budgeting voting...

IV. Committee Elections

- Confirmed Debby, Magda to remain as chair / vice-chair, and Sam moves from acting secretary to official secretary...
- Approved by acclamation

V. Summer Walk

- Greenway, Alewife, North Mass Ave. – Quadrangle in
- Start with the quadrangle area – meet at Chipotle/Trader Joe's shopping plaza...
- North Mass Ave in July? (but Sean isn't here) – so let's do it in August
- To be arranged over email.