

## **City of Cambridge Committee on Public Planting**

Meeting Minutes – July 13, 2022 - 5:30-7pm

Field Trip - Linear Park, Harvey St Entrance

### **Attendance**

CPP Members: Vinita Bhaskar, Cindy Carpenter, Paula Cortes, Chantal Eide, Sophia Emperador, Ahron Lerman, Ruth Loetterle  
Maria Hottelet, Sara Cohen

DPW/City of Cambridge: Abby Bentley, Kevin Beuttell, David Lefcourt, Andrew Putnam, Erik Thorkildsen (CDD)

Guests & members of the public: Gretchen Friesinger, Madeleine Aster

Meeting notes submitted by: Sophia Emperador

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### **Agenda - Field Trip**

Project: Linear Park Redesign - Site Visit

Meeting Location: Harvey Street entrance to Linear Park near Russell Field (see red star below); location is near the Alewife T stop, and there is limited parking at the entrance of Russell Field off of Rindge Ave.

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Broad overview of the project presented by Kevin Beuttell: Some of the improvements include: Drainage, improvement of ecological quality, dedicated plantings, addressing compaction issues within the site

- project is in the data collection phase (survey, public feedback)

- initial designs should be ready by the consultant by the end of summer

Additional design considerations:

- ideal width of mixed-use path would be 12-14' - wide paths reduce conflicts between users

- User conflicts were discussed, in particular bikes and pedestrians.

- irrigation was installed after the initial park design as a capital project in 2019 - it is now compacted and dry, and should be considered in the new design

- potential addition of site furniture

- potential for passive play elements in areas where space permits

- opening up connections to the neighboring streets has been considered, but no decisions have been made

- incorporation of additional trees, including conifers

SC - signage should be included or considered in the project

RL-no designs should impact the existing trees in the park

Andrew P - the incorporation of a microforest would be beneficial, "chunks" of microforest could be successful here: they self seed, can create dense landscape areas

- IQHQ declined having the bike path go through their site as a cut through

- significant amount of critical MBTA infrastructure underneath and within the park (vents, etc)

- overall impression that the linear park should remain as a green corridor

*NOTE: The foregoing represents our understanding of the discussions and decisions made during this meeting. The CPP requests permission to quote or reference these notes.*