

TOWN OF BELMONT
COMMUNITY PATH PROJECT COMMITTEE

<https://www.belmont-ma.gov/community-path-project-committee>

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES
January 24, 2024
Remote Meeting (held via Zoom)

RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK
BELMONT, MA

DATE: February 7, 2024
TIME: 2:29 PM

CPCC Members: Holly Muson, Bonnie Friedman, Vincent Stanton, Ellen Sugarman, Steve Engler, Phil Lawrence

Members of Public: Larry Link, Paul Cobuzzi, Geoff Lubien

Called to order 8:03 AM

1. Phase 1: Preparation for the March 7, 2024 MassDOT 25% Public Design Hearing at 7 PM at the Belmont Senior Center (discussed from 8:03 - 8:47).
 - a. Outreach to other Committees: It was agreed that all CPPC members will contact their respective liaisons at town groups with a stake in the community path, encouraging them to attend the March 7 hearing. Holly Muson will re-distribute the list of liaison assignments to ensure clarity about roles.
 - i. Nitsch published a one-page flyer announcing the March 7 MassDOT meeting (distributed to CPPC members by email on January 23), which should be forwarded to liaisons.
 - ii. Larry Link suggested contacting the bicycle/pedestrian advocacy group in Cambridge about the March 7 hearing, since they represent future users. Vincent Stanton agreed to email the chairs of those committees, as well as Craig Della Penna, who edits a newsletter that covers all the Mass Central Rail Trail communities.
 - iii. Holly mentioned that Ellen Cushman, the Town Clerk, agreed to distribute the MassDOT flyer to Town Meeting Members. (She has already posted it on the town website.)
 - b. Outreach to the public: Holly noted that the Belmont Department of Community Development printed 200 copies of the MassDOT flyer. It was agreed that those flyers will be distributed by CPPC members to public buildings (e.g. library, Middle-High School), selected public-facing businesses and major residential buildings (e.g. Royal Belmont, Bradford). Holly will coordinate this effort with CPPC members.

2. Phase 1, moving to the 75% Design:

- a. Holly suggested, and it was agreed, to hold a spring CPPC meeting in the evening to allow input from residents who can't attend (virtually) CPPC's regular 8 AM meetings.
- b. Outreach to abutters: At the last CPPC meeting John Michalak (Nitsch Engineering) proposed a walk along Channing Road and Pleasant Streets (to the Clark Street Bridge) to solicit abutter input on design features that will be finalized between 25% and 75% design, including landscaping details. Possible dates and publicity for that site walk were discussed, including the idea of mailing a postcard (or a message with the electric bill) to all Phase I abutters. Also, it was agreed that a one-page sheet offering landscaping design options would be useful to guide residents toward productive input. Holly will ask Glenn Clancy to reach out to Sean Sanger (Copley Wolff Design) about the range of choices that should be presented to abutters.

3. Other Phase I issues.

- a. Ellen Sugarman mentioned that a crosswalk may be needed to facilitate safe pedestrian crossing of Channing Road adjacent to Alexander Avenue Extension. Holly agreed that this issue requires attention, but noted that it was outside the scope of work for Nitsch Engineering, and suggested asking the Belmont Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) or the Middle-High School Traffic Study Committee to help develop a solution. Steve Engler, CPPC liaison to TAC, agreed to alert them to this issue. The Safe Routes to School group was also suggested. Holly will relay this to Eric Perkins for discussion with the School Committee.
- b. Ellen asked about the extent to which the change in construction method for the Alexander Avenue underpass had changed the design, and when we might expect an up to date set of drawings of that complex intersection. Holly expected that the change in appearance would be relatively small, but still worth getting an updated set of drawings from Copley Wolff. Vincent pointed out that the November 2021 Nitsch slide presentation contained high level renderings that were still quite similar to the final design.

4. Phase 2 Update: Holly relayed that Glenn Clancy had negotiated and agreed on a scope of work with the Pare design team to survey the MBTA-Belmont Village border, and Glenn had authorized them to start the work. Pare will be hiring a subcontractor for the survey work, so a completion date cannot yet be specified.

5. Open to Do Items: Several "To Do" items remain open from previous meetings:

- a. Get guidelines from Age-friendly committee to Nitsch – Assigned to: Mark Kagan

6. Future Agenda Items: Carried over from previous minutes

- a. Waverley Square Business Owner Interviews to Phase 2 of the Path will go through the Square.

7. Next meeting: Wednesday, February 7th, 2024, 8 AM.

8. Adjourned at 9:05 AM.

Minutes Submitted by Vincent Stanton.