

2019 AUG -7 PM 3: 53

Town of Belmont

Community Path Implementation Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes, 27 September 2018
(Committee disbanded prior to finalizing these minutes)

Location: Belmont Town Hall

Attending: CPIAC members Russell Leino, Chair; Mike Cicalese; Brian Burke; Vince Stanton; Spencer Gober, Community Development; Selectman Adam Dash, Chair of the Board of Selectmen.

07:06 PM Meeting called to order

- a) R. Leino reminded everyone that the previous meeting was cancelled as there was no quorum.
- b) The Committee discussed how the CPIAC would dovetail into the new Community Path Project Committee, and R. Leino stated that the CPIAC would see the Phase 1a Community Preservation Act application through the Fall Town Meeting.
- c) R. Leino stated that the primary focus of tonight's meeting was to brief the Committee on the update from the MBTA and to vote on either a northern or southern alignment.
- d) B. Burke distributed a rendering of the proposed pedestrian bridge located at the Alewife T Stop in Cambridge, and members of the Committee discussed.
- e) B. Burke stated that the proposed pedestrian bridge was rationale for considering the southern alignment, and members of the Committee highlighted Sen. Brownsberger's recent letter that supported a northern alignment.
- f) R. Leino briefed the Committee on the September 18 meeting with the MBTA, which was attended by R. Leino; Sen. Brownsberger; Selectman Dash, Chair of the Board of Selectmen; Patrice Garvin, Town Administrator; and Glenn Clancy, Director of the Office of Community Development. R. Leino mentioned that MassDOT appointed Michael Trepanier, who was also in attendance at the meeting, as project manager for the Path. The topics discussed at that meeting were:
 - i. Discuss and obtain feedback on route selection;

- ii. Confirm MBTA and MassDOT support for the Alexander Avenue Underpass; and,
 - iii. Receive input from MBTA and MassDOT regarding path components
- g) R. Leino highlighted the key takeaways from the meeting:
- iv. Phases 1a and 1b of the Path cannot be decoupled for Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) reasons;
 - v. MBTA requires that its current access from Channing Road to the railroad tracks be maintained; and,
 - vi. MBTA expressed concerns for a southern alignment and the crossing it would require at Brighton Street.
- h) The Committee discussed the recommendations of the Feasibility Study, and R. Leino highlighted that while the Study recommends a southern alignment, the northern alignment only scored one point lower and was identified as a recommended alternative route.
- i) Right-of-Way and easements issues were discussed for both the southern and northern alignments.
- j) R. Leino stated that the Committee needed to consider which route was most likely to be placed on the TIP, and highlighted that a route lacking MBTA support would most likely not qualify for TIP funding.
- k) The Committee had a discussion on the aesthetic qualities and potential of the northern and southern alignments.
- l) Anne Paulson, a member of the public, stated that the point of the Path was to create a direct connection to the Alewife T stop and that the Alexander Avenue Underpass was a priority for the town.
- m) Selectman Dash reiterated that at the September 18 meeting with the MBTA, the MBTA stated that due to safety concerns it would not support a southern alignment due to the Brighton Street crossing.
- n) Discussion continued regarding concerns that were determined to be design-related, and that would be better addressed during the design phase.
- o) R. Leino raised the question as to whether or not the Committee wanted to make a motion to vote on a northern or southern alignment. It was agreed that a

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vote should be tabled until the following meeting, which was confirmed for Wednesday, October 3, at 7 PM.

5) 09:05 Meeting adjourned.