

**TOWN OF BELMONT
COMMUNITY PATH IMPLEMENTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

2019 AUG -7 PM 3:52

MEETING MINUTES

August 1, 2018

(Committee disbanded prior to finalizing these minutes)

Present: Russell Leino, Brian Burke, Michael Cicalese

Absent: Heather Ivester, Vincent Stanton

Staff: Jeffrey Wheeler, Office of Community Development

7:05 PM Meeting called to order

1. Minutes Discussion. The Committee approved several sets of minutes subject to minor edits. The Committee discussed how to complete the outstanding minutes.
2. Updates.
 - a. Project Need Form/Project Initiation Form (PNF/PIF) – Mr. Leino explained how the Path got to this point. He explained that Senator Brownsberger reached out to MassDOT who stated that the Town should begin the MassDOT Project Review process for the Path. Mr. Leino explained that there were 3 steps involved to move this project forward: 1) internal review by MassDOT, which recommended the Path move forward; 2) Project Review Committee, which also recommended that Path move forward; and 3) MPO agreed that the Path is eligible to be on the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Mr. Leino stated that MassDOT repackaged the Feasibility Study into something that was more appealing to it:

- 1a: Alexander Avenue Underpass – Channing Road to Concord Avenue via the Alexander Avenue Underpass
- 1b: The Path from the Fitchburg Cutoff Path to the Clark Street Bridge on either the north or south side of the railroad tracks.
- 2: The Path from the Clark Street Bridge to the Waltham border.

Mr. Leino added that 1a and 1b will be proposed together for purposes of the TIP. He noted that the Town has to decide on the north vs. the south side. He suggested that the Committee make a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen (BOS) and added that the BOS will be meeting with the MBTA in early September to get a better understanding of their concerns.

Mr. Burke raised the issue of having commercial properties along Concord Avenue provide linkage for the Path. He suggested that this would allow businesses to have better access to the Path. The Committee discussed if this was within the scope of the Feasibility Study.

Mr. Burke also requested an update on the pedestrian bridge crossing in Alewife. He noted that this could have tremendous impact on the Path. He also wanted to make sure that the French/Mahoney property has a valid easement.

- b. Off-Cycle Request to Community Preservation Committee (CPC) – Mr. Leino reviewed the development of the application for an off cycle request for the Alexander Avenue Underpass. He noted that the School Committee and School Building Committee voted to support the application. He reviewed the CPC process: on August 8 the CPC will vote to accept an off cycle application; in September the CPC will vote on the application. Mr. Leino noted that if the Underpass is funded than this will allow the Town to issue an RFP for 1a (the Underpass). He added that the BOS was supportive of this application because of the impacts that it could have on the traffic to and from the new high school. Mr. Wheeler stressed, however, that from the stated funding perspective, the Underpass connects Channing Road with the bike lanes on Concord Avenue. Ms. Garvin also stressed that this was for design funding only, not construction.

The Committee discussed the CPC application and how to move it forward. Ms. Garvin requested a letter of support from the Committee.

3. Upcoming Meetings.

- a. Ms. Garvin noted that the BOS will meet on August 27 to reconstitute the Committee since the existing charge is not relevant to the current state of the Path. She added that the Committee Charge will include developing an RFP, selecting a designer, paying invoices, and designing the Path.
- b. All agreed that the next meeting will be August 23.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.