

# Melrose Ped/Bike Committee

## Meeting Notes: April 2016

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April 6, 2016

### Contents

Contents .....	1
In attendance .....	1
City Update .....	1
2016 Priorities .....	2
Other .....	3
Guests.....	3
Farmers Market.....	3
Social Media .....	3
Important Dates.....	3

### In attendance

Tom Buske, Cindy Chabot, Liz Foulser, Ellen Katz, Dan Krechmer, Steve Leibman, Mark Remollino, Gabrielle Watson, Erin Zwirko (city rep)

### City Update

Erin Zwirko provided the following information from the city:

- **Infrastructure projects** - updates from Elena: Specific questions should be directed to Elena and her staff, so we might want to set up a more formal liaison.
- **Lebanon St:** City working with MassDOT to address some punchiest items. One of the items is the sharrows. City will incorporate them into the roadway painting contract and they'll happen soon (before June 30).
- **Lynn Fells Parkway:** The section between Vinton and Main (in front of High School and Middle School): Erin checked with Denise, and heard that MAPC has made attempts to communicate with DCR and not gotten information back. Ellen asks: When there were meetings, was there a resolution with a specific recommendation? Answer: No, there was no concrete plan because of the challenge with school drop off + pick up. Point person identified within the City

would be Denise Gaffey.

- **Essex St:** Improvement project has restarted. New pavement and new sidewalks. Striping and signage including bike lane for the first block (in front of City Hall). Trees, bike racks. Has to be done by June 30, per the Massworks grant.
- **Other streets:** Several streets going out to bid for repaving (example, northern section of Tremont St where pavement has been chewed up by utility work).
- **Master Plan:** In progress.
- **Complete Streets:** MassDOT program. Framework. Model policy released by MassDOT. Elena believes she'll be able to release Complete Streets policy mid/end April. In its draft form, acknowledges that complete streets are important to the community, are context-sensitive (the same thing doesn't work on all streets), discusses applicability to both public and private projects (still some work to be done on figuring out how to apply equitably and fairly to private projects). Regarding public projects: there are a few reasons that any particular project might be exempt from the guidelines. Elena proposes a complete streets working group. As drafted, the working group would include a member from the ped/bike committee. Assuming the policy is scored at 80 or above according to the MassDOT rubric, this opens up \$50k for a prioritization plan. Could be specific to an area of the city, or specific to a concept like Safe Routes To School. Once the prioritization plan has gone through, that opens up the possibility of access of up to \$400k for a single project. Per program rules, there needs to be a public meeting to review.
- **Community Preservation Act:** Gabrielle asks about the concept, and Erin explains (see detail at <http://www.communitypreservation.org/content/cpa-overview>). Locally, Medford and Malden both passed Community Preservation Act questions in their most recent ballots and there is some hope to do something similar in Melrose. Ellen mentions that Susan Murphy is looking for champions to help move this along.

## 2016 Priorities

We review what we came up with in the previous meeting. Gabrielle hands out descriptions and a mind map that groups the concepts.

Discussion circles around how to best divide up the set of things we want to accomplish in a coherent way. Erin offers a suggestion that is essentially to mirror the city government layout. We conclude that we should have

1. an "infrastructure" subcommittee that interacts with Elena's department and
2. a "planning and policy" subcommittee that interacts with Erin's department.

The complete streets policy happens to span both of these, but many of the topics fall more obviously in one or the other.

- **Planning and policy subcommittee:** Ellen to lead
- **Infrastructure subcommittee:** Gabrielle to reach out to Andy Paul and Terry Kinsler about possibilities
- **Outreach subcommittee:** Mark to lead. Has lots of ideas. Meetup, welcome packet for new residents. Steve volunteers to do some website refresh work.
- **Event subcommittee:** No specific overall event group for now — we have volunteers leading specific events

Mark offer that we want to make suggestions and keep track of the status of each suggestion, make sure we're using some mechanism to monitor the status and close the loop on these ideas.

Cindy to help us try out Basecamp (<https://3.basecamp.com/3347056/projects/706974>) as a mechanism for tracking work in progress.

For our next meeting:

Each subcommittee should come up with a plan, what they need help with, etc.

## Other

### Guests

Seeking ideas for future guests. Steve to reach out to a couple people.

### Farmers Market

Farmers Market Bike Days

June 9 and then third thursday of the month, assuming volunteers are available (Rob, Carol, others)

Fundraiser for the Farmers market: Urban farms tour June 25. There is a plan to map out a bike route for the tour.

### Social Media

Mark describes Facebook + twitter things and lists some of the things people can do to propagate posts more. Summary: Like things, post things, and include pictures.

## Important Dates

- April 28: Melrose Energy Commission meeting. First portion: Lauren Banta (who put together Green Business survey) will discuss results of survey and next steps.
- Next meeting: **Wednesday, May 4, 2016 7:00pm** (adopting first-Wednesday-of-the-month schedule).
- Healthy Melrose Fair: May 7