

Melrose Ped/Bike Meeting

October 4, 2017

Attendees: Cindy Hemenway (guest from Stoneham Greenway Committee), Alice Golub, Ellen Katz, Erin Zwirko (Planning Dept), Liz Foulser, Steve Leibman, Gabrielle Watson, Carol Naczas, Cindy Chabot

Absent: Rayn Williams, Dan Krechmer

Stoneham Tri-Community Greenway

Cindy Hemenway. Originally from Melrose, has been on the Stoneham Greenway committee since 2011. Tri-Community Greenway to be built, paved for the entire distance (though some section in Winchester is on-road and through parks away from the rail line). Groundbreaking earlier this year in Winchester, some work in Woburn, just started working in Stoneham. Completion date supposed to be in Fall of 2018. Possibilities to make connection from the terminus in Stoneham through Melrose to the Bike to the Sea, and from the terminus in Winchester to the Minuteman Bike Path.

Cindy offers to take people on tours of completed sections. cindyhref@yahoo.com

We will look for a re-scheduling of the briefing by MA DOT on the Tri-Community progress. Open to public; Melrose Ped-Bike Committee members welcome.

Victorian Fair Debrief & Ideas for Next Year

Shared booth with Bike to the Sea, who paid for table and canopy, which was greatly appreciated. Sharing the booth was great, and we were well aligned groups. When sharing again in future, we should look to make it clearer that these are two groups and what the distinct missions are.

Bike Valet: Not as heavily used this year. The difference is likely that we didn't advertise as much this time around.

Liz mentions that the Massbike cost is fairly high, and that we might accomplish this in the future by purchasing our own bike rack equipment and running it on our own. We would need to get the equipment and staff the site in order to do it. We put in a grant proposal to Eastern Bank, but just learned we did not get the award.

We could ask the city to fund the purchase. Suggestion is to bring the request to Mike Lindstrom. Rough amount would be 5 racks x \$200 = \$1,000.

→ Gabrielle to reach out to Mike Lindstrom to explore the City purchasing this equipment

→ Liz to contact Michael Zembruski at MassBike to get advice on managing bike rack use

Theme: We should have concrete themes in the future. This time around, we had too many things, and it was confusing. Next year it could be connectivity, which worked well with Bike to the Sea there. Erin suggests we could collect inputs for bike rack locations, where booth visitors

get to specify which locations in Melrose they would invest \$500 on bike racks (in a fun way with velcro icons on a map or something).

Drive 25 Signs

Discussion regarding Drive 25 signs. The signs were up on public land with City permission for a two week period and are down again. Signs funded by Mass In Motion. Commitment from mayor to have the signs out again next year to coincide with a September 2018 Back to School / Safety Awareness Month. A short article jointly crafted between the Ped-Bike Committee (thanks to especially Ryan Williams) and the Mayor's office will appear in both weekly newspapers next week, explaining the signs and other city pedestrian and cyclist safety initiatives

Possible Ped-Bike Committee Budget

The Victorian Fair, lawn signs, and other recent initiatives have demonstrated that the Ped-Bike committee can get significant things done with small amounts of funds. The committee discussed some options for having a budget that we could use to support our activities. The MEC has it's own budget and reports annually to the Board of Aldermen. Community Coalition could be a fiscal sponsor if we raised our own resources, but they charge \$450 a year, which would be very high for the small amount of funds we would envision at this point. We should develop a budget and explore the possibility of asking the city for small scale funding in the same way as some other committees do.

→ Ellen to research with MEC folks regarding what their budget structure and requests look like.

→ Gabrielle will approach Mike Lindstrom to discuss this possibility

Master plan

Link exists on the city website now. Was accepted and endorsed by the planning board in June. Planning dept will do an informal presentation to the aldermen in November.

Major things that Erin will be working on in the near future are around inclusionary zoning, updating subdivision-related policy.

Master plan contains an implementation plan that identifies certain action items. One thing to keep in mind is that the time frame on the master plan is ten years, so consider what could be accomplished in that span.

Bike network plan

Erin has examples printed out from Beverly and Holyoke. An opportunity exists for the committee to build a bike network plan that could complement the recommendations in the master plan.

Beverly Bicycle Network + Pedestrian Priority Plan: <http://www.beverlyma.gov/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/MAPC-Beverly-Bike-Ped-Report-2015.pdf>

Holyoke Bike Network Plan:

http://www.pvpc.org/sites/default/files/Holyoke%20Bike%20Network%20Plan_160930.pdf

Reading Bicycle Network and Pedestrian Priority Plan:

https://www.readingma.gov/sites/readingma/files/file/file/reading_bike-ped_network_plan_2014_07_24-final_-b.pdf

Medford bicycle infrastructure master plan: https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B_sjps39txyd01TY1ZvLUVNYkE/view

Agreed:

- Form a Bike Network Plan subcommittee with the initial mandate being the specification of a north/south connector network (coinciding with the proposals related to Complete Streets funding). The group will also bring initial ideas for developing a Bike Network Plan, which could involve a combination of volunteer committee data gathering and mobilizing resources to get formal support for plan development, such as through the MAPC, hiring an intern, or other mechanisms. The Planning department does not have staff resources to work on the plan.
- Volunteers: Steve, Ellen, Gabrielle, Tom Blazej, Carol & Cindy
- Subcommittee to meet with Elena Proakis Elis to ensure coordination. Also inquire with Elena Proakis Elis on status and use of WIN casino mitigation funding.

Complete Streets

The city should find out around Thanksgiving whether Melrose will receive the requested Complete Streets funding from the state.

Melrose complete streets program information, including the prioritization plan submitted last month: <http://www.cityofmelrose.org/departments/public-works-department/engineering-division/city-melrose-complete-streets-program/>

Question for Elena Proakis-Elis:

Can CS funds be used for plans or studies?

Further briefing to come. Dan Krechmer, the Committee's member participating on the Complete Streets Working Group, was not able to attend tonight.

Infrastructure Briefing

Ryan Williams, Infrastructure liaison, was not at the meeting to share the most recent infrastructure update.

→ Ryan to write up the report and share with the list.

Meeting Timing

In order to improve predictability of meeting times, we agree to revise schedule to:

First Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm, unless otherwise rescheduled. We will no longer be varying meeting start times.

Next meeting: Wednesday Nov 1, 7pm.