
Minutes

Stoneham Tri-Community Bikeway/Greenway Committee

February 13, 2017 at 7:00 P M

Second Floor Conference Room, Stoneham Town Hall

Present: Cameron Bain, Dorothy Bergold, Linda Hanson, Cindy Hemenway, Joan Lemire, Catherine Moore, Bill Murphy, Julie Shulman, Dolly Wilson

Guests: Butch Conary, Christine Madore, MAPC

7:00 PM

Call to order

Open Space and Recreation Plan

Christine Midore, MAPC Project Manager for Open Space and Recreation Plan Update attended to get input on the Greenway and recreational items for the town. Bill Murphy is our rep to the Steering committee for the plan.

The town needs an updated Open Space plan in order to apply for most grants for open space and recreation. The plans are only valid for 7 years and the last plan dates from 1998. The Plan is being prepared for provisional approval by June 30. At that point some small changes could still be made. There will be a public Open House on March 28 to discuss Open Space and Recreation.

The MAPC has an interactive management tool and survey for the Project. Bill will send an email tomorrow requesting input for the plan. Teens may also respond to the survey. Members suggested the survey and tool is included on the school newsletter, the Department of Recreation website, the Greenway website and Explore Stoneham. The plan should be easily available from the Town once finished.

Dolly and Cameron gave Christine a short background on the history of the Greenway project.

When asked about challenges, members brought up a number of issues, such some abutters as well as concern ways to prevent people from driving on the Greenway and the best ways to avoid collisions, and whether it could be made better for commuters. Joan brought up the possibility for solar lights for those who would like to commute on it after dark. While the town could clear the path of snow in winter, no salt can be used on the majority of the Greenway because of its proximity to wetlands as designated in the Conservation Commission Order of Conditions for the various towns.

When asked about the vision of the future, comments included Cameron's vision of a mini Rose Kennedy greenway with public gardens, and ways to use it for educational purposes. The town owns a small area for a Nature Park near the open area of Sweetwater Brook between Cottage and Montvale where student could go for nature classes. However a stairway would be needed to access the brook and it could be difficult to make it ADA compliant.

For open space in the town in general, ideas included better signs that could slow traffic through the center of town, better wayfinding signage, a circular walking paths (both around the town center connecting to the Greenway and around Spot Pond) bike parking, and a bike lane on Franklin street to connect the Greenway and the high school. The town should be eligible for \$400,000 every 4 years for Complete Streets programs which could be applied to such projects.

Meeting minutes of Nov. 14 approved unanimously.

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| | <p><i>Project Status</i></p> <p>Greenway Progress report: Dolly spoke to Carrie Lavallo, MassDOT project manager. MassDOT issued a “Notice to Proceed” January 20.</p> <p>There will be a pre-construction meeting with the Utilities, DPW, town engineer, other district people, district engineer. This meeting needs to be scheduled, but will likely be in the next few weeks. Construction could start mid to late April. The bridge over the Aberjona is a big project, so that may be started first. Once they start construction, access to the construction areas will be closed.</p> |
| | <p><i>42 Pleasant Street – update</i></p> <p>Dolly got a call Tuesday from Charlie Houghton about 42 Pleasant. They wanted to start clearing the construction site last week (but then it snowed). His question was whether they should take up the pavement adjacent to 42 Pleasant that is on the right of way. Dolly spoke to TA Tom Younger, who approved the pavement removal. Not all areas currently paved would be removed during Greenway construction, and this way the Town can reseed or plant those areas rather than having pavement still existing on the outside of areas planted by MassDOT.</p> <p>42 Pleasant also had a hearing with MassDOT last week required because their land was formerly owned by the railroad – it used to be a coal yard for the railway.</p> |
| | <p><i>21 Manison Street – Board Approvals</i> – The project for the tile showroom at 21 Manison has received approval from the Board of Selectmen. The Planning Board requirement that snow removal be offsite was added to the BOS site plan approval on 11/15.</p> |
| | <p><i>New / Old business</i></p> <p>Access to the ROW will be cut off once construction has started so cleanups will probably not be possible.</p> <p>Cindy questioned whether the project will clean up all of the area near ClearChannel (between Montvale and Maple) and remove invasive species. Bill will check on the scope of the plan, but the contractor will only work on areas of the ROW that are within the scope of the project- not the whole width of the right of way. That is the Town’s responsibility. However, the contractor wants it to look attractive so they might top it off. Could the town clear out that area if not in the scope, before the contractor takes over? Bill and Dolly will look into the plan to see if this is included and talk to Younger if not.</p> <p>Request- put dates on meeting that people go to and report on are included in minutes.</p> |
| | <p><i>Next Meeting Date</i> – March 13</p> |
| <p>8:45 pm</p> | <p><i>Adjourn.</i></p> |