

Minutes

Boylston Street Corridor
Public Participation Subcommittee
March 5, 2021 10:00 AM

Subcommittee members present (Y/N):

Rachna Balakrishna	Y
Wendy Friedman	Y
Wendy Machmuller	Y
John VanScoyoc	Y

Staff: Kara Brewton

Guests: Anne Lusk, Tad Campion and Tracy Chen

Meeting materials: 3/5/21 agenda; photo of US Army Corps of Engineers project poster for Muddy River Restoration Project (W. Machmuller)

Kara Brewton opened the meeting and apologized that she had a work-related urgent conflict and would need to leave at 10:30. She noted that to date that we had received 252 responses to the Boylston Street Survey; Wendy Machmuller recalled that as of February 19th we had received 120 responses. In addition, Kara noted that an additional Instagram post would be happening over the next couple days, and Wendy Friedman noted that a notice would go out via Lincoln's PTO. Rachna Balakrishna would network to get an email into the Pierce School PTO. Wendy Machmuller agreed to post an announcement to the general TMM listserve.

The February 19th meeting minutes were unanimously approved by roll call vote (RB, WF, WM, JVS).

Wendy Machmuller shared a photo of the project poster for the Muddy River Restoration Project, as we had discussed in previous meetings about how to have an outdoor sign that could be posted in heavily trafficked pedestrian areas, for passersby to learn more about the Committee's work. The Subcommittee noted that having a poster might set up too high expectations of how fast real physical change could occur. The group agreed to return to the subject, perhaps once listening sessions in May/June were scheduled; then the poster could include a call to a specific action.

Sustainability – In response to a question by Wendy Friedman, Kara Brewton noted that the sustainability lens should continue to be braided with the Committee's work. For example, the infrastructure including significant street trees and separate bike lane (which is being furthered by a consultant), zoning tools (such as the warrant article filed yesterday that would require fossil fuel free construction for any special permit), and district level innovation (such as geo-micro grids, which John VanScoyoc has requested us to line up a future speaker on). Kara also noted that we should include the Climate Action Committee, possibly in conjunction with Climate Action Brookline, as one of the public forums to be scheduled in May/June.

[Kara Brewton had to leave the meeting due to a work conflict.]

Subcommittee members discussed the desire to:

- get ahead of any developer proposals that spring up before we have a chance to pass a Warrant Article at fall town meeting;
- proactively convey the goals and objectives of the BSCSC to would-be developers;
- continue to interface with the existing property owners and request to stay apprised of potential real estate transfers;
- try to avoid situations such as the example of Kenwood Builders buying the Village Vet and abutting residential property to combine into one parcel to develop luxury condos, whereas a public process was not needed and therefore public input was not sought;
- revisit the possibility of a development moratorium until a WA passes, although John recalled that Kara had previously stated that it was possible it is also a tricky process and not recommended.

Additional discussion resulted in the following take-aways:

- Wendy Machmuller will mockup a business card-style project information card, that could be handed out to people in the neighborhood (including project website, etc.)
- Both Wendy Machmuller & Friedman will try and get the survey onto the Emerson Gardens mailing list
- Everyone is going to identify dates for potential meetings and listening sessions
- Wendy Machmuller would ask Chris Dempsey for his contact list for his presentations related to the MBTA bus prioritization pilot at Gateway East
- Need to work with the larger committee to settle on dates for the public forums and determine objectives and agenda
- Next meeting will be March 19th at 10 am

Meeting ended at approximately 10:50 am.