

Minutes

Boylston Street Corridor Study Committee: Report Writing Subcommittee

April 8, 2022 1:00 PM
Held remotely via Zoom

Committee members (in attendance noted by Y/N):

John VanScoyoc, Chair*	Y	Wendy Friedman	Y	Tom Nally	Y
Rachna Balakrishna	N	Joe Gaudino	N	Carlos Ridruejo	N
Deborah Brown	N	Wendy Machmuller	Y	Mark Zarrillo	N

**arrived late/left early*

Staff & consultants present: Kara Brewton*

Meeting materials included: agenda, draft design guidelines

Guests included: Wendy Wang, Mark Lewis, Jason Liu, Zoraida Fernandez, Ivo Dimov; one person joined anonymously by phone

Kara Brewton opened the meeting, noting that it was being held remotely on the Zoom platform due to COVID, and after checking that all participants' audio/video were working well, and Kara announced that the meeting was being recorded.

The Committee and Kara discussed how the Committee will go about the report writing. John asked if any members had suggestions on dividing up the report writing work. Wendy Friedman suggested we start by reviewing the outline, building out detail under each heading, and then dividing up sections.

Report Writing Session

Wendy Friedman shared her screen with the current draft of the Committee Report.

Personal Narratives

John recapped that each Committee member was asked to write a personal narrative about their experience with the Committee. The Committee discussed where these narratives should belong in the report and how they should be summarized. Wendy F. feels that they shouldn't be in the actual report, but instead linked in a folder. The Committee discussed the various options for this, as well as how the report will be presented more broadly.

Creating the Outline

Wendy Friedman reviewed the draft outline.

For History of Corridor & Overview of Past Corridor Studies, John suggested we pull as much as possible from existing documents. 100-word summary of past documents, maybe. The Committee discussed how to review history of inequitable planning practices (see MIT Study:

Bringing Back Boylston). This section would also cover Recent Changes in the Corridor (i.e. review of recent development).

There was a high-level overview of the following sections:

- Existing Conditions
- General Overview of Changing Town Vision of Design & Planning
- Committee Process
- Charge
- Committee Goals

For Planning Framework, Tom Nally provided his opinion about what should be included here. Wendy F. noted that it should also include how the Committee got to where it is today, and what tools the Committee used in their analysis. Tom volunteered to write Section 10, and Section 8.

John offered to divide Section 11 & 12 with Rachna. Wendy F. made the note that this should also include Walnut Path.

Wendy F. offered to write Section 9. Committee Goals and Section 7. Analysis.

Wendy M. offered to Section 1-6.

John left the meeting and asked the Committee to consider public comment and not make this report an easement recommendation.

The Committee discussed the easement that exists in this area and how changing the easement would impact existing residential development.

Comments from the Public

- Wendy Wang voiced that she does not want a public easement through their property. Tom voiced that without attendance from the whole Committee it's difficult to discuss, but it can be discussed with the broader Committee at the next broader meeting. Wendy F. noted that there is no mention of this easement to date at all in the Committee process. Wendy W. has previously written to several Committee members and the group asked to share this material with the broader Committee. Wendy voiced again that she bought her condo with the understanding that this was a private way, and that she strongly disagreed with Mark Lewis' assessment.
- Mark Lewis discussed the easement with Tommy Vitolo and voiced that he was in favor of a potential living connector via this easement. Mark also made a comment about tree coverage.
- Wendy W. and Mark were asked to join the walking tour on Sunday.
- Zoraida Fernandez asked for clarification about the proposed walkway/easement. Wendy F. voiced that there is no proposal by the BSCSC.

Next Steps

Writing Subcommittee members will share a first draft before the next meeting.

Closing

**Meeting adjourned at approximately 2:27 pm.