

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Longfellow Area Neighborhood Association was held at the Longfellow House on Monday January 14, 2018 at 7:00PM. Board members in attendance were: Deborah Asbrand, Joe DeMasi, Mike Fitzgerald, Mary Flaherty, Sue Forti, Kathy McCabe, Tim McDonald, Julia O'Brien and Rachel Young. Board members unable to attend were Wayne Beitler, Linda Burnett and Cathi Toste.

The start of the meeting was delayed due to building access issues.

Mary began the meeting by calling for additions to the agenda. The agenda was approved as distributed.

The meeting continued with comments from Steve Schneider of the Arboretum. Steve reported that permits for the solar array project had been granted in November. He stated that steel and panel procurement was in process and that costs had increased due to the tariffs imposed by the President.

He also reported that they had to go through design review due to the changes to the awning. The array was also moved about 5' away from the building, as the city didn't want it to appear the array was attached to the building. Steve said they hoped for continued cold and dry weather, as that enabled heavy machinery to access to the site without damaging the landscape. The work to set the supports for the panels will require some pounding and they will schedule the work to minimize disturbance.

Steve also reported that they are building a web site to allow people to learn about the project and to follow the project as it proceeds. Steve also indicated that there would be sign boards installed at three locations around the perimeter of the site that will contain much of the same information as what will be available on the web site. Steve indicated that he would send Mary the web site information when available.

John Covert asked for some details regarding the awning. Steve reported that the existing awning will be changed to be covered with solar panels that will not have the usual black backing material. This will allow some light to pass through and into the building, which is important, as the building was designed with fewer interior light fixtures along that face of the building with the assumption that more natural light would be available.

Resident David Wean raised an unrelated issue regarding the icing problem on the sidewalk adjacent to the Walter Street Burying Ground near the corner of Mendum Street. It was thought that water coming out of the pipes installed in the wall was the source of the icing, but Steve indicated that it is actually ground water seeping up between the wall and sidewalk. Steve indicated that he has been in touch with Dennis Roach, Director of Finance at Boston Parks and hopes to have someone come out soon to take a look.

John Covert mentioned that he had been told that what was needed was a #13 drain, which would be installed along the edge of the sidewalk nearest the wall and run under the sidewalk to the gutter or storm drain. Julia stated that she thinks part of the problem is a poorly designed/installed HP ramp at the pedestrian crossing. It appears the contractor just piled asphalt to build a ramp rather than cut back the sidewalk, and that pile of asphalt is acting like a dam for the water coming down Mendum Street that would normally follow the curb and flow into the storm drain. Since the changes, the water is now pushed further out into Walter Street, which cause icing there.

Kathy voiced a concern that Parks may back off, since it may really fall under the jurisdiction of the Transportation department or Boston Water. She is glad to hear that Steve is taking the lead on the issue.

Returning back to the solar array project, Julia voiced a question regarding the area near the generator. She wondered if the generator would be removed when the battery array was installed. Steve indicated that no, the generator would not be removed. Steve also indicated that there would probably be a ribbon-cutting event at the completion of the project in the summer or fall.

With a change of topic, Steve commented on the bike path project. Steve reported that the 25% project design was ready for a public showing. He indicated that he thought the project was slightly behind schedule. He reported that Charlotte Fleetwood secured a grant to design the Bussey Meadow section of the path and that the project had made it into the top 9 projects in line for funding. He also reported that Jeff Sanchez had secured \$100K toward design work that must be spent by June 30th. The project is earmarked for \$3M.

David asked if the project included enhancements/repair of the Blackwell Path. Steve indicated that it does not, but that the Arboretum Conservancy has provided funds to address the issues along the Blackwell Path.

Steve also reported that the City is providing \$1M to perform wall repair throughout the park and that he has been working with Paul Sutton of the Urban Wild. David noted that there is a break in the wall near the intersection of Bussey and South Streets that has become an unofficial entrance used by many, and requests that it be made a more real entrance. Steve indicated that the use of the opening was known and would be addressed.

The group thanked Steve for attending and for his comments.

The meeting continued with comments by City Councilor Matt O'Malley. Matt made mention of the newly-enacted plastic bag ordinance, which got both positive and negative support. Some people agree, while others feel it placed a

hardship to make people who cannot easily carry around multi-use bags to have to pay for bags.

Matt also noted that the City has a composting program available, for those interested in at-home composting, to further reduce refuse and help the environment. Matt also noted that the City has a new policy to plant two new street trees for every one tree removed. He reported that the City has a roughly 28% tree canopy, which they would like to increase to around 34%. He reported that the program has the support of Chris Cook. Matt stated they were looking to do a pilot of the composting program and, when asking for a show of hands to gauge interest, a large number of attendees raised their hands. It seems the LANA area would be a good area to pilot the program.

Matt continued with comments regarding natural gas leaks. He reported that he had sponsored an ordinance that was supposed to take effect on July 1st, 2018 but National Grid sued, arguing that the City could not override State requirements. He is now working with the State on a home rule petition. He also noted that a result of the law suit was that the City would now have access to the known leak information that until now had only been available to the state.

The meeting continued by the group catching Matt up on the earlier discussion about the icing issue near Mendum Street, which had occurred prior to Matt's arrival. He noted that the City (Dennis Roach) had an agreement that allows the Arboretum to clear the snow from the sidewalks around the Arboretum and invoice the City, which has been successful. The use of asphalt as a short-cut to build out HP ramps was also raised as a concern, as it is being done all around the neighborhood, with similar water damming results as discussed earlier. Matt agreed to speak to Chris Osgood of the Department of Transportation regarding the issues discussed. He also noted that the Parks Department also reports to Chris Osgood, which should help communications.

Mike continued with some public safety concerns. First was the issue of the electrical junction box covers on city light poles and traffic signal poles that were in disrepair, with many either missing or held on with plastic electrical tape, both of which are code violations that would get a private citizen a citation. Mike feels that the city workers need to be held accountable, noting that his understanding is that under an electrician's license, the "last one in" owns the responsibility that the conditions meet code, and that an electrician could lose their license, should they leave things not up to code. Matt indicated he would bring the concerns to the city. Mike also noted that there is a new intersection dedication sign at the intersection of Fletcher and Centre Streets that is mounted at face height, which he believes is a violation of the uniform code for street signs (which Rachel stated was a minimum height of 6'8"). This sign is a danger to pedestrians, especially those who are visually impaired), who don't expect a sign with sharp metal edges to be mounted so low. Matt stated he thought the sign was at that

height so that interested parties could scan the QR code. The group felt there were other, safer ways to mount the sign and still display the QR code at a lower height without endangering pedestrians. Matt said he would take the issue back to the city.

John Covert stated that he would like to make formal complaint to Matt regarding the construction at 100 Weld Street. He noted that all of the posted permits have expired and that given the level of completion, he doesn't feel that the developer need to continue to block the Centre Street sidewalk for what appears to be just storage of their equipment. He would like to see action taken by the city.

Deborah Beatty Mel asked if the sidewalk along Weld Street between the construction site and the first house along Weld could be connected. There is currently a gap. Matt stated that he believed that connecting the sidewalks is supposed to happen as part of the 100 Weld project.

Deborah Asbrand asked for an update regarding the proposed wetlands ordinance. Matt reported that cities and towns around the state can now write ordinances to better protect wetlands from developers. He explained that it is a long process, but that they have begun the work.

Matt continued by reporting that Blue Bikes would be coming to Centre Street near P. J. Kelleher's and Harry's All American near Knoll Street. Matt also reported that he would be holding office hours on January 18th at 8AM at Green T.

The group thanked Matt for attending and for his comments.

The meeting continued with a report from the Treasurer. Sue reported a balance of \$1295.84.

The meeting continued with the approval of the minutes of the November meeting. Tim motioned approval as distributed, with a second from Mary. The motion of approved by those who were present at the November meeting.

Sue then requested a vote on the proposed updates to the bylaws. Wayne motioned to approve the updates as distributed with a second by Tim. The changes were approval by all present. Sue then requested approval that the same mission statement language from the bylaws be incorporated into the Articles of Incorporation. Tim motioned to include the updated mission statement, with a second by Mary. The motion was approved by all present.

The meeting by continued with comments from Deborah Asbrand regarding the Wetlands Task Force. Deb reported that the task force was involved with crafting the wetlands ordinance being developed by the City Council. Deb also reported

they had received a design grant from Mass Audubon to develop a maintenance plan for the wetlands. She also noted that the group planned to reach out to our new State Rep Nika Elugardo to bring her up to speed on the Wetlands and current concerns. She also reported that the group had reached out to Councilor McCarthy, requesting that he reach out to the developers of 104-108 Walter Street, as they have not been responsive to the Wetlands Task Force recently. Kathy noted that it might be time for more visibility and maybe a public presentation to better publicize the wetlands issues. It was recommended to hold a presentation meeting at the Roslindale Community Center or the Arboretum in concert with a press release.

Open Discussion:

Julia noted that Roxbury Prep had scaled back their proposal from 880 student down to around 550, according to a recent article in the Bulletin. They have also filed for a small project review and are now in the 45-day review period for comments to the BPDA.

Sue asked if any further action was needed by LANA regarding the proposed cannabis shop, given the mixed comments at the meeting held at the Roslindale Community Center. The group felt that there was no change since the prior board vote to not oppose the plan.

Julia reported that there had been around \$50K raised by opponents of the Allendale Street development proposal. The case was heard on 1/9/19 and they are awaiting the decision of the court on the group's standing.

Julia also reported that it appears that Sophia Snow House will reach an agreement to purchase the former Larry Palmer Mobil gas station site from the developer proposing to build housing there. This purchase would put the issue to rest and protect the vernal pool adjacent to the site.

The meeting was drawn to a close with a reminder of our next meeting:

Board Meeting - Monday, March 11, 2019 at 7PM at Longfellow House