

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Longfellow Area Neighborhood Association was held at the Longfellow House on Monday July 8, 2019 at 7:00PM. Board members in attendance were: Linda Burnett, Joe DeMasi, Mike Fitzgerald, Mary Flaherty, Sue Forti, Kathy McCabe, Julia O'Brien and Rachel Young. Board members unable to attend were Deborah Asbrand, Wayne Beitler, Tim McDonald, and Cathi Toste.

Also in attendance were neighbors John Covert, Matt Curran, Susan DiMatteo and Jon McPhail; Joe Coppinger of Neighborhood Services, Patrick Brown of Rep. Coppinger's office and Tyler Wilkenson of District 5 City Councilor candidate Alejandro's election staff

Mary began the meeting by calling for additions to the agenda. The agenda was approved as distributed. Mary also asked for everyone to introduce themselves.

The meeting continued with comments from Thadine Brown regarding the City's Community Preservation Act funding available throughout the city. The fund was created via a 2016 ballot initiative that added 1% to property taxes. The tax generates approximately \$18M/year, which is matched 10% by the State, generating a total of \$20M or more per year. The funds are available for projects like affordable housing; parks and open spaces; and historic preservation. An example is the fund provided \$500K toward the cost of the Gateway Path bike path from the Roslindale commuter rail station, the Arboretum over to Forest Hills station.

Kathy asked when the next submission deadline was. Thadine replied that the next application period was between August 8 and September 27, with decisions announced in the February-March 2020 timeframe. Kathy also asked if they would fund the purchase of property to add into the wetlands. Thadine indicated there was a possibility but that they don't fund operations and/or maintenance. There would need to be a well-defined plan to cover the maintenance in place to be considered for funding.

Neighbor Jon McPhail asked what kind of overhead there was in staffing the activities of the fund. Thadine replied that 5% was used for staff salaries and expenses. Rachel asked if they would fund a community garden. Thadine replied yes, and that they had already done so in another neighborhood. Sue asked if small groups could partner with larger 501c(3) organizations to apply, to which Thadine answered "Yes". Mike asked if they would fund a dog park, to which Thadine also answered "Yes".

The group thanked Thadine for her presentation.

The meeting continued with an update from RVMS. Sue gave the presentation, standing in for Alia Forrest. Sue reported that things are slowly progressing on the Poplar Street upgrades, which include recently-installed trash receptacles. The project raised \$26k from the community, which was matched by \$25k from Mass Development and an additional grant of \$5k from the Main Streets Foundation. Things yet to come are way-finding signage and a sculpture on top of the kiosk.

Sue continued by reporting that the pilot closure of Birch Street earlier this year was well-received and that the design for permanent closure in lieu of a pedestrian mall is nearly complete. The pilot received overwhelming support and Birch Street businesses do not see any loss of parking as a problem.

Sue continued by reporting that permits for Distraction Brewery were held up due to not being able to locate complete architectural drawings for the building. Sue also noted that Turtle Swamp Brewery had just received final approval and was open. She also noted that a grant had been secured to fund the final large window in the substation. Sue also noted that the bagel shop opening was also held up due to permits.

Sue wrapped up by announcing a free talk on the adverse impact of lights to be held at the Arboretum's Weld Hill facility. Sue noted that LANA will be inviting other area non-profits to present at future meetings. Rachel noted an effort to get LANA more involved with the Roslindale Day parade or field activities at the end of the parade.

The meeting continued with remarks from Joe Coppinger of Neighborhood Services. Joe made note of the Mayor's Climate Action Plan. Examples of things happening in Roslindale include solar panels on the Community Center and on the roof of the E5 police station. Joe also noted that the replacement bridge to Long Island received its permits from the State. Joe also announced a Mayor' Coffee Hours event on Tuesday July 9 at 9:30AM at Billings Field in West Roxbury. The Roslindale Coffee Hours event still needs to be rescheduled.

The group thanked Joe for his remarks.

Judith Robichaud, a volunteer from the Open Studios group noted that Turtle Swamp will be hosting 5 artists in their gallery. She reported they are working to get other area businesses to also host artists' works. She also reminded the group that the Open Studios event will be October 19th and 20th and sign-up was now open. She also noted that Porch Fest will be September 14h.

Joe D. asked Joe C. if the Climate Action Plan included electric vehicle charging stations, to which Joe C. replied "Yes, and they are already in the works." Mary noted that Tyler Wilkenson was in attendance to collect information for

Alejandra St. Guillen, candidate for City Councilor district 5.

The meeting continued with remarks from Patrick Brown, of Rep. Coppinger's office. He reported that the Rep met with DCR at Sophia Snow House regarding the intersection at Centre and Walter. He indicated that traffic signals and new crosswalks are in the works. He also noted the \$500k is in the budget to address deficiencies at the intersection of VFW Parkway and Church/South Streets.

Rachel raised a concern about the MBTA clear-cutting trees along the commuter rail line with no warning or chance for community input. She feels that at a minimum, the community should be alerted. There was also some general conversation among the group that government and quasi-government agencies (like the MBTA) need to be more transparent and forthcoming with the communities they serve.

Sue motioned to adjourn the meeting, with a 2nd from Mary. The motion was approved by all.

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

Annual Meeting - Monday, September 9, 2019 at 7PM at Longfellow House