

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Longfellow Area Neighborhood Association was held at the Longfellow House on Monday May 13, 2019 at 7:00PM. Board members in attendance were: Deborah Asbrand, Linda Burnett, Joe DeMasi, Mike Fitzgerald, Mary Flaherty, Sue Forti, Kathy McCabe and Rachel Young. Board members unable to attend were Wayne Beitler, Tim McDonald, Julia O'Brien and Cathi Toste.

Also in attendance were Steve Schneider of the Arboretum, Joe Coppinger of Neighborhood Services, Shannon Murphy of Councilor O'Malley's office and Mimi Turchinetz, candidate for the district 5 City Councilor seat currently held by Tim McCarthy, who is not running for reelection.

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 work on the solar installation is going well. He reported that the array panels are placed and fencing is installed, which allows the electrical wiring to be performed. Steve reported that the concrete pad and conduits for the battery array have been installed and that the array itself is expected to be delivered in July. He also reported that the solar canopy is in production and expected to be delivered in June. Steve noted that connecting the systems to the building power will require an 8 to 12-hour power shutdown. The generator will provide power to critical systems during the work.

Steve also reported that pollinators for the arrays are being grown and will be placed in 2020 and the ground cover is being installed for now. He also reported that 52 trees had been placed along the Centre Street side of the site. Rachel asked about tours and/or a ribbon-cutting event, to which Steve replied that there will be an opening event in September 2019 and that they also plan to develop programming around the installation.

Changing topics, Kathy asked about the new porta-potty enclosures. Steve reported that the enclosures were permanent but that the porta-potty units were seasonal. Kathy expressed a concern that the units could be a little better concealed, but Steve noted that they need visibility and adequate space for HP access, so doesn't expect any changes.

In response to a question regarding the project web site, Steve suggested searching for Weld Hill Solar on Google.

Continuing with Steve, he noted that the City of Boston mural team created a lilac mural at Washington Street and Arboretum Road for Lilac Sunday. Free ice cream was also available but the poor weather kept the attendance low. Steve also noted that Charlotte at DCR wrote a \$300K grant for funding for the pathway from Roslindale Village to Forest Hills. He also noted that Jeff Sanchez had

secured a \$3M earmark in the State budget, but that is not real funding. He says the expected time frame on funding should be measured in years, not months.

The group thanked Steve for attending and for his comments.

The meeting continued with a discussion regarding the LANA on-line social media accounts and a newsletter. Rachel will produce a draft newsletter and send it via email to the board for review. Rachel and Joe volunteered to update the web site. Rachel asked if people would be interested in administrative meetings during the even-numbered months when there is no public meeting. The group was supportive. Rachel will poll the group via email to determine a date for a meeting to be held in June. Rachel will reach out to Chris Kollett for access to the accounts and to get the invoices to reimburse Chris for the fees for the LANA domain names. Sue noted that Jocelyn Hunt may be interested in helping with web site maintenance.

The meeting continued with comments from Mimi Turchinetz, candidate for the district 5 City Council seat. Mimi provided some personal background: Born in Mattapan but moved to Roslindale 20 years ago but now lives in Hyde Park. She noted that she is a lawyer and has been a community activist and loves the neighborhoods. She is concerned about gentrification and climate change. She wants to be known as a “green” leader. She is interested in preserving the 38 urban wilds within the city and lives adjacent to an urban wild in Hyde Park. She also wants net-zero provisions included in a re-write of the Article 80 review process.

Linda asked for more details from her background. Mimi noted that she had been an Assistant District Attorney; she worked in EDIC in the Mayor’s office and also worked at the State House.

Mike asked for Mimi’s thoughts regarding developers being able to build large count residential units on under-sized lots. Mimi expressed her concern especially that affordability is lacking.

Kathy noted that she feels that snow removal and other city services are being impacted at these developments. Deborah asked Mimi what she had heard as she has spoken to people around the neighborhood and has anything surprised her. Mimi replied that people fearing displacement, while not surprising, is terrifying many people. People are also concerned about land use and land grabs.

The group thanked Mimi for her time and comments and wished her well.

The meeting continued with a review of the minutes from the January 14th meeting. The minutes were amended to reflect that Wayne Beitler was present

for the meeting. Sue Forti motioned to approve the minutes as amended, with a second by Kathy. The motion was approved by all.

The meeting continued with comments from Joe Coppinger of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services. Joe noted that the Mayor will hold coffee hours at Adams Park on Thursday June 13th at 9:30AM. All are welcome.

Joe continued that the Turtle Swamp Brewery would be going to the ZBA soon. He noted that RVMS was trying to raise funds to open the final large window in the substation. He also said that anyone with comments regarding the Birch Street plaza should forward them to Joe.

The discussion turned to the wetlands and trying to protect it from development. Mary noted that she and Frank O'Brien had a meeting with Rep. Coppinger and Eluardo to discuss the availability of any State funding, but there was nothing to report further. Kathy noted that the focus should be on the remaining privately-owned lots to try to get those turned over to the city to be added to the wetlands. Deborah noted that the Feeney Brothers own the largest lot, but that others remain.

Deborah noted that the reported \$500K for the wetlands was just part of the routine capital outlay and was actually overdue funding that had been delayed previously. Deborah also reported that Carl Spector and two other members of the Conservation Commission helped with a clean-up of the Wetlands. They are hoping to arrange a tour of the wetlands with Reps Coppinger and Eluardo.

Open Discussion:

Rachel noted that the T had made three passes taking down trees along the commuter rail track bed. Some people noted that it's their property and their right, Kathy stated that she doesn't buy that argument because the T is a government agency and should be more transparent with the community. Shannon noted that the T reported the taking of the trees was a safety issue. Shannon also noted that the city is not willing to provide replacement trees for people to plant in their backyards, but they are looking for a private agency that might be willing to do so. Mike noted that taking so many trees without replacing them seems to be at odds with the City's desire to raise the city-wide tree canopy from 28% to 34%

The topic changed to Rachel bringing up the issue of the 3-on-3 hockey tourney at Fallon Field. Rachel noted that the event has become a drinking fest that leaves much trash in its wake. She asked Joe why the event doesn't have a police detail assigned. She also noted that notification of the event is lacking, and again wondered why. Joe thinks that in the past, flyers were posted by the event organizers and that any requirements for a police detail would be

determined by the parks department permitting rules.

Mary motioned to adjourn, with a second by Sue. The motion was approved by all.

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

Board Meeting - Monday, July 8, 2019 at 7PM at Longfellow House