

The Annual Meeting of the Longfellow Area Neighborhood Association was held at the Longfellow House on Monday September 9, 2019 at 7:00PM. Board members in attendance were: Linda Burnett, Joe DeMasi, Mike Fitzgerald, Mary Flaherty, Sue Forti, Kathy McCabe, Tim McDonald, Julia O'Brien, Cathi Toste and Rachel Young. Board members unable to attend were Deborah Asbrand and Wayne Beitler,

Also in attendance were neighbors John Covert, Susan DiMatteo, Bob Houlihan, Beverly Harris, Raphael Sulkovitz and Carter Wilkie. Speakers included Matt Lawlor of WalkUP Roslindale and Orion Kriegman of the Boston Food Forest Coalition.

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 Sue reminding those present that since this was the annual meeting, where members in good standing elect members of the Board, those members wishing to cast their votes needed to see her to make sure their dues were paid for this year. Those wishing to pay dues or check their status were invited to come up to see Sue during the meeting.

As Matt Lawlor was delayed, the meeting continued with a presentation by Orion Kriegman of the Boston Food Forest Coalition. Orion explained how the coalition began in 2013 as a grass-roots effort to turn vacant city lots into productive pieces of the community, resulting in the formation of a 501c3. What started as simply neighbors wanting to clean up vacant lots has become a city-wide organization that cultivates community, reclaims land and provides education activities for those interested in becoming involved or in starting their own. The coalition works to help create urban edible forest gardens through the transfer of city-owned lots into its land trust.

The coalition has also formed partnerships to help form and maintain other urban food forests. One such partnership is with the Boston Nature Center, which had a 1-acre urban orchard that they could no longer maintain. Coalition volunteers took over maintenance of the orchard in 2014. The next volunteer maintenance event will be on October 19 at 3pm, followed by a social event at 6pm. The events are open all volunteers.

Orion related that the coalition's strengths include a diverse, inclusive corps of volunteers that goes back decades, along with strong, varied financial and in-kind sources of support.

Interested parties can visit their web site www.bostonfoodforest.org for full details, to get involved and/or to donate support.

The group thanked Orion for his presentation.

The meeting continued with an update on the Gateway Path project from Matt Lawlor of WalkUP Roslindale. Matt distributed maps showing the proposed path, along with indicators for the various sections of the path. The project is now officially part of the Boston Green Links system and under the purview of the City of Boston. This opens the project up to be able to tap into some major funding, the first of which is a grant of \$500K for the first extension of the Blackwell Path to Arboretum Road. Funding for the balance of the project is hoped for via a bond bill in last year's capital budget. It is expected that construction on the first section will begin in the spring.

The path will be crushed stone, similar to that used on the existing Blackwell path, but will also include some sections of boardwalk and even some pavement, both of which will help to deal with transitions in elevations along the path. Mike asked if there would be any lighting along the path, to which Matt replied no, and that the Arboretum was strongly against any lighting, adding that the park is closed from dusk until dawn, so the path would technically be closed at dark.

John Covert raised the issue of the new commuter rail bridge over Robert Street. Attempts were made to try to get the T to include room on the new bridge to support possible future extension of the path out toward West Roxbury but the T would not consider any changes.

Matt stated that they hoped that the path would be completed in about 3 years and that the overall design is nearly 100% complete.

More information and contact info regarding the project can be found by visiting walkuproslindale.org.

The group thanked Matt for his presentation.

The meeting continued with Rachel conveying LANA's plans for activities on Fallon Field at the end of the Roslindale Day Parade. Rachel stated that plans called for lawn games, a popcorn machine, an ice cream truck and some activities tables. There will be no bouncy houses and no performance stage. Rachel plans to post to Quirky Roslindale and some other local boards and is looking for volunteers to help set things up, monitor activities and help with break-down and clean-up at the conclusion. The event will be between 1 and 5pm but people can work shorter shifts if they can't commit to the entire 4 hours.

The meeting continued with an open discussion regarding the expansion of the Faulkner Hospital. A community meeting will be held on Wednesday 9/11/19 at 7:30pm at the Arboretum's Weld Hill building. Carter Wilkie expressed his concern regarding the Centre Street corridor and how this expansion will further impact traffic. He stated that he feels that LANA should push for funding in the

expansion to design and implement roadway and transportation changes as a condition of allowing the expansion. Carter also called out the issue of the intersection of Robert and South Street adjacent to Checkmate Café. Carter told of how he was almost struck by a car that failed to stop in the turn-out from Robert onto South, a problem faced by many people.

Kathy and Matt stated that both LANA and WalkUP Roslindale have raised the issue AT Robert/South with the city, but have had no luck getting any commitment from the City to make changes at this time. Kathy stated that it may be time for LANA to revisit the issue and should also request a multi-modal study/plan as part of the Faulkner expansion.

Carter also noted that partly a result of Hebrew Senior Life expanding their programs to activities that are not allowed under the deed restriction put in place at the State level when the former Joyce Kilmer Park land was taken to allow the construction of what was then called the Hebrew Rehabilitation center, whose activities were supposed to be a senior living facility, and nothing more. The deed restriction does not allow the research and academic programs now being performed at the site.

Carter requested a vote by the board to send a representative to the community meeting to voice LANA's concerns, keeping in mind that the Centre Street impact area spans multiple jurisdictions, so local politicians often don't concern themselves and/or don't want to "own" the problem. He also noted that Jeff Sanchez's defeat killed an earmark he had gotten in place to re-design and rebuild the Center/Walter Street intersection and there seems to be no new funding coming for now.

Linda motioned that LANA send Tim McDonald (who volunteered) to present LANA's concerns regarding the impact of the expansion and our desire to have a comprehensive traffic and transportation plan as part of the Faulkner expansion. The motion was seconded by Sue and approved by all present.

The meeting continued with LANA business. Sue reported a balance of \$1395.09, including funds collected during the meeting. Mike continued by requesting approval of the minutes of the May and July board meetings, which were approved as distributed. Sue also called for approval of the minutes of the August administrative meeting, which had been distributed by email. Those minutes were also approved as distributed by those who had attended.

Mike continued by announcing the results of the election of board members, which had been ongoing during Rachel's presentation. Twenty-one ballots were cast for the full slate. Two additional ballots were cast for the for slate plus write-in votes for Linda, but the votes for Linda were unnecessary, as Linda's term does not expire until 2020.

With the board elections complete, the members of the board then voted for the officers. Due to the resignation of Deborah Asbrand just prior to the meeting, the ballot was modified to replace Deborah with Joe DeMasi, who volunteered for Assistant Clerk. Ten ballots were cast for the full slate as modified. This resulted in Sue becoming the President; Kathy McCabe becoming VP, Tim McDonald becoming Treasurer, Sue also taking the role of Assistant Treasurer; Rachel as Clerk and Joe DeMasi as Assistant Clerk.

Kathy took a moment to thank the outgoing officers, in particular, Mary and Mike, for all they have done for LANA.

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 meetings:

Administrative Meeting of the Board: Monday October 21 at 6:30pm
Board Meeting - Monday, November 11, 2019 at 7PM at Longfellow House