

LONGFELLOW AREA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL MEETING
September 14, 2020

Minutes
Approved 10.22.20

The bimonthly meeting of the Longfellow Area Neighborhood Association was held via Zoom on Monday September 14, 2020 at 7:00 pm. Board members in attendance were: Joe DeMasi, Mike Fitzgerald, Kathy McCabe, Julia O'Brien, Rachel Young, Sue Forti, Hillary Sullivan, Wayne Beitler and Mary Flaherty. The board member unable to attend was Cathe Toste.

Representatives in attendance were ONS Representative Joe Coppinger, E5 Community Liaison Officer Roach, Steve Schneider Director of Operations at The Arnold Arboretum, Neighborhood Liaison for Councilor Flaherty Paul Sullivan and Councilor Mike Flaherty, Neighborhood Liaison for Representative Nika Elugardo Isabel Torres.

The meeting was recorded.

Neighborhood Crime

E5 Community Liaison Officer Ed Roach gave an update on neighborhood crime statistics. He gave data on the last 90 days. He noted that there have been eight car larcenies, four package thefts, vandalism, and stolen vehicles. Larcenies from vehicles is down 20%. More than half of these were from unlocked vehicles. Overall crime is down 4%.

George Marsh asked if car is unlocked does the security alarm go off? Office Roach replied that in fact it will not. But If you hit the button twice the security alarm is activated.

Steve Schneider spoke about the car accident which badly damaged the stone wall at the intersection of Bussey and Walter. He said a suspect was apprehended.

Presentation from Elected Officials and Community Liaisons

Councilor Flaherty spoke about a new technology fellowship program for recent BPS and Boston charter school graduates called "Year 13." It is in its pilot year and is a joint project with Wentworth College, the Barr Foundation and local technology companies.

Isabel Torres said that Representative Elugardo would like to attend the next LANA meeting to give a policy update.

She also spoke about a back-to-school backpack drive Representative Elugardo is involved with. The main goal is headsets for remote learning. These items can be dropped off at the Mildred Hailey apartments and the Tobin Community Center.

Joe Coppinger spoke of the recently completed report from the police task force. There is a listening session on September 22 4 pm.

No one had additional questions for the elected officials.

LANA Board of Directors Election

Board members stepping down include Cathe Toste, Mike Fitzgerald and Mary Flaherty.

Those running for election/re-election were Rachel Young, Wayne Beitler, Pauri Pandian, Jonna Iacono, Raphael Sulkovitz, David Wean and Susan DiMatteo.

Each candidate for the board spoke for a few minutes addressing their platforms.

There were 22 votes and all seven candidates were elected unanimously.

Roslindale Wetlands Update

Kathy McCabe presented an update to LANA on the wetlands. Recently, 104-108 Walter Street has been put back on the market, putting added pressure on a resolution to the project. The new for sale sign has been up since mid June. There have been a few offers.

LANA has met with representatives from Mass Audubon, Commissioner Chris Cook, cabinet head of Environment & Energy, and the Parks Department and Department of Neighborhood Development.

Commissioner Cook has sent a letter of intent saying the city intends to purchase the land.

LANA was awarded a CEDAC grant for predevelopment planning. LANA is sponsoring two community workshops on October 1st and October 22nd. Architects PlaceTailor and Elton Hampton Architects will be participating.

Southwest Boston CDC and the Boston Chapter of Habitat for Humanity have met with the Wetlands Working Group and are interested in participating as a developer of the affordable housing component. Both organization wrote letters of support for the LAND grant to acquire 108 Walter.

Kathy concluded by thanking elected officials that have been involved with the project. She added that she hopes abutters will be closely involved.

Robert Street Bridge Project

Kathy McCabe also gave an update on the bridge replacement project. There will be 2 weekends when Robert Street will be closed. Drivers should use Walworth or Centre Street.

Centre and Walter Street

There was a community meeting on July 30 where DPW's preferred design was presented. Kathy called the design underwhelming and appeared to be designed to a budget. She said that LANA would prefer that the landscape be restored because the road is technically a parkway and the intersection is a gateway to the community.

Census

Kathy encouraged all in attendance to participate in the 2020 Census and go to [MyCensus.gov](https://www.MyCensus.gov).

Arnold Arboretum

Steve Schneider spoke of a pilot program where visitor center staff will be mobilized to various gates to interact with the public.

LANA Business

Sue Forti stated that LANA has \$2,153.54 in its coffers. LANA received a \$50 donation from the family of Patricia Costello earmarked for the Wetlands.

The board then approved the July meeting minutes. Joe motioned to approve, Sue seconded. They were unanimously approved.

Certificate of Recognition for Mike Fitzgerald

In recognition and appreciation for his many years of service to LANA, Joe Coppinger presented Mike with a Commendation signed by the Mayor and Sue presented him with a City Council Resolution signed by Matt O'Malley.

Mike said that LANA represents the community regardless of your own beliefs. "We are not NIMBY. We have a reputation for being reasonable."

Next meeting: November 9, 2020 7:00 PM via Zoom

Next Admin Board Meeting: Tuesday, October 13, 2020 at 6 pm. NOTE Change of Day due to Columbus Day/ Indigenous People's Day.
