

MINUTES of meeting, April 15, 2015

Board Room, Department of Public Works (DPW), 20 Municipal Way

Present: Diane Campbell, chair; David Wright, vice chair; members Heidi Kost-Gross and Kurt Somerville; project manager Peter Jackson; Town staff Dave Hickey, Meghan Jop, Mike Pakstis and Brandon Schmitt; Trails Committee (TC) members Miguel Lessing and Denny Nackoney.

The chair called the meeting to order at 8:07 a.m.

Minutes: Draft minutes of the meeting of March 4, 2015 had been distributed previously. **MOVED** Heidi, **SECONDED** Kurt to approve the minutes as submitted. **PASSED** unanimously.

Trails Committee proposal for athletic fields area: TC member Denny Nackoney gave a slide-show presentation on the reasons for, and location of, a proposed new route for the Brook Path past the baseball field and across School Committee-owned land to Paine St. He said the route was proposed as early as 2003 and was listed as the TC's number-one priority project in 2007. Consisting only of a marked route (not a built path), it would offer better aesthetics and safety than the present route using parking lots, driveways, and Rice Street. The project will require preventing car-bumper overhang from the State St. parking lot, moving a chain-link fence 10 feet closer to the right-field foul line, brush-clearing (by TC volunteers) for access to the School Committee parcel, and tree planting (using Town tree funds) as a visual screen for the house at 43 Rice St. Denny said the Natural Resources Commission, the Athletics Director, and the Recreation Department had all indicated approval of the project, and he expected a favorable vote in the School Committee soon. Miguel Lessing added that prompt action was needed, because presently-approved Town funding for the project would last only through Fiscal Year 2016.

In response, FBPC members again said the project posed no problem as long as it could be timed not to impede FBPC-supervised work in the area. Meghan noted that, since the proposed route didn't comply with universal-access standards, signs would have to be provided to re-direct handicapped users of the path. Dave Hickey and Mike Pakstis said they thought this relatively low-impact project could be done under existing permits, but the proponents should seek the advice of the Wetlands Protection Committee (WPC) to make sure.

Construction report: Peter Jackson said that the raised walkways between Forest and Paine Streets have been completed, and they look attractive and sturdy. In-stream structures between Caroline and Forest Streets have been inspected and fine-tuned. Near the Forest St. culvert, stream relocation is complete, 1 of 5 log vanes have been installed, and a revetment wall is being built opposite the culvert. Materials for Construction Section 3 (State to Grove Streets) have been staged at the Wilson St. site. Peter has been in touch with residents on the west side of Wilson St. regarding impacts of the work and a minor encroachment issue with one property owner. At street crossings, work will be coordinated with DPW drainage pipe installation and police will provide traffic control.

Stream access restrictions to protect spawning fish are now in effect. Peter said research indicates that alewives come upstream only as far as the State St. Pond. WPC has lifted restrictions further upstream and so work is proceeding in Caroline Brook. Fish have been sighted near Grove St. and near Wellesley Ave. and are presumed to have reached the pond, so work there won't begin until June 15.

Of the four types of crews the contractor will use—road, stream, park and path, and dredging—only the stream crew has been deployed so far. Peter will try to expedite the work, in particular scheduling street closings for summer, when school is out.

Section 319 grant: Dave Hickey reported that a contract has been signed for this federal EPA funding. He will meet with the program's administrator to work out the details of billing and payment. Peter noted that, since the notice to proceed wasn't issued until March 30, some previously-done work, such as

bioretention areas, won't be chargeable to the grant. He has reminded the contractor that the grant requires that a portion of the work be awarded to firms owned by women and minorities. It was agreed that, when the grant money begins to flow, Town Meeting members and the public should be informed about it, possibly with water-bill inserts or a report to Special Town Meeting in the fall.

Additional permitting for tree removal: Mike said that WPC has approved an amended Order of Conditions to allow more trees to be removed than specified in the plan. Fifty additional trees will be planted to mitigate the impact.

Numbering of project segments: David Wright noted that the Phase 4 construction process is numbering the project's four segments in reverse order from the Phase 3 design, and asked whether the usage needed to be made uniform. The consensus was that, since the new system was already established and hadn't caused any problems up to now, no action was required.

Security in raised-walkway area: Kurt noted that a group of high school students has tended to gather on the walkway near Paine St., causing problems with litter and intimidating other path users. Options to abate the problem were discussed, including a police bicycle patrol, a sign asking users to respect the environment, and consultations with the police department's schools officer and deputy chief.

Next meeting: Wednesday, May 20, 2015, at 8:00 a.m. in the DPW Board Room.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:39 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
David Wright, Vice Chair