

Westborough BPAC
Meeting Minutes
September 8, 2015

Attendance: Bruce Tretter, Don Burn, Howard Drake, Glenn McCleod, Nancy Siegal

Aug. 11 meeting minutes approved.

BWALT:

Bruce reported that he, Don, Derek Saari, Jim Robbins, Jim Malloy, and Ian Johnson met to clarify progress with easements at Carmax properties. Don asked if the current conservation restriction will need to be amended, and if so, will we abide by the September 30th deadline.

Bruce reported that he, Jim Robbins, Garry Kessler and Derek Saari subsequently met with Carmax and Bohler representatives on September 1st regarding Conservation Commission concerns about the Carmax easement and any potential modifications. Carmax told the group that they support the BWALT trail as long as it does not impede with their planning, timelines, and overall project.

Bruce also contacted Jim Malloy and Leah Talbot and then drafted a letter to the selectmen about creating a gift account that could be used to manage donations and expenses regarding BWALT trail construction and maintenance.

State Hospital Property Reuse Committee Meeting Report

Members of the BPAC attended the August 27th meeting of the State Hospital Property Reuse Committee (SHPRC) to request

that a provision to create trail access to the northeastern section of the state hospital property be considered if or when that piece of property is sold for development. The SHPRC was fully in favor of supporting that idea.

Sidewalk Plan Update:

Bruce spoke with Kristi Williams on August 26th about the town's sidewalk plan. Kristi will draft a plan to include neighborhood-to-neighborhood connections, safe routes to school, and town business and services accessibility and, at a later date, will hold a meeting to hear public input on the plan. The committee indicated that the completed sidewalk plan should be incorporated into the town's bike and pedestrian plan.

Downtown Traffic Rotary Survey

Bruce reported that after a recent site visit to Westborough by CMRPC's Nick Burnham and Dan Daniska that CMRPC is satisfied with the changes that have been done over the past few years to improve cyclist and pedestrian safety in the downtown traffic rotary. Nick Burnham suggested that we, through town officials, contact MassDOT about conducting a Roadway Safety Audit that would address comprehensive motorized and non-motorized safety in the rotary. Bruce will contact the selectmen's office about making contact with Mass DOT.

Rt. 30 Repaving From E. Main St. to Southborough Line

Don said that repaving Rt. 30 from E. Main St. to the Southborough town line is on the state's TIP (Transportation Improvement Program) plan for 2017-2018. Ed advocated that

we approach the state to request accommodations for cyclists, sidewalk installation, and orienting storm drain grates to improve cyclist safety. Bruce will talk with town officials about how best to advocate those concerns to the state.

Conscom Meeting/BPAC presentation re: Carmax easement

The BPAC met with the Westborough Conservation Commission regarding the proposed BWALT trail section adjacent to the Carmax property off Rt. 9. Town Planner Jim Robbins provided an overview of the BWALT project and the importance of securing trail access adjacent to the Carmax property. The commission stated its concerns regarding minimizing habitat disruption and will request that a survey be conducted to stake the Carmax property and proposed easement bounds before making suggestions about any conservation restriction amendments.

Next meeting: Oct. 6, 2015