

Meeting Notes

Dedham Sustainability Advisory Committee

Lower Conference Room, Dedham Town Hall

Monday, December 12, 2011 @ 7:00pm

Present: Jonathan Briggs (JB), Joanna Hamblin (JH), Carol Hills (CH), Deb Harrison (DH), Russ Poole (RP) Virginia LeClair (VL)

Absent: Liz O'Donnell (LOD), Steve MacAusland (SM),

Guests: Elizabeth Martin (Dedham Times), Mark MacLean (MM)

JB opened the meeting of Monday, December 12, 2011

Pedestrian and Improvement Updates

VL updated the Committee on the award of the MAPC Sustainable Communities grant that will provide technical assistance to create a pedestrian and bicycle improvement plan. She thanked Carol Hills for her support in writing this grant. VL will email those that wrote letters of support to inform them of the award. The Town of Westwood also received technical support to create a similar plan and as a condition of both communities award we will be working together to create connections between the Towns. The Town of Needham was inspired by this project and has created a network of communities including Dedham, Westwood, Needham, Dover, Wellesley, Newton that would meet to share best practices within their own communities.

JB suggested to the Town Planner that the action item in the Master Plan to create a transportation Committee be advanced to phase I of the plan. The Town Planner and VL will be meeting with Bill Keegan to discuss this idea soon.

CH updated the Committee on a discussion regarding sidewalks as part of the mitigation for 40 Allied Drive. The project is currently before the Conservation Commission and the Planning Board. CH, VL, the Town Planner and the DPW Director met to discuss the feasibility of sidewalks along Allied Drive. The DPW Director thought it was possible and priced out a rough estimate. He suggested we talk with the Hilton to see if they would be willing to contribute to the sidewalks. The sidewalks would fill the missing link between East Street and the Commuter Rail station at Dedham Corporate. VL will contact the Dedham Hilton.

CH has been in discussions with Representative Paul McMurtry and others about a pedestrian sidewalk on the newly constructed Bridge St. bridge. The temporary bridge is currently being torn down. The Representative is aware of our concerns and wishes. Mark Maclean (MM), Dedham resident and Engineer with DCR's Parkways Division took a rough look at the site and thought sidewalks could be worked into the existing design.

VL brought up the subject of hosting a Complete Streets workshop in Dedham. The Committee decided that the timeframe of February, which would be when the organization would want to hold a meeting was too soon for Dedham. Officials from Dedham would attend the next workshop, rather than host it ourselves.

Walk Friendly Communities Grant

VL discussed with the Committee the Walk Friendly Communities grant opportunity, which is a national recognition program developed to encourage towns and cities across the U.S. to establish or recommit to supporting safer walking environments. This program recognizes communities that are working to improve a wide range of conditions related to walking, including safety, mobility, access, and comfort. CH and VL discussed the arduous nature of the

grant and thought that it was better to apply next year once we have received technical assistance from MAPC and have more under our belt.

MAPC LEAP Grant

VL updated the Committee on the MAPC Local Energy Action Program grant that would provide technical assistance from MAPC over 3 years to help create a Climate Action Plan. The Town adopted a Local Climate Action Plan as part of the Green Communities designation process, but the public was not involved in the creation of this plan and since its adoption additional goals could be added to strengthen the plan. The Committee reviewed a list of potential projects that if selected they would want to work on with MAPC and incorporate into the plan as part of a long-term goal. VL will apply for the grant with support from the Committee.

Anti-Idling Program

LOD was absent from the meeting, but reported to VL that she had submitted the PSA on Anti-Idling to Dedham Cable. VL will follow up with LOD to see when it will air.

Community Member Updates

RP gave an update on the Havey Beach project. Havey Beach is owned by DCR and he attended a meeting that they hosted to discuss a feasibility study that was done to bring back the boathouse. Issues included lack of running water, access to the water, and parking. He estimated that 10-15 canoes could be stored on site and the rest could be rentals. Charles River Canoe and Kayak was present and expressed interest in using this site as a rental location.

RP announced that the new Avery school will be receiving LEED Gold certification. RP believes that this is the first LEED Gold public elementary school in the state.

DH informed the Committee of Nobles Anti-Idling program that she has been working with bus drivers, parents, and students on to reduce idling by all parties. She is going to be meeting with the Parent Committee soon. VL asked that she continue to update the group on their progress and share anything that may help improve our program.

MM offered to help the Town with the LED streetlight project, as he has contacts at DCR who have been involved in this process for the state.

VL received a request from a resident to show the Aldo Leopold movie in Town. The Committee discussed and CH asked VL to get a review copy that we could review prior to asking Dedham Community Theater to show it. JH also suggested that we ask the Libraries to show it.

Minutes Review

Discussion ensued about the raised bed gardens. JB made a motion to accept the minutes of 11/14/2011./ DH second. All in Favor.

Adjourn

Next meeting January 9, 2012