

PMAC meeting minutes
January 8, 2019

Below is a list of attendees and notes from the January 8, 2019 meeting, which was held at 70 St. Botolph Street in Boston.

Attendees:

1. Jennifer Leonard – Co-Chair PMAC
2. Tracy O'Brien-Co-Chair PMAC
3. Scott Romney – Friends of Carleton Court Dog Park/PMAC
4. David Wean – PMAC - Bike Paths
5. Pat Driscoll – DCR
6. Greg Smith – PMAC
7. Ralph Walton – PMAC
8. David Turley – St. Botolph

We held a discussion of **wheelchair safety and accessibility** on the corridor, particularly near Northampton Green, behind Mass Ave. Station. There is a large “bump” caused by frost heaving, which has caused the significant sinking of the blacktop around a buried concrete pipe behind Mass. Ave Station. A community member who uses a wheelchair, Jonathan Swanson, has brought this to PMAC’s attention, and wants it to be repaired. This obstacle, along with other uneven surfaces, has caused damage to his wheelchair. Other community members confirm this problem, and even strollers and laundry carts are getting damaged by this rut.

Next steps: How can DCR universal access staff help fix this problem?

- Jennifer will contact Rachel of the DCR Universal Design department-Can she help by doing a site assessment, and then advocate to have a repair done?
- We will work with Pat Driscoll to put in a ticket to request a repair.
- Can a temporary patch of asphalt be applied by Parkland staff? No, overtime is not approved for this purpose.
- Pat advises calling 311 to put in complaints about accessibility and/or snow plowing issues.
- A discussion of general path repairs was undertaken. It was decided that some sections may need repaving before restriping. Additionally, the cobblestone “rumble strips” at many intersections need to be removed, and then filled, as they are also dangerous for wheelchair users and cyclists.

Bike Path Signage:

Consensus was achieved on retaining the Pierre Lallement name for the pathway system. It was agreed that we would ask David Herlihy, bike historian, to help with sign wording describing Lallement’s historical legacy and relevance, as well as providing an archival image. There will be at least one sign at the beginning of the path at Forest Hills. Other signs may also be installed, but there is not a final consensus on how many, or their locations.

Next steps: David Wean will reach out to David Herlihy for suggested wording and photo. David Wean will also come up with wayfaring suggestions for the Forest Hills kiosk, such as 4.3 miles to Back Bay station, etc.

Once final wording is determined, Pat will submit a request for a new kiosk which will be a large, visible structure suitable for welcoming cyclists and pedestrians to the path, but which also could serve as a photo backdrop for cyclists or tourists.

Cycling safety:

- Curb cut widening project with the City of Boston may need to be revisited.
- Peter Firth is advocating for preventing left turns upon a green light at New Cedar and Heath St. to prevent cyclist and pedestrian endangerment.

Advocacy Update:

A discussion of developing consensus around a set of themes/priorities upon which an advocacy campaign can be built was undertaken.

Primary Themes for advocacy campaign:

- Biking/Walking
- Community gardening
- Park stewardship- Best of Boston/Most used state park, health benefits of living near a park
- Group activities-families all ages/abilities (brief discussion of children's programs, along with general community involvement, not just children & families.) (An aside, David H. can help with outreach when we launch next year's mini-grant programs.)
- History of Park- alt. to highway project

For each of these primary themes we will create a narrative with descriptive and quantitative data that illustrates the value of the park for that activity or theme. We will develop a funding "ask" for each of these areas.

Possible sources of support:

Foundations, Community Preservation Funds, Corporate, Other

SWCP archival materials

There are three boxes of SWCP meeting minutes, dating from the 1980's through early 2000s, as well as assorted other documents and a few photographs. PMAC would like to preserve these materials, as well as make them digitally accessible.

Next steps: Tracy will reach out first to Sean Fisher, DCR archivist, to let him know about this collection, and gauge his interest in having the first opportunity to accept these documents into the DCR collection. If he feels that the meeting minutes are out of scope for his collection, Tracy will contact the Northeastern University archives and/or U/Mass archives to see if they are interested. The hope is that the collection can be scanned and eventually made digitally accessible, via a link from swcpc.org.

