

Waban Area Council

Meeting Minutes

November 13, 2014, 7:30pm

Members in Attendance: Rena Getz, Sallee Lipshutz, Christopher Pitts, Kathy Winters, Andreae Downs, Joe Corkery, Matt Gardella, Maureen Reilly Meagher and Barbara Bower.

Aldermen in Attendance: John Rice

Other attendees: Carole Grossman, Judy Kohn, Beverly Bernson, Marvin and Joanne Grossman, Joel Grinberg, Barbara Brustowicz, Patrick Maher, Ray Noveck, Fran Godine, Kathleen Hobson.

1. **October Minutes. Minutes of October 9, 2014 meeting approved by unanimous vote.**
2. **Treasurer's Report.** Nothing new to report.
3. **Burning Issues from the Community.**
 - AD update on resident's request for information on zip car parking spots at T parking lot. MBTA put them in; there was no City process. AD will respond to the original email.
4. **Street and Sidewalk – Tamworth/Radcliff.** AD gave an update on the 10/22/14 Tamworth residents meeting. Recommends that WAC request a study of possible traffic calming measures on Tamworth. Ald. Rice suggested he would submit it as a traffic council request. **Unanimous vote to submit WAC letter requesting a study of possible traffic calming measures on Tamworth Rd.** A copy of the letter is attached.
5. **Aqueduct Trail.** AD reported that Newton has an opportunity to create a legal walking trail along the top of the Sudbury Aqueduct. Currently there is a path along much of the trail, but this would allow for it to be legal and signs would be placed along the trail. MWRA would maintain ultimate control but would cede the top for walking, City would agree to maintain and control the top. City Hall wants to know if there is wide support among the abutters for a City permit for improvements along the trail. NHAC has already endorsed the plan. **Action Needed– help AD get abutters to sign a letter of support. Unanimous vote in support of WAC letter in support of a permit. AD will draft.**
6. **Waban Library Center Patio Brick. Unanimous vote to approve wording for brick “Waban Area Council – Founded 2014.”**

7. **The Mayor's Annual Food Drive.** Planning session on 11/17/14 at 7:45am. MRM volunteered to work with Ald. Rice on the planning of the event.
8. **FOTQ.** MRM provided update on 11/6/14 meeting of FOTQ. At the meeting, they discussed the two project sites for the DCR grant and the meeting that SL attended regarding the environmental bond bill (see summary in October minutes). DCR is investigating possible engineering fix in lieu of footbridge at one of the sites. MRM reported that there is a sizable tree that has come down and is blocking the path.
9. **Waban Future Vision Project.** 36 people are signed up to attend. Session 1 will be a focused brainstorm. The agenda is up on the website.
10. **Zervas.** RG provided update on last night's joint meeting on the approval of the site. Traffic study just came out yesterday (it is up on our website), not in time to be digested in advance of the meeting. Two committees held – site plan will be brought up again in Public Facilities, then will go to Finance. Resident asked if WAC is going to take a position on Zervas. Discussion of reasons WAC has not taken a position on Zervas. **RG wants WAC to have a position on Zervas and will work on presenting something to the group for consideration at our next meeting.**
11. **Angier.** Angier update occurred at 7pm. For next two months beginning in December will be erecting steel structure.
12. **Zoning Issues.** ZAP had its regular monthly meeting. They've started process of learning about large house review process in Wellesley and have asked Planning Dept. to consider it and come back to ZAP aldermen with a proposal. 36% house to lot will trigger a large house review. Question re how many large house reviews in Wellesley get approved. RG will look into it.
13. **SPN update.** KW provided update. No new news. Developer's attorney has indicated he is still leaning toward a 40B rental development and they are working on plans. Developer is still interested in meeting with the community once plans are ready. Discussion of possibility that the City has met one of the 40B statutory minima and has subsidized housing on land comprising 1.5% of total land area. KW reported that her latest information from James Freas is that they are working on the calculations and do not have final numbers yet.
14. **Water and Sewer Rate Change Proposal and Storm Water Discussion.** Public Facilities Committee is considering rate change. Will hold public meeting on it soon. Under the proposal irrigation water could be excluded from sewer rates. Change from three tiers rate structure to five tier rate structure. Information on the proposal can be found on our website.

Discussion of storm water issues on Quinobequin. Action Item: At our next meeting WAC will vote on asking the Mayor's office to examine why Quinobequin storm water not being addressed by the CIP.

15. **Mayor's Meeting.** SL gave update on last month's meeting that the Mayor had with area council members. Issues discussed: input from villages in long range planning, zoning reform and zoning issues, communication with electorate.

16. **New Business.** Ald. Rice asked that we put evaluation of snow ordinance on December agenda.

Next meeting will take place on December 11, 2014.

Adjourn. 9:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Winters

Attachment:
Tamworth/Radcliff Traffic Letter

Attachment – Tamworth/Radcliff Letter

WABAN AREA COUNCIL

www.wabanareacouncil.com

November 14, 2014

William Paille, Chair
Traffic Council
City of Newton

Dear Mr. Paille & members of the Traffic Council:

The Waban Area Council respectfully requests that Traffic Council approve a study of possible traffic calming measures on Radcliff and Tamworth Roads.

Background:

This short street (see map, below) connects Chestnut St. and Quinobequin Rd. near Rt. 9. The Chestnut St. corner has a school bus stop (K-12) and many pedestrian crossings at Chestnut, but no sidewalks west of Chestnut.

Drivers, frustrated by the backups at Chestnut/Rt. 9 during evening rush hour, frequently take this street at speed to access Rt. 9 or 128. Intersections are extremely wide, encouraging such behavior.

The Radcliff/Tamworth neighbors met Oct. 22 and reviewed the problems and possible solutions. All attending (list attached) agreed on the following:

1. 1. All would accept a raised intersection (especially at Chestnut, where night time speeding is an issue), planted curb extensions, planted intersection islands, or other common traffic calming measures. Some abutters would prefer no sidewalks.
2. 2. Knowing that the street drains to the Charles, all agreed that traffic calming measures incorporating pilot “green stormwater” infrastructure would be welcome.
3. 3. All abutters agreed to accept clean up and maintenance of any planted traffic calming measures the City installed.
4. 4. Should City engineers decide traffic calming is appropriate, all would appreciate a meeting to review any planned measures before they are installed.

Thank you for your consideration,

Yours,