

FRIENDS OF THE QUINOBEQUIN

Preliminary Meeting:

A meeting was convened by John Rice on Thurs., March 6, 2014 at Newton City Hall in Law Dept. Conference Room to facilitate liaison points between City, State and Council/Friends of the Quinobequin personnel.

Attendees: State Senator Cynthia Creem, Catherine Anderson (Cindy's Legislative Asst.), State Rep. Ruth Balsler, Aaron Goldman (Newton Mayor's Asst.), Ana Gonzalez (Newton Community Engagement), Bill Paille (Newton Dir. Of Transportation), Ald. John Rice, Jennifer Steele (Conservation Commission Staff), Jerry Reilly, Maureen Reilly-Meagher and Sallee Lipshutz

Topic: Parkway and Riverbank along Quinobequin Road:

John explained that the Waban Area Council is forming "Friends of the Quinobequin" and seeking jurisdictional liaison between State and City to redress long-time parkway/riverbank neglect and to build a pathway along the riverbank for community enjoyment.

Rep. Balsler allowed that there is process in motion now for requests for bonding for projects in Newton (like Hammond Pond and Crystal Lake? Chestnut Hill Reservoir?). Request for funds needs to be developed and written very soon, because process won't be open again for 5 years!

Sen. Creem was on board and asked about outreach to the community to gain general community support for this project. Said that request should be a "place-holder", subject to change.

Jennifer Steele was asked to find the DCR proposal rejected by Con Com several years ago and forward to Ruth, Cindy and Jerry. (This has been done)

Marc Welsh, Newton's Tree Warden, has offered to identify trees on Parkway that it would be valuable to protect and save.

WAC is expected to photograph and document the riverbank pathway in its present condition and attempt to put a financial estimate on the project.

WAC is tasked with rapidly garnering solid community approval.