

COD meeting March 9, 2020

Here: Diane Loud, Ken Cimeno, John Tocci, Robert Winston, Bernie Chirokas, Ellen Conway. By phone: Vicky Berg

Absent: Mac Sterling

1. **Reading/Approval of the Minutes from Previous Meeting;** one small typo but approved

2. Treasurer's Report – Ken Cimeno;

12/31/19 66,854.25

105.65 (interest for December)

104.22 (interest for January)

Total: \$ 66,958.47

Ken will follow up with treasurer and/or finance director (Andrea Terkelsen) as to why we have not received any recent deposits

3. Dedham Heritage Rail Trail Endorsement Discussion and Vote;

Lindsay Barich: proposed that we hold vote until after April 11 election (COD has not had opportunity to review engineering plans; Town has not presented an alternative use for the land, and design is not complete.

Howard Ostroff: would like to reiterate what they presented last meeting---looking for support from the disabled community, does not have to be a formal endorsement.

Direct question is whether to endorse what is on the ballot:

Bernie---has lived in other communities and has found rail trails to be beneficial

Ken---approached the state through Dedham/school department to build the Avery school where it is. Condition for approval was that town develop a rail trail. Only reservation now is that we don't have a definitive design, which of course has financial questions attached. We do have multiple needs for accessibility in this town. Supports this measure as a concept, but without a definitive proposal, cannot comment on the design.

John---conceptually it's a great idea but is voting against endorsing b/c it's premature to vote without a design, concern about access points for disabled residents, and there are better uses/priority of town resources for PWD. Investment of time and attention of citizens and elected officials would be better served elsewhere in the community.

Ellen: Asked for clarification re: cost. Howard explained that the ballot question mentions no cost for design and construction (but NOT maintenance). Agrees with Bernie that rail trails can be beneficial, and if the design and construction would not cost \$\$, why not?

If it does go forward with design, COD would be asked to participate (because they won't get \$\$ if it's not ADA compliant).

Vote to endorse or no:

Passed 4 (Diane, Vicky, Bernie, Ellen)/3 (John, Bob, Ken)

Please note: Vicky Berg participated by phone for this meeting. Chair John Tocci had announced that Vicky was participating by telephone, and she confirmed that she heard and participated in the agenda discussions, including the Rail Trail discussion. The Rail Trail vote was held by roll call, in accordance with Open Meeting laws.

4. Jefferson Place Accessibility Issues – John Tocci;

A Jefferson Place resident called John re: ongoing issues. New management at Jefferson Place. She has historically had accommodations such as notices put under her door, had issues with HP space not being cleared. She received a notice that her rent is increasing and fears that she is being forced out. She also worries that she is not getting important notices (e.g., tenant meetings, rent increases).

John passed this resident's number and management's number to Bernie, who will follow up.

5. East Dedham Sidewalk and Crossing Accessibility Issues – John Tocci

Joe Flanagan guest: intersection of Bussey and Coburn St (near Condon Park) curb cuts have not been constructed yet and the curbs are very high (18"). Sidewalks are crumbling, poles/signs in middle of sidewalk.

Question for Joe: what is going on at the intersection. A: Transportation Improvement Project (TIP) from the state dated for 2023. Was going to be earlier but the bridge deck is failing and needs to be repaired first.

Q: What can we do in the meantime? Can't have it impassable for the next 3 years. A: Coburn Street side will be paved this Spring and can make temporary ramp access. No safe way to do it right now. 2023 plan does not have a pedestrian light in plan. Granite curb, concrete sidewalks, bike lane in plan. Curve St/Coburn St neighborhood has a lot of families. Ken's suggestion to look at the intersection for pedestrian safety for crossing on Curve and Coburn towards Maverick to create a path from the neighborhood to the Avery School at least.

NWRA project (East Dedham Square, Sawmill Lane) should be done by April. Sidewalks, crosswalks, etc.

ADA transition plan survey looked at every handicapped ramp in Dedham and identified deficiencies and needed repairs.

6. Construction of Accessible Playground in Manor – John Tocci;

Request from Jim Maher for COD representation at a meeting regarding accessible playground 96 Trenton Rd. (March 18th, 7pm at Endicott Estate). Playground would likely be small, but they would like COD input and support.

7. Scholarship Report – Vicky Berg;

Vicky went to speak with guidance counselor in charge of application to explain that we would like to add one question rather than "please explain any experiences you have had with disability: your own, a family member, or through work or volunteering."

May 8-18 we can go to review DHS applications

8. Handicap Parking Violation Appeal Process – Mac Sterling (table)

9. Handicap Street Parking Renewal Procedure – John Tocci;

Question for Joe: how does town renew handicapped spaces in front of residences or initiating a new one? Who does the review? A: any requests go through Engineering department and Select Board. Some of the ones in Dedham are illegal (people bought their own signs).

10. CART Technology Transfer – Mac Sterling (table)

11. Posting of Meeting Minutes – Diane Loud upcoming meeting with town manager

12. Private Office Accessibility – Ken Cimeno;

Ken had conversation with office manager of vet's office, and they will be doing some renovation in the spring (weather-dependent). Relatively easy to connect.

13. New Business:

Sarah MacDonald, Select Board and Master Plan Committee (cross-functional group) to discuss the Visioning Workshop for Master Plan on April 4, 2020 10am – 1pm at Avery School. Opportunity for residents to contribute their vision for Dedham's future (with minor caveat that COVID-19 may impact the ability to bring people together).

Have hired MAPC to support us in the process, especially with regards to accessibility.

Future meetings, all to be held at 7pm:

April 6th

May 4th

June 8th

July 13th

Aug 10th

Sept 14th