

Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood Association
Coordinating Committee Meeting: Minutes
Wednesday, July 6, 2016
At Spaulding Hospital

Present: Fritz Donovan, Elizabeth Gombosi, Charlotte Ikels, Debby Knight, Paula Lovejoy, Tuny McMahon

Meeting was called to order at 6:45pm.

Alex Mijalis led a discussion about the Inman Square traffic issues. There are more accidents there than the State average and about 30,000 vehicles/day go through the intersection. Half of those vehicles are bikes.

There are seven streets involved in the area, including Springfield, Antrim, and Inman. The distances to cross the intersection on Hampshire and on Cambridge Streets are very long and the traffic signals are quite unclear.

The Department of Traffic..... presented two proposals. One would bend Hampshire Street, the other would bend Cambridge Street. Signals would be timed so that traffic going down Hampshire or Cambridge would only stop once. There would be more pedestrian crossings and more traffic would be routed down Antrim and Springfield Streets. Both plans would provide protected bike lanes and new open space.

There is no concrete plan yet and there is no funding for the project yet. Joseph Barr, Director of T....., said it would take one year to implement, once a concrete plan was decided on.

Jan Devereaux has presented a policy order to make Inman Square a top priority, which was admitted without debate by the City Council,.

There will be at least three more public meetings in the Fall and input is expected from neighbors and from local businesses. It is important to keep the city accountable and not let other projects, such as Porter Square interfere with getting Inman Square improved. One can sign up with the City Transit Advisory Committee to get updates by email.

Is there talk of a stepped plan? Improving lane markings, timing of lights, clarifying the right turn from Cambridge St. to Springfield or Beacon Streets, etc.?

There was discussion about the need for education for drivers and bikers, the need for truck side bars, and whether bikes should be licensed or registered.

The Traffic Department will attend the September CC meeting.

Alex also presented a possible project to update data on trees in Mid-Cambridge. He has noted that the Arborist has a database of all trees in Cambridge, but it has not been updated in many cases since 2005. Volunteers could check on the current status of the trees in the neighborhood

and record new date, which could be used to update the database. He also asked what other kinds of data might be of interest to the neighbors, such as condition of streets/necessary repairs.

On July 28 the BZA will hear a request for a variance from ZINC, which has very bright and large non-conforming lighting. There is also talk of a revision to the lighting ordinance, which, it seems would allow more very bright commercial lighting. We need to stay on top of this issue.

Paula reported that in the first 48 hours after she sent out the last Newsletter there was a 72.7 % open rate. 12.5% clicked on the link to Envision Cambridge.

The Ice Cream Social was a great success with 160 attendees.

The Yard Sale will be held on September 10 at Bill Bibbin's house on the corner of Harvard and Hancock Streets.

Debby has information on Envision Cambridge and will contact them about a time they could attend a general meeting of the Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood Association.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm.