

STEP MEETING

Date: September 19, 2005, 7-9 PM

Location Community Room of VNA Assisted Living Center 259 Lowell St.

Attendees: Ellin Reisner, Wig Zamore, Andrea Yakovakas, Karen Molloy, Kristie Chase, Jim McGinnis, Jared Ingersoll

Notes taken by Karen Molloy

1. By-laws vote regarding Article 8: Dissolution:

In the event of dissolution of STEP, the officers shall, after paying or making provisions for the payment of all of the liabilities of STEP to the extent assets of STEP permit, dispose of all the assets of STEP exclusively for the purposes of STEP, as the officers shall determine, in such manner as required by section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code (or corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue law) and in accordance with the statutes of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Any remaining assets will be distributed to non-profit organization(s) addressing environmental justice issues in Somerville.

Unanimous vote (7 votes) by members to accept this modification into the Bylaws.

2. Appointment of interim secretary to replace Paul Morgan

Karen volunteered to perform this function for this meeting and the next one.

3. Planning for responding to the State 20 Year Transportation Plan

Massachusetts Executive Office of Transportation (EOT) is holding public meetings to hear comments on its new Long Range Transportation Plan. They will hold 2 meetings on 27 Sept (3pm, 6pm) at the BPL. They will also accept written and emailed comments up to Tuesday, October 25th.

Some Steppers and other Somerville transportation advocates (20-30) should attend one of the meetings and or submit comments (again 20-30) to keep Somerville's transportation needs high on Mass EOT's priority list of planned transportation projects.

STEP core group will send our email notification no Step listserv and other listservs about the meeting and the need fro comment, and draft/send out a flyer via snail mail to those without email (we have a large snail mail list from previous public hearings on the Green Line Extension).

One issue of late is the cut back in SCM para-transit, which many used to get to doctor appts and supermarkets. Another issue raised was that Gov.Romney has declared that there will be no state support for an Orange Line stop at Assembly Sq if only big boxes are developed there.

4. MPO Somerville Environmental Justice Meeting, Wed October 5th 4:30

Wednesday, October 5th at the Mystic Activity Center (Welcome Project) on Mystic Avenue. The meeting will be from 4:30 to 5:30 PM. Jonathan Church will attend for the MPO. He works for CTPS, which staffs the MPO. The purpose of the meeting is to provide the MPO with accurate information on the environmental justice population (and issues) in Somerville.

Ellin will invite members of other local community groups such as Nelson Salazar, Meredith Levy, Alex Pirie and Mimi Graney to join Steppers at this meeting.

Ellin distributed the MPO's Profile of EJ Community of Concern, which contained Traffic Analysis Zones (TAZ) and 2000 Census demographic profile of Somerville. (This report will be updated in a few months.)

5. Update on Forums

With the Green Line Extension coming, the city will soon need to take the lead on land use. Congress For New Urbanism (cnu.com) has presentation on new urban design and might have paradigm for Union, Ball and Magoun Sqs.

MoveMA will hold upcoming presentations on the Fairmont Station. The AIA will be holding a density conference in Wash DC soon.

Ellin mentioned that community meetings on the path extension have not taken place in East Somerville yet.

Rail-Volution recently held a conference in Salt Lake City centered on TOD. By mid-October the papers presented will be available here:

<http://www.railvolution.com/conferencepapers/>

[This conference seems to have covered topics pertinent to Somerville in so many ways: Integrating Stations with Neighborhoods, Property Values and Transit, Developing TOD Around Rail, Creating and Sustaining "Place" with Transit, Housing Development: Collaborations and Quarrels, Developing Partnerships to Sustain Rail and TOD and so on-km]

6. Update on Medford Green Line Group

Jared reported that there was no meeting in August; the next meeting is scheduled for next week.

7. Presentation on Ozone Level Drift

Wig presented on air quality studies that he's found that explain why high pollution areas such as Somerville, Boston, NYC and New Haven -- all of which have high traffic-related pollution that causes high ozone levels -- do not have corresponding high ozone levels that one might expect. Instead, the effect of air pollution in these dense urban areas travels/drifts quickly such that it causes high ozone levels many miles within 24 hrs. This effect can be examined in atmospheric maps, which illustrate for example the high ozone

levels in Arcadia, which stem from the drift of ozone levels caused by vehicular air pollution in Boston.

Next meeting: 24 October, 2005 7pm at the VNA.