

Notes from STEP meeting 28 April 2008

Date: April 28, 2008, 7:00-9:00 PM

Location: VNA Assisted Living Center, Community Room, 259 Lowell St.

Attendees: Ellin Reisner, Steve Mulder, Karen Molloy, Jim McGinnis, Andrea Yakovakis, Ken Krause, Kristie Chase, Naomi Slagowski, Lilly Shoup, Todd Kaplan, Rachel Hitch, Alan Moore

Notes by Karen Molloy

1. Annual Meeting Business

- a. **Review financial STEP financial statement** – Andrea reported that we have \$2,451.33 in the bank. We will need to dip into this soon to cover expenses such as ArtBeat preparation and MoveMASS membership.
- b. **Update on non-profit application** – Andrea reported that new attorney has assessed our long-standing 501c3 application and says it is fine to submit. As reported last month, we still need to fill out a state form for fundraising. We need to follow up with SCAT or Groundwork as possible fiscal agent until we are a 501c3.
- c. **Election of Steering Committee officers** – Nomination slate for 2008 was voted on and accepted. Returning as President is Ellin Reisner, Treasurer is Andrea Yakovakis, Secretary is Naomi Slagowski (Karen did not run for secretary for 2008 but will remain on the Steering Committee; these are her last meeting notes). Onward for another year!
- d. **Collection of annual dues** – Andrea collected the annual dues of \$10.00 from attendees.

To pay the annual dues, send a check of \$10.00 payable to Somerville Transportation Equity Partnership to: Andrea Yakovakis, STEP Treasurer, 3C Clark St, Somerville, MA 02143.

2. Discussion and Upcoming Activities

- a. **Next Green Line Advisory Meeting** – will be held on 5 May in Medford. EOT/VHB will announce their proposed station sitings and maintenance facility location as result of stuffing the input from the community a few months ago. We decided to meet as a group the following Saturday, 10 May, at 9:30 AM at Bloc 11 to debrief Steering Committee members who cannot attend the meeting and to examine the sitings.

The Advisory Committee requested at the last meeting that these public meeting be videotaped. SCAT will videotape the next meeting, which will later be shown on Channel 3. We will be able to obtain DVDs of the meeting as well.

- b. **Union Square Zoning Focus Group Meetings Update** – Focus groups and a task force have been formed to examine the proposed arts overlay district, TOD, and other matters pertaining to upcoming Union Sq rezoning. Ellin, and Wig are participants.

- c. **Participation in SomerGreen Festival** – The festival follows Somerville Cleanup, at 12:30 pm on Sat. 3 May, at Growing Center on Vinal Ave. The STEP table will be staffed by Ellin and Lilly.
- d. **ArtBeat application and planning** – Karen reported that the community non-profit table application needs to be submitted by 6 Jun (the event itself is 19 July). The Somerville Bicycle Committee will likely share its booth with STEP again this year. Karen will contact Mark Ostrander about our known graphic design needs.
- e. **East Cambridge Planning Team meeting with EOT and the MBTA with STEP participation** – This meeting will be held on 21 May in one of the new North Point buildings. (Final details to be determined). There is no current development deal in effect right now. EOT considers the new Lechmere station to be a separate project from the Green Line Extension. However, the track alignment of the Green Line Extension at Lechmere (including the alignment for the Union Sq spur) depends on the siting and design of the station.
- f. **Tabling at Union Square Farmers Market this summer?** – Jim will sign up STEP for a table on a Sat. in early Sept.
- g. **Proposal to use Constant Contact software (for email announcements)** – Ellin proposed we use this oft-used software which has newsletter-type designed templates for sending out email announcements. Such announcements would be of the sort we issue a few times a year as call-for-action not just to the listserv, but to people who get only this sort of communication from STEP. The cost is \$15.00 per month (less for non-profits). Some uneasiness was expressed at taking on another form of communication that would need to be designed and written and managed, but we could simply design a template and use it for announcements for now.

3. Announcements

- **Sustainable Somerville initiative** – Ellin reported on this new initiative comprised of member from Groundwork, Growing Ctr., Cambridge Health Alliance, and STEP (Ellin) concerned with working toward change in Somerville through the lens of sustainability. Focused on the big picture and seeking interconnectivity in areas of work in the community such as transportation, changes to alleviate global warming and so on. (<http://groups.google.com/group/sustainable-somerville>, eventually will have www.sustainablesomerville.org). With other members of this group, Ellin is organizing an activity focused on sustainability for ArtBeat.
- **Arborway Committee film and discussion** – Arborway Committee film and discussion with Bill Lieberman, national expert on light rail and resurgence of streetcar transit in urban centers, and Eric Bourassa, MASSPIRG, to be held Thursday evening, May 1 7:30-9:30pm, Connolly Branch Library Auditorium. 433 Centre Street, Jamaica Plain. Film will be on the demise of streetcar systems in many urban areas of the US in the 1950s, thanks to the strategy of GM to replace them all with buses.

Next STEP meeting: 20 May 2008 (note the meeting will be held on a Tuesday instead of usual Monday) Location: TBA.