



Date: May 20, 2013

To: Steven Frederick, Lee Pouliot, Chris Curtis, Bill McGrath, Ben Boynton

From: Randall Collins

Subject: Public Meeting Number 1
Connecticut Riverwalk North
Chicopee, Massachusetts

BETA Project #: 4059

The first public meeting was held at the Boy's and Girl's Club of Chicopee on May 20, 2013. Approximately 50 members of the public attended the meeting. After a brief introduction and overview, the public was organized into six groups to discuss their concerns and gain input on project details. The following is a summary of the group discussions:

1. Scenic Overlook:

- Liked the current proposed locations;
- Avoid impacting the existing trees and other vegetation;
- Some additional openings to view the river are desired. One could be at Pease Street area, near the eagles nest. Others could be near the forested areas on the landward side of the trail (for example near Narragansett St.) and at the bend in the river.

2. Amenities:

- One group liked the idea of a picnic facility at the Medina Street boat ramp, but concerned that the use may be limited due to the number people using the parking area for fishing;
- Picnic areas should be located at either end of the trail and not on the trail;
- One group suggested that exercise and play equipment should remain in the City's parks so the trail maintains a 'passive' feel;
- All amenities should be indestructible and vandal resistant;
- One group suggested that bench locations should be out of the flood plain;
- Benches should be provided for the entire length of the path and need to be secured in place;
- Would like to see trash/recycling receptacles. Preferably the solar compactor style;
- Most agreed that lighting should not be included on the trail;
- One group suggested that amenities should include emergency call boxes, video cameras, drinking water fountains, garbage cans at path endpoints and dog waste collection bag stations;
- One group suggested an interest in using the trail for bird watching;
- One group expressed an interest in a formal rest areas and bathrooms at least at both ends of the trail;
- Celebrate water and the two rivers with some sort of water feature in the design;

- One group suggested that bathrooms be located at the trail's entrances. When concerns of cost and maintenance were discussed it was suggested that Port-a-potties might be a better idea.
3. Landscaping:
 - Would like to see landscaping at Nash Field;
 - Plantings should be simple and naturalistic;
 - Lawn areas should be mown regularly;
 - Develop a landscape strategy that is easily maintained and prepare a maintenance plan.
 4. Types of users:
 - No motorized vehicles;
 - Access gates should be used to discourage motorized vehicle use;
 - Trail design should discourage access and use by dirt bikes and all-terrain vehicles.
 5. Desired Access points:
 - Liked the four current proposed locations;
 - One group suggested that there should be two additional access points. One half way between Jones Ferry and each of the ends of the trail.
 6. Parking locations
 - Provide parking at either end of the project limits only;
 - One group agreed that only a few additional spaces at each end of the trail was necessary;
 - Would like to formalize spaces at Nash field but expressed concern about the overall number of spaces available during games;
 - Parking at the Medina Street boat launch is heavily used by fisherman. Additional spaces should be provided for path users, maybe on the opposite side of the dike from the river.
 7. Security:
 - Some agreed that they would like to see security cameras;
 - Others suggest security camera at the parking lots only;
 - Emergency call boxes should be considered;
 - Some agreed fencing should be placed between the neighborhood and the path for the entire length of the path;
 - Some thought fencing created a "penned in" feeling;
 - Will the path be patrolled by the police;
 - The City must provide bike mounted police patrols. A police presence is strongly desired;
 - Summer employment for students could include bike mounted rangers;
 - Would like safety barrier to prevent access to flood gates;
 - One of the groups suggested that some screening (landscaping) for abutters might provide additional privacy.
 8. Other:
 - Concern for dumping and trash removal;
 - City should form a volunteer group to support trail maintenance;
 - Concern for golf balls from driving range hitting the path users. Who is liable for injuries or damages? How do you keep users of the path from accessing driving range?

Cc: [File](#)

