

## WVNA Quarterly Meeting

May 25, 2023

7:00 to 8:30 p.m. on Zoom

### Attendance:

In addition to neighborhood residents, the following officials were present at this meeting.

- WVNA Board President Eileen Brennan
- WVNA Board Members Alan Wright, Frances Donovan, Kacy Keenahan, Robin Cohen

### Representatives from other organizations:

- Stefanie Seskin, Boston Transportation Department
- Jamie Leveque, Constituent Services for Councilor Arroyo. Can also help translating with French speakers
- Dianna Bronchuk New ONS Coordinator for Roslindale
- Anthony Ross, attorney representing Cooperative Bank
- Dennis Kirkpatrick, board president of Roslindale Community Center, also on board of Roslindale Business Group. Communications coordinator for Prospect Hill NA
- Gene Radwin for Laurie Radwin of the Roslindale Coalition
- Patrick Michaud, speaking for 2 Wilkins Street

### Development projects from previous meetings

- **122 Birch St:** 4000sqft lot on Birch Street. Proposed to put a 3-family and the neighbors protested. Is now proposing a one-family.
- **Corner of Birch & Albano:** A surveyor was out surveying the empty lot at the corner of Birch and Albano. Possible plans for a building there.
- **4198 Washington St:** Proposed 1.5 yrs ago, resubmitted. Still about 5 stories, mostly affordable units without parking.
  - Because it was already discussed about 2 years ago, it's going directly to ZBA.
- **20 Arboretum Road:** Behind the Puritan Ice Cream factory. Proposing 260 units, including 17% affordable. Lots of remediation and will include public green space. Deep
- **1 acre lot on edge of Sherrin Woods** – next to the railroad tracks.

### New Developments:

- **2 Willikins Place (Patrick Michaud):**
- Cooperative Bank proposal to tear down a 2-family on Amherst st & build a parking lot
- Belgrade Ave apt building next to St Nectaros

Links to more information about open developments:

- 4198 Washington St - <https://www.bostonplans.org/projects/development-projects/4198-washington-street>

- 18-20 Arboretum ARoad - <https://www.bostonplans.org/projects/development-projects/18-22-arboretum-road>
- 59-63 Belgrade Ave - <https://www.bostonplans.org/projects/development-projects/59-63-belgrade-avenue>
- 361 Belgrade Ave - <https://www.bostonplans.org/projects/development-projects/361-belgrade-avenue>
- 375 Cummins Highway - <https://www.bostonplans.org/projects/development-projects/375-cummins-highway>
- 990 American Legion (Cranes Ledge) - <https://www.bostonplans.org/projects/development-projects/990-american-legion-highway>

### **Poplar Street Park / Boston Food Forest Coalition**

Discussion of the desire to engage the Boston Food Forest Coalition to redesign the Poplar Street Park. The Poplar Street Park Committee gave a presentation last year with a vision for the park but was denied funding. Dennis Kirkpatrick recommended reaching out to the Roche Bros as they have a history with Sacred Heart, the original tenants of the lot.

**Bourne Neighborhood** has been agitating with the city of the dangerous traffic conditions on Hyde Park Ave. Trying to get the city to put in some traffic calming measures. Arroyo co-sponsored a walk audit with the BTM. BTM has been going through some turnover – brought in some new traffic engineers and designers. New Chief of Streets Jascha Franklin-Hodges.

### **Poplar Street Traffic Safety**

Discussion of our concerns about the Poplar Street corridor between the Rozzie Public Library and the right turn at Sacred Heart. We had a walk-through Enrique is going to get us an update on the changes on Poplar.

The stretch of Poplar Street from Rozzie Square to Canterbury Street is proposed to have a narrow bicycle 'contra-lane' that permits cycling against car traffic and is demarcated by a solid yellow line. There is a contra-lane on Mt Hope st. The Poplar St lane has been a top request for cycling improvements in Roslindale. The contra-lane will not, however, prevent cars from speeding on Poplar Street.

**Fornax Parklet:** Last year a group of men took over the parklet at nights: fighting, drinking, harassing folks. The parklet will not be put out this year. Alan is asking the city to put in a large bike rack there.

**Massport Community Advisory Committee:** Roslindale gets jet traffic from runway 27. It was under construction last year. We'll get a lot more traffic this year since other runways will be

**Southwest Boston Community Garden on Cummins Highway:** Some plots are open.

**Rozzie Bikes** will have its first in-person meeting on March 15<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-8:30 at the Rozzie Community Center.

### **Boston ONS announcements:**

- Mayor Wu announced a project to create and preserve affordable housing across Boston. Enrique will bring the concerns about the % of AMI that actually defines affordability when he meets with the BPDA. He thanks members for bringing that to his attention.
- Launching 20 all-electric BPS school buses.
- **Welcome to Roslindale sign** in Rozzie Square – announced a call for local artists to propose a redesign. Link: <https://www.boston.gov/news/mayor-wu-announces-call-artists-redesign-bostons-neighborhood-signs>
- Boston Tax Help: Free tax prep across the city. It's for residents who make \$60K/year or less. Link: <https://www.bostontaxhelp.org/do-you-qualify/>
- Next week is school vacation week.
- Office of Police Accountability and Transparency is holding information sessions. One scheduled in Nubian Square Wed Feb 22, 1-3pm at the OPAT office. More information: <https://www.boston.gov/public-notice/15960111>
- Uju is leaving ONS in March. We're looking for a new Roslindale neighborhood liaison. Referrals welcome: contact Enrique.
- We have a new director of communications named Nakia Hill.

**Crime information from Roslindale Business Group:** There's been a series of armed robberies going up and down Washington Street. Started November, about every 2-4 weeks. Family Dollar and Dunkin Donuts were both hit. Alpha Gas Station was hit. Be careful. Dennis will be getting an update from the Boston Police

### **Other community announcements**

- Update on the car crash in Roslindale Square
- Roslindale Community Center is open again!
- Roslindale Business Group: gets together once a month to share information, etc. Next month they'll be using the Community Center. All small businesses, including the self-employed, are welcome. Last month there was a guest speaker from inspectional services. Next is Tues. Feb 28, 6pm at Rozzie Community Center. Guest speaker is Lt. Henry Perkins, Boston Fire Department Education Bureau, speaking about fire safety.
- People are looking to get a Senior Center in West Roxbury. There were 400 seniors at the meeting. Dennis noted that the Roslindale Community inherited the old RMV space. Will be planned to be a senior center.

### **Upcoming meetings for 2023:**

- Thursday, May 25, 2023, 7pm.
- Thursday, September 28, 2023, 7pm
- Thursday, December 14, 2023, 7pm

Submitted by Frances Donovan