

## Christina Street Bridge Elected Official Introductory Meeting Notes

March 23, 2021

### Present

- Jennifer Steel — Planning/Conservation
- Claire Rundelli — Planning/Conservation
- Barney Heath – Planning Director
- Nicole Freedman – Planning/Transportation
- Shanta Keller — VHB, Deputy Project Manager and structural engineer
- Scott Brunner — VHB, civil engineer
- Kaleigh Rowe Stutz – VHB, structural engineer
- Deb Crossley – City Council, Ward 5
- Andreae Downs – City Council, Ward 5
- Bill Humphrey – City Council, Ward 5
- Alicia Bowman – City Council, Ward 6
- Holly Ryan – City Council, Ward 8
- Rick Lipoff – City Council, Ward 8
- Anil Adyanthaya – Newton Upper Falls Area Council President
- Nathaniel Lichtin – Newton Highlands Area Council President

### Unable to join

- Katie King – Needham Assistant Town Manager
- Lou MacDonald – Barry Price Center Executive Director
- David Kalis – City Council, Ward 8

### Opening Presentation by Jennifer Steel

- PowerPoint presentation of maps, aerial photos, site photos, and photos of The Fanny Appleton Pedestrian Bridge in Boston and The Joseph Thompson Pedestrian Bridge in Watertown

### Discussion

- Design Requirements (presented by VHB)
  - AASHTO has pedestrian bridge guidelines (they are not regulatory requirements):
    - A 10' wide bridge should accommodate an H10 (10 ton) vehicle such as an ambulance or maintenance truck,
    - Pedestrian standards must support 90 lbs/sf.
  - DCR has pedestrian bridge guidelines
    - **ACTION: Assuming DCR will build and own the bridge, VHB will reach out to DCR regarding their preferred/desired design standards.**
  - MassDOT also has pedestrian bridge guidelines.
- Geometric (access) Considerations
  - Brief presentation by VHB and the City team
    - Path width:
      - A 10' shared use path should have 2' shoulders on each side.
      - A 14' path might require some sort of cantilevering.
    - Accessibility:

- The bridge and its approach on the Newton side will be designed to be fully ADA/AAB compliant. The trail connection on the Needham side is not ADA compliant.
    - Note that accessible railings may cut off the unofficial riverbank footpath that currently exists on the Needham side.
  - Vehicle Access:
    - The Fanny Appleton Pedestrian Bridge in Boston is not accessible by larger vehicles
    - The Joseph Thompson Pedestrian Bridge in Watertown is not accessible by larger vehicles
  - Connection through parking lot:
    - The design will need to define safe pedestrian passage through the Barry Price parking lot to a safe sidewalk along Christina Street.
    - A (permeable) “park” area could be designed in the Barry Price parking lot where snow is currently piled.
    - Barry Price needs to assure the safety of its clients.
- Comments from meeting participants:
  - We may not need to have a full 10’ of pathway on the bridge itself.
  - cantilevering would likely make a rehab project cost infeasible
  - DCR has noted that a “quick fix” might be appropriate for the short term, then when we have further access guaranteed on the Newton side, a more substantial bridge could be built.
  - QUESTION: Will VHB provide estimates for both “quick fix” and “permanent” options?
  - QUESTION: How wide is the Pony Truss Bridge and the Trestle Bridge?
- General Public Engagement
  - Presentation by VHB and the City team
    - VHB can provide a couple of Zoom meetings or, potentially, one more elaborate virtual public meeting
  - Comments from meeting participants:
    - 2 less elaborate meetings at a minimum would be preferable – one early listening session, one later presentation.
    - Get feedback early and often.
    - Consider an electronic survey followed up by two meetings.
    - Record everything and make it available on-line.
  - **ACTIONS**
    - **Create a short video as introduction to the survey.**
    - **Invite local Needham residents**
    - **Invite local Newton residents on Christina St., Bernard St., and Roland St.**
    - **Get business contacts from Greg (NNCC) and Devra.**
    - **Place signs on the bridge itself**
    - **Advertise through local groups such as Bike Newton, Conservators, congregations, and business associations**
  - **TIMELINE SUGGESTIONS**
    - April 1<sup>st</sup> send out survey
    - April 20<sup>th</sup> hold public meeting #1 (just late April in general)
    - Second meeting after preliminary designs are available but well in advance of final deadline