Committee Attendees
Geoff Wood, William Ahern, Eric Grunebaum, Margaret Gadon, Tom Ragno, Karen Dumaine, John DiGiovanni, Jennifer Gilbert, Sam Stern, Doug Brown

Staff/Utile Present
Staff: Iram Farooq, Stuart Dash, Melissa Peters, John Bolduc, Gary Chan
Utile: Tim Love, Meera Deean

Committee Members Absent
Catherine Connolly, James Butler, Margaret Drury, Mark DiOrio

15 attendees from the public.

Meeting Overview
- Presentation from consultant on project overview and engagement strategy (available [here](#))
- Discussion

Committee Feedback
- Housing affordability is real issue.
- Different levels (City, state, MBTA, DRC) have different agendas. If can come out of this with a shared agenda, that will be a success.
- Jerry's Pond is opportunity to reconnect people to nature.
- Alewife = Route 2. Talking about area without making demands on regional and state planning is futile. Need to really think big. Ideas include: extend Red Line to Lexington; underground Route 2.; getting Route 2 out of middle of Huron Village.
- Frightening to ride bike here. Investment and maintenance in infrastructure in needed.
- Area is car-centric with too many surface parking lots.
- Lots of new housing that has not been knitted together very well.
- Retail is not proximate, not easy for people to get loaf of bread/gallon of milk.
- Diversity of people is a value
- Need to get people out of their cars (i.e. pedestrian mall)
- Make Huron village safe
- Problem is not about bringing people here, but about making the area more vibrant. Plan needs to balance issues of housing and transportation.
- Mobility and transportation is impacted by urban form. Until Alewife is pedestrian/bike/transit-centric, there will be congestion.
- Issues are like dials on a dashboard; all are significant. Need to seek balance between all.

Big Ideas
- Jerry's Pond - edge on Rindge Ave - fill in on that side to make park, expand on southern edge
- Opportunity to create Emerald Necklace
ENVISION
CAMBRIDGE
• Move forward with pedestrian-bike bridge to connect Tri + Quad
• Commuter rail stop
• Alewife development has a suburban feel. Need to create more street edge to make it feel more urban
• Need total redesign of Alewife Station; pods

Public Comment
• Poor water quality in Alewife Brook; area is most vulnerable
• Put commuter rail tracks underground, then would have connection between areas that are cut off; would also have surface crossing at Sherman
• Stop building in floodplain
• City seems to have commitment primarily to housing, sometimes at disadvantage to businesses; locally-owned retail is important; new housing is out of scale in size and cost; city should not be building luxury housing
• Need to implement recommendations in the short-term; 20 years is too late.