

BHWF intern Holly Sullivan takes next step

By Marianne Salza

High School senior, Holly Sullivan, has been the Beacon Hill Women's Forum (BHWF) Marketing Intern for the past two years, surrounded by successful businesswomen who exemplify professionalism. Soon, Holly will be graduating, and aspires to further expand the business skills that she has acquired.

"I've learned how to professionally present myself with a proper greeting, and respond to emails," noted 18-year-old Holly. "They were good lessons to learn at a young age."

Since 2020, Holly has been involved in creating Neighborhood Narrative content for social media. Once a month, Holly would visit a Beacon Hill business to interview the owner and share his or her story. Through this project, she has developed relationships with local business owners in her home town.



PHOTO BY IAN ADAM BULL

Holly Sullivan wearing a Soodee dress outside Follain.

"Everyone said that they got new clients," exclaimed Holly, who now heartily greets individuals that she has met through Neighborhood Narrative when they pass each other on Charles Street.

Holly's internship with BHWF has led to a multitude of opportunities, including a job at Upstairs Downstairs Antiques, college recommendation letters, and a summer internship, in which she learned product analysis and

research at a small business that sells printed beach bags.

"I created my own mock product. It was a cooler bag for moms picnicking on the beach," described Holly. "They're producing it next season."

Holly has been a fashion and commercial model with Boston's Model Club, Inc. agency for two years, and has posed for Charles Street boutiques such as Remy

(SULLIVAN Pg. 3)

Hidden Gardens Tour returns to in-person

Special to the Times

Spring is bursting forth and so is the Beacon Hill Garden Club, which is pleased to announce the Hidden Gardens of Beacon Hill Annual Tour will once again take place in person. The tour will take place on May 19, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. rain or shine. Nine beautiful gardens will be show-cased and include four that are new to the tour. The garden at the Sunflower Castle on Mount Vernon Street is being featured. It once belonged to Gertrude Beals Bourne, founder of the Beacon Hill Garden Club. There will also be "ribbon" gardens along the self-guided route,

providing a bird's-eye view into four lovely neighborhood gardens that can be seen from the street.

The tour events celebrate the Beacon Hill Garden Club's long tradition of urban gardening and hands-on maintenance of civic properties such as Codman Island, the window box at the Charles Street Post Office, and the gardens at the Peter Faneuil House. Ticket purchases make it possible for the club to support a wide range of environmental, conservation and educational programs such as the Charles River Watershed Association, Emerald Necklace Conser-

(HIDDEN GARDENS Pg. 3)

Latest proposal for two-way, protected bike lanes on Charles Street meets with strong community response

By Dan Murphy

The latest proposal for bike lanes on Charles Street submitted by the Boston Cyclists Union is eliciting a strong reaction from the neighborhood, with community members weighing in both strongly in favor and adamantly against the plan.

The concept calls for the elimination of one of Charles Street's three traffic lanes to allow for the

creation of two adjacent 4-foot wide, parking-protected, one-way bike lanes on Charles Street between Cambridge and Beacon streets. The two remaining travel lanes would each measure 10 feet wide, with a 2½ foot buffer, while parking lanes on both sides of the street would each be 7 feet wide. One sidewalk would be 9 feet wide, and the other 9½ feet wide.

(BIKE LANE Pg. 10)



D. MURPHY PHOTO

The Boston Cyclists Union is now proposing the elimination of one of three traffic lanes on Charles Street (seen above) in order to create two-way, protected bike lanes on the street.

BEACON HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY CORNER

Beacon Award

Nominations Requested

The Beacon Hill Civic Association invites the community to nominate candidates for the 25th Annual Beacon Award. Institut-

ed in 1997 by the BHCA as part of its Diamond Jubilee Year, the Beacon Award annually honors those individuals or groups deserving of particular recognition for significant and sustained contribution to the Beacon Hill community.

Nomination forms are available online at www.bhcivic.org or by calling BHCA at 617-227-1922. A new form should be completed for each individual nomination submitted and should be returned to the Beacon Hill Civic Association no later than Friday, April 4th. Nominations will be reviewed and a winner will be selected by a committee composed of representatives from the BHCA and the community at large.

The 2022 Beacon Award will be presented at the BHCA 100th Annual Meeting, to be held May 16, 2022 at the Union Club of Boston.



Use this QR code to purchase tickets!

49th Annual Beacon Hill Gala – A Centennial Celebration!

Get your tickets today!

Join us on Saturday, April 2nd, as we celebrate our 100th year of Neighbors Helping Neighbors! Our Centennial Gala will take place at the beautiful Four Seasons Boston.

For tickets, opportunities to sponsor or to advertise in our

(BHCA Pg. 3)



EDITORIAL

FREEDOM ISN'T FREE

As the ongoing tragedy in Ukraine, fueled by the barbarism of the war criminal Vladimir Putin, continues to unfold, it is apparent that in addition to underestimating the fierce and brave resistance of the Ukrainian people, Putin also failed to anticipate the resolve of free people around the world to rally in support of the Ukrainians.

Putin clearly had little respect for the West prior to launching his invasion. He believed that we would care more about maintaining our creature comforts and cushy lifestyle than we would about the fate of Ukraine. He assumed that as we watched the carnage from the comfort of our living rooms, our materialistic instincts would trump any sense of sympathy that we might have with the Ukrainian people and that we would not be willing to make sacrifices of any kind in order to support the Ukrainians in their fight against tyranny.

In short, Putin believed us to be soft, weak, narcissistic, and lacking empathy.

However, the newfound solidarity of free people and our leaders (with a few exceptions) around the world in our support of the Ukrainians has proven Putin to be hugely wrong.

Western businesses willingly have sacrificed billions of dollars and Western consumers are paying more for their energy -- and just about everything else -- because of our decision to back the Ukrainians with both military aid and unprecedented economic sanctions that are taking a great toll on the Russia war machine.

With dictators on the rise in Russia, China, No. Korea, and Saudi Arabia (where 81 persons were executed this past weekend), we have re-learned the lesson that the freedoms we enjoy are something that we cannot take for granted.

Thanks to Putin, Americans have found a cause that we all can agree upon -- the right of every person to be free.

The months ahead will not be easy -- though nowhere near as difficult as they will be for the Ukrainian people -- but Putin's barbarism has illuminated a valuable truth that we had ignored for the better part of the past century: Freedom isn't free.

ENJOY A HAPPY (AND SAFE) ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Amidst all of the sadness and tragedy in the world today, the arrival of St. Patrick's Day this Thursday (March 17) will provide a brief and welcome respite from the terrible news that we see on our televisions every day.

Although St. Patrick's Day ostensibly is a holiday with religious (Catholic) and ethnic (Irish) connotations, St. Patrick's Day has become a holiday for people of all nationalities -- a day when "everybody is Irish" -- to share camaraderie and good cheer.

This will be the first St. Patrick's Day in three years that we'll be able to celebrate the holiday collectively now that COVID restrictions are easing.

We wish all of our readers a happy and safe St. Patrick's Day.

GUEST OP-ED

Ukrainian and American Pain – We must unplug from Russia and China

Dr. Glenn Mollette

America is no longer buying energy or vodka from Russia. Russians can no longer buy a McDonald's hamburger. They can't pay for their gasoline with a Visa, Mastercard or even an American Express card. One thousand Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurants have ceased operations in Russia. How tough can life become?

For a better picture of a tough life watch some of the news clips played daily on most television stations. See what the Russians are doing each day to Ukraine. Hospitals are bombed. Babies are murdered. Cities no longer exist. Tens of thousands have been killed by the Russian army.

Speculations continue to be expressed among politicians and journalists that Russia may be guilty of war crimes. This seems like a bad joke. Russia has been guilty of war crimes from day one. They don't care who they kill or how they kill the innocent people of Ukraine. They will use any kind of bomb or chemical to accomplish President Vladimir Putin's evil whim to bring Ukraine under Russian rule. They will even accept weapons from China.

Hopefully we will never buy another thing from Russia. In the meantime, the remnant still battling the Russian Army needs the full support of NATO in weapons, money and humanitarian aid. Sadly, for the thousands who have already been killed it's too little too late.

While we are unplugging trade with Russia we must act accordingly toward China. China is not our friend. Just like Russia, we have made China rich with billions of dollars in trade each year. Plus, America is in debt, over a trillion dollars, to China. Stores across America must put American businesses back to work by buying as many American made products as possible. China has been eyeing Taiwan the same way Russia has been eyeing Ukraine. If Russia successfully takes Ukraine and can survive the aftermath look for China to invade Taiwan. China will then control most of the chips made that runs our cars, phones and computers.

The next scenario is what happens to us when Russia and China combine their efforts toward the United States? Are we able to with-

stand an attack from Russia and China? It's more than we want to comprehend today. This is why we must become energy independent. Why not use our gas, oil and coal until we have the infrastructure in place to run electric cars?

In my local community of 250,000 people, I do not know of one electric car charging station. Local car dealers say it will be two to three years before they will have electric cars to sell. Most American communities are the same and we need time for the infrastructure to catch up. In the meantime, we should use the resources we have to run our country independently.

Gasoline prices and inflation are hurting America but consider what Russia is doing to Ukraine. Americans will survive the pain at the pump if America will go back to our own sources to supply our needs.

Glenn Mollette is the publisher of Newburgh Press, Liberty Torch and various other publishing imprints; a national columnist – American Issues and Common Sense opinions, analysis, stories and features appear each week in over 500 newspapers, websites and blogs across the United States.

SEND US YOUR NEWS

The Times encourages residents to submit engagement, wedding and birth announcements, news releases, business and education briefs, sports stories and photos for publication. Items should be forwarded to our offices at 385 Broadway, Revere, MA 02151. Items can also be faxed to 781-485-1403. We also encourage readers to e-mail news releases and photos to deb@reverejournal.com.

THE BEACON HILL TIMES

PRESIDENT/EDITOR: STEPHEN QUIGLEY

MARKETING DIRECTOR: DEBRA DIGREGORIO

(DEB@REVEREJOURNAL.COM)

ART DIRECTOR: SCOTT YATES

FOUNDING PUBLISHER: KAREN CORD TAYLOR

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PHONE: 617-523-9490 • FAX: 781-485-1403

EMAIL: EDITOR@BEACONHILLTIMES.COM

WEB SITE: www.beaconhilltimes.com

Apply now for ABCD Summerworks 2022

If you are 14 to 21, income-eligible, and live in Boston, you can earn and learn in the ABCD SummerWorks program this year! Plan now to spend your summer with ABCD, working 20 hours a week in a non-profit organization. You can earn up to \$1,710!

So put money in your pocket while receiving outstanding preparation for future school and work. Along with work experience that gives back to the community, you participate in career skills and job-readiness workshops and receive mentoring and social supports.

ABCD thanks Mayor Michelle Wu for her support of ABCD SummerWorks. "The City of Boston has been a longtime partner in this program and we are pleased to continue that important partnership this year, when our youth need help more than ever," said ABCD President/CEO John J. Drew. Drew said that ABCD plans to provide more than 1,000 summer jobs for teens this year.

"Our young people have faced tremendous challenges during this pandemic," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "The ABCD SummerWorks program is an essential experience for young people preparing for their careers and building community. As we approach the summer, I encourage all of our young people to apply and get involved with this valuable program."

ABCD is reaching out to teens early this year, encouraging them to apply to this longstanding program with its documented success. ABCD SummerWorks provides the chance to work in interesting jobs with fellow teens and caring adults

while preparing for the career of their dreams in the work world. Many successful business, public service and community leaders held their first jobs in ABCD SummerWorks!

Past ABCD SummerWorks job sites include libraries, day camps, childcare centers, government offices, non-profit organizations, local historic sites and more.

The application period began February 1, so get on board NOW! Apply online to ABCD SummerWorks at summerworks.net. If you have questions, email summerworksinfo@bostonabcd.org or call 617-348-6548.

"Our young people have had to negotiate unprecedented difficulties due to the pandemic and political/social/racial upheaval over the past two years," said ABCD President/CEO John J. Drew. "They have had their schools close, their parents lose jobs, their friendships disrupted. ABCD is putting together a summer experience that is safe, meaningful and important to their lives and careers. We want then to know that ABCD is here for them."

Drew said that ABCD is planning an in-person, on-site SummerWorks program, but will follow COVID-19 guidance and convert to a remote experience if necessary. The program is scheduled to begin the first week in July and run for six weeks for 20 hours a week with potential earnings of \$1,710.

Currently ABCD plans to hire 1,000 youth, but the need is far greater. ABCD and the City of Boston are calling out to Boston businesses, funders, non-profit leaders

and philanthropists to step up and donate funds and/or provide jobs to ensure that every young person who wants to work has a job this summer!

Drew pointed out that past enrollees often turn their paychecks over to their parents to pay for rent and food. "This is a program that keeps families going and fuels the local economy while making a difference for young people in every neighborhood," he said. "Year after year I have seen it provide a ticket to future success."

ABCD is grateful for private donations to support our youth programs as well as emergency services including food security, rental assistance, and others. To make a donation, call 617-348-6559, email give@bostonabcd.org or visit bostonabcd.org/donate.

A non-profit human services community action organization, ABCD provides low-income residents in the Boston and Mystic Valley areas with the tools, support and resources they need to transition from poverty to stability and from stability to success. Each year, we've served more than 100,000 individuals, elders and families through a broad range of innovative initiatives as well as long-established, proven programs and services. For more than 50 years, ABCD has been deeply rooted in every neighborhood and community served, empowering individuals and families and supporting them in their quest to live with dignity and achieve their highest potential. For more, please visit bostonabcd.org.

SULLIVAN (from pg. 1)

Collections and Soodee.

She is on the Boston Latin High School Varsity Volleyball team, and is a member of a club volleyball team in Boston. Over February school vacation, Holly competed in a tournament in Arizona.

As Holly nears the completion of her position with BHWF, she believes that it is important for the next intern to be a hard worker who is eager to expand their minds and network.

"Someone passionate who wants to help businesses," Holly suggested. "Through the internship, I learned so much from the stores. I know more people."

Holly plans to study management, marketing, and entrepreneurship at a New England insti-

tution.

"I want to travel abroad," Holly added. "My goal is to manage my own business."

The Beacon Hill Women's Forum is accepting applications for a female intern for the next season that begins scheduling in August. The intern must be a Beacon Hill resident, and be able to attend monthly meetings starting in September. Responsibilities include arranging, filming, and editing content for the Neighborhood Narrative. Apply by emailing a resume to Founder Lisa Macalaster, at LisaMacalaster@gmail.com, and Co-President Wendy Oleksiak at WendyO@gibsonsir.com.

HIDDEN GARDENS (from pg. 1)

vancy, the Esplanade Association, and the Student Conservation Association.

Single tickets are \$60, and the latest edition of the Beacon Hill Garden Club's book can be included with your tour ticket for a special price of \$80, both to be picked up at the information booth the day of the tour.

The Fifth Annual Soiree, a preview party, will take place in the lush garden belonging to the

King's Chapel Parish House the evening before on Wednes-

day, May 18th. This fun social event, complete with cocktails hors d'oeuvres, allows ticket holders to preview three of the hidden gardens. The evening will be once again generously supported by Fiduciary Trust Company. Advance Soiree tickets are \$150.

All tickets are available for purchase at <https://www.beaconhillgardenclub.org>. Organizers warn that ticket supply may be limited this year to comply with city health guidelines, so it's best to purchase tickets early.

BHCA (from pg. 1)

Gala program, please visit bhcvic.org, or call us at 617-227-1922. We look forward to celebrating with you there!

There's no better time to become a Member of the BHCA!

Are you new to Beacon Hill? This is a great time to join the BHCA as we begin our Centennial year celebrations, and a great time to join in our efforts of Community Building, Civic Engagement and Historic Preservation. You can become a member at bhcvic.org.

If you are unsure of your membership status, please call the office and we will assist.

Save the date!

BHCA Annual Meeting for Members, Monday, May 16, 6 p.m., Union Club.

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SALE ITEMS EXCLUDED

HELLO, BEACON HILL NEIGHBORS!

My name is Deborah, and I'm riding in the Boston Cyclists Union's biggest annual fundraiser "Bostreal", leaving Boston on May 28, 2022.

If you would like to learn more or make a donation, you can access my secure site at <https://tinyurl.com/two-wheels> or with this QR code:



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ADVERTISE IN THE TIMES. CALL 781-485-0588

City of Boston’s COVID-19 state of emergency declaration to end April 1

Mayor Michelle Wu and Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, Commissioner of Public Health and Executive Director of the Boston Public Health Commission, today announced Boston’s COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Declaration will end on April 1, 2022. The announcement follows a vote by the Boston Board of Health during their meeting last week following the recommendation of Dr. Ojikutu. The Emergency Declaration has been in place since March 15, 2020.

“The announcement is a testament to how Boston came together in a historically challenging time to lift up public health and community,” said Mayor Michelle Wu. “As we transition to this next phase of living with COVID, we will focus on providing the testing, resources, and planning to keep our communities safe and prepared.”

“While the City of Boston is no longer in a state of emergency, we must continue to protect our most vulnerable residents and prepare for the future,” said Dr. Bisola Ojikutu. “Now is the time for us to use all of the lessons learned from

the pandemic, strengthen community partnerships, develop stronger public health infrastructure, and ensure an equitable recovery for all.”

Dr. Ojikutu’s recommendation to rescind the order is based on the City’s consistently improving core COVID-19 metrics, including community positivity, daily adult COVID-19 hospitalizations, and occupied ICU beds. As of March 7, the community positivity rate is 2.2%, down from a peak of 32% in early January. Daily adult hospitalizations have also steadily declined and are now down to 94 after peaking at 769 in mid-January. The percentage of occupied ICU beds has been consistently below the Commission’s 95% threshold of concern over the last few weeks.

During their meeting, Boston Public Health Commission officials provided a recommended framework for Boston Public Schools to use in determining when to lift the school masking requirement. Dr. Sarimer Sánchez from BPHC’s Infectious Diseases Bureau advised

reviewing the school masking policy when the number of positive COVID-19 tests per day in Boston falls below 10 cases per day per 100,000 residents while considering other COVID-19 metrics. BPHC is also encouraging development of “mask friendly” policies for students and staff and increasing access to vaccines in school communities. The current COVID-19 daily case incidence is approximately 13 cases per 100,000 residents in Boston. The final decision on revising the school mask policy will be made by Boston Public Schools.

The consistently improving metrics also mean the City of Boston and the Boston Public Health Commission can shift their focus to longer-term planning and preparedness efforts, developing a roadmap to handle future surges and pandemics, while continuing to support ongoing efforts to increase access to vaccinations and testing.

The Boston Public Health Commission declared a state of emergency at the beginning of the

COVID-19 pandemic, a decision made in consultation with infectious disease and public health emergency preparedness experts at the Commission as well as the City and other emergency preparedness, public health, and healthcare experts. The Declaration was instrumental in Boston establishing an incident command structure and deploying staff and resources to perform crisis response and healthcare coordination functions throughout the pandemic.

“Based on the data, it is clear to the Board that the emergency declaration is no longer necessary,” said Manny Lopes, Chair of the Boston Board of Health. “I am proud to have worked with Mayor Wu and Dr. Ojikutu, who led with science and made the hard but necessary decisions that kept our city safe and on the path to a much brighter future. The Board looks forward to our continued partnership with the City as we monitor the pandemic and help guide the city toward recovery.”

Despite lower case numbers, BPHC cautions residents that

COVID-19 is still transmissible, and can result in severe illness and hospitalization, especially for the city’s most vulnerable residents. The Commission recommends residents protect themselves and those around them by getting vaccinated, boosted, and wearing masks indoors if they are at high risk for severe illness or if they will be around individuals who are. There are many people in Boston who are vulnerable to COVID-19, including individuals who are immunocompromised, seniors, and those who are unvaccinated, including young children. Wearing a well-fitting mask or respirator while indoors minimizes your risk of getting infected with COVID-19 and spreading it to others. Face coverings are still required on public transportation and at transportation hubs, Boston Public Schools, health care settings, congregate care facilities, emergency shelter programs, and correctional facilities.

LEGALS

LEGAL NOTICE
COMMONWEALTH
OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND
FAMILY COURT
Suffolk Division
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION
NOTICE
Docket No.
SU21P1861EA

Estate of:
David H. Morse
Date of Death:
February 6, 2021

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate by Petition of Petitioner Susan P. McWhinney-Morse of Boston, MA. A Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Susan P. McWhinney-Morse of Boston, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond. The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any

matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

3/17/22
BH

LEGAL NOTICE
COMMONWEALTH
OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND
FAMILY COURT
CITATION GIVING
NOTICE OF
PETITION FOR
APPOINTMENT OF
A GUARDIAN FOR
INCAPACITATED
PERSON PURSUANT
TO G.L. c. 190B,
§5-304
Docket No.
SU22P0431GD

In the matter of:
Giacomo Massaro
Of: East Boston, MA
RESPONDENT
Alleged Incapacitated
Person

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Massachusetts General Hospital of Boston, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Giacomo Massaro is in need of a Guardian and requesting that Annette DeBilio of Saugus, MA (or some other person) be appointed as Guardian to serve Without Surety on the bond. The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority. You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 04/14/2022. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection

within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person’s right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.
Date: March 08, 2022
Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate

3/17/22
BH

LEGAL NOTICE
COMMONWEALTH
OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND
FAMILY COURT
Suffolk Probate
And Family Court
24 New Chardon St.
Boston, MA 02114
(617)788-8300
CITATION ON
PETITION FOR
FORMAL

ADJUDICATION
Docket No.
SU22P0339EA
Estate of:
Ronald G.
Tompkins
Date of Death:
01/17/2022

To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Denise M. Tompkins of Boston, MA requesting that the court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: Denise M. Tompkins of Boston, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/14/2022. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and

objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.
Date: March 11, 2022
Felix D. Arroyo Register of Probate

3/17/22
BH

LEGAL NOTICE
ExteNet Systems, Inc. proposes to construct eight replacement light pole telecommunications structures ranging from 22 to 27 feet tall within Boston, Suffolk County, Massachusetts. The proposed poles would be

located near 1-25 Emerson Place (42.364192, -71.068700), 57-61 Salem Street (42.363197, -71.056097), 65 Martha Road (42.365756, -71.065329), 226-250 Causeway Street (42.366528, -71.059381), Off Cambridge Street (42.356918, -71.073441), Off Beacon Street (42.357211, -71.064522), 1144-1146 Washington Street (42.343647, -71.066028), and 154-162 Massachusetts Avenue (42.346365, -71.086688).

ExteNet Systems, Inc. invites comments from any interested party on the impact the proposed undertaking may have on any districts, sites, buildings, structures, or objects significant in American history, archaeology, engineering, or culture that are listed or determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Comments may be sent to Environmental Corporation of America, ATTN: Annamarie Howell, 1375 Union Hill Industrial Court, Suite A, Alpharetta, GA 30004 or via email to publicnotice@eca-usa.com. Ms. Howell can be reached at (770) 667-2040 x 405 during normal business hours. Comments must be received within 30 days of the date of this notice. 22-000529/KEB

3/17/22
BH

EAST COAST IVY BOUTIQUE HERALDS THE SPRING

Spring is still a week away, but after a very long winter of everyone's discontent, East Coast Ivy Boutique at 88 Charles St. is more than ready to herald in the new season.

Like the first crocus of spring, owner Greta Belsole has wasted no time by creating a spectacular spring window. The must-see window has already attracted several photographers.

With a week and a half to go, she has framed every square inch of her window in bountiful spring flowers of every color and hue

urging spring to show its own colors. Greta's floral display frames her window and showcases the many chic and colorful clothing, accessories and jewelry she is known for.

Blossom by blossom the colorful spring begins and fashion by new fashion Greta's boutique is ready to outfit all in the greatest of style. Spring is nature's way of saying, "let's party."

Greta agrees and looks forward to welcoming the spring with you in mind.



East Coast Ivy Boutique floral display frames the window and showcases the many chic and colorful clothing, accessories and jewelry it is known for.



MARK DUFFIELD PHOTOS

Owner Greta Belsole looks forward to, and is ready to welcome spring.

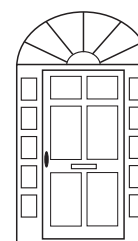
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Rentals

The Boston Society of the New Jerusalem at the Church on the Hill Presents:

THE FUTURE OF LIFE AND FAITH

Join us virtually or in-person Church on the Hill and veteran Boston journalist Christopher Lydon for the first in a series of conversations about the future of life and faith in Massachusetts and beyond. To learn more, visit our website or scan the QR code below

7 pm | March 17, 2022

140 Bowdoin Street, Beacon Hill



Christopher Lydon hosts the WBUR program Open Source, and has for decades been a presence on Boston public radio and television. He has been a reporter for The New York Times, the host of The Ten O'Clock News on WGBH TV, and the co-founder and host of The Connection on WBUR.



Rev. Nancy Taylor has been the senior minister and chief executive officer at Old South Church in Copley Square since 2005. Prior to that, she served for five years as minister and president of the Massachusetts Conference of the UCC.

Upcoming Events in the Series



Andrea Campbell
April 7 @ 7 PM



Rev. Emmett G Price III
April 28 @ 7 PM



Fr. John Unni
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BHWF WELCOMES DR. LAEL YONKER TO MARCH GATHERING

By Ariana Hanley

The Beacon Hill Women’s Forum (BHWF) welcomed members and neighbors at the Hampshire House on March 8, for cocktails, light appetizers, and a wonderful speaker. The Neighborhood Narrative this month featured Paws on Charles! Paws on Charles is a new boutique pet shop located at 123 Charles Street. Offering a wide range of treats, food, toys, leashes, collars, and apparel for all of our pets, this pet store is a must see! Let’s face it, every one of our furry friends deserves a new wardrobe or something tasty to excite the taste buds!

BHWF was thrilled to present a New England native, Dr. Lael Yonker, MD, as our March Forum speaker. Lael Yonker, MD is a pediatric pulmonary physician-scientist, committed to improving the care of children with pneumonia and respiratory diseases. Given the timeliness of Dr. Yonkers knowledge and specialty with the COVID-19 situation since early 2020, she focused her conversation at the Forum on children and the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic, she has led the Pediatric COVID-19 Biorepository at the Massachusetts General Hospital and has helped shape our understanding of how SARS-CoV-2 affects newborns, infants, children and young adults. Her research focuses on inflammatory responses to airway infections and she is investigating the impacts of viral load and immune responses in children with SARS-CoV-2 infection or the late COVID-19-related inflammatory illness, Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C).

Although Dr. Yonker has made incredible headway with her research and studies surrounding COVID-19, the pandemic was very stressful and difficult for her personally. She credits her extremely supportive husband for getting through the past couple of years. She also had constant motivation from mentors who encouraged her to keep going and doing good research on children.

With an unimaginable love for children and as a mother of two school aged children, Lael has immense dedication to helping the next generation.

The Beacon Hill Women’s Forum is a nonprofit organization established to help bring women in and around Beacon Hill together to form a close community of support and inspiration. We welcome a speaker, always a woman

with a unique, formidable story to tell, to our monthly Forums which meet on the second Tuesday of the month at the Hampshire House from 6pm to 8pm (social hour, followed by the program starting

at 7pm sharp). Visit The Beacon Hill Women’s Forum website to learn more about our membership options. www.beaconhillwomensforum.org.

PHOTOS BY MARIANNE SALZA



Amy Tsurumi, Co-President, Holly Sullivan, Marketing Intern, Lael Yonker, MD, guest speaker, and Cindy Sullivan, Programs Director.



Jackie Knapp, Jessie Stanley, and Erika Lozeau.



Jackie Knapp and Richelle Gewertz.



Laurel Bern and Patricia Lloyd.

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BHWF WELCOMES DR. LAEL YONKER TO MARCH GATHERING



Amy Tsurumi, Co-President, Lael Yonker, MD, guest speaker, and Lisa Macalaster, Founder.



Amy Tsurumi, Co-President, Mimi Sun, Eva Lichtenberger, and Sandra Gilpatrick.



Lael Yonker, MD, guest speaker, Michelle Burian, and Amy Tsurumi, Co-President.



Mimi Sun, Susan Symonds, Sandra Gilpatrick, Wendy Oleksiak, Co-President, and Jinah Kim.

Warmer weather warning: be mindful of outdoor smoking hazards

With a week of warmer weather in the forecast, State Fire Marshal Peter J. Ostroskey is asking residents to be mindful of the fire hazards when smoking outdoors.

"We've got some nice weather in the forecast this week, and after a long winter everyone wants to spend a little more time outdoors," said State Fire Marshal Ostroskey. "If you still smoke, please be

mindful of the fire hazards when you step out to smoke on a stairway, porch, or balcony."

Fires often start when smokers drop butts in planters or near the side of buildings, where dried vegetation, mulch, or debris can catch fire. They can also start when cigarettes are ground out on railings, steps, or floors, allowing embers to drift and ignite flammable materi-

als. In a densely built neighborhood, that fire can quickly spread to other buildings and put many people at risk.

"There are no smoke alarms on the outside of the house, so an exterior fire can grow to a dangerous size before anyone is aware of it," State Fire Marshal Ostroskey said. "There's no safe way to smoke, but if you must smoke then

do it responsibly. Use a sturdy ashtray with water or sand and put it out, all the way, every time."

The Department of Fire Services created a series of video and audio clips to promote the proper disposal of smoking materials on porches and balconies. They are available in English and Spanish for fire departments, fire educators, social service providers, and

state or municipal agencies to use free of charge. Visit the DFS YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/DFSOSFM and view the Smoking Fire Safety playlist.

"Of all the smoking safety steps you can take, the most effective one is to quit," said State Fire Marshal Ostroskey. "You'll enjoy many more years of fresh air."

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Esplanade Association commissions “Frozen in Life” – a botanical ice sculpture gallery

The Esplanade Association announced today Frozen in Life, a three-day open-air sculpture gallery at Fiedler Field on the Charles River Esplanade. Visitors to this outdoor gallery will experience the breadth and beauty of the Esplanade's plant species through 40+ sculptures created by Weston-based artist Anna Thurber. Three seasons of Esplanade plants, all handpicked by the artist in 2021, are suspended in the ice, encouraging contemplation, conversation, and appreciation for the Esplanade's plant biodiversity. Frozen in Life is free and open to the public and was created in partnership with the Massachusetts Department of Conservation & Recreation. Frozen in Life will be viewable daily 10am to 4pm, from March 18 - March 20, 2022.

Frozen in Life is the sixth offering in the Esplanade Association's public art program, which includes four art murals currently on view in locations throughout the 3.2-mile linear park, as well as Hatched: Breaking through the Silence, a four-week illumination and sound experience shown at the DCR Hatch Shell in 2021.

“We are delighted to present Anna Thurber's poignant works that will for the first time bring together an entire year's worth of peak blooms on the Esplanade while demonstrating the park's beauty in enchanting ice sculptures,” offered Michael Nichols, Executive Director of the Esplanade

Association. “We believe Frozen in Life will create lasting memories for visitors who join us on the

Esplanade to take in the beauty of this one-of-a-kind exhibit before it's gone.”

Frozen in Life is composed of more than 40 sculptures showcasing a selection of plants from the Esplanade, carefully placed in dynamic arrangements that instantly evoke the rhythm of the seasons. From Spring's first buds, to the bright blooms of Summer, to Autumn's colorful leaves, Thurber's sculptures take viewers on a journey through dozens of the Esplanade's plant species – each perfectly encapsulated in solid ice. The exhibit further showcases the fragility of plant life on the Esplanade at a time when climate change is impacting biodiversity in Boston and beyond.

“The lifecycle of flowers animates me and drives me to docu-

ment the process as I capture the flowers, seed pods, full blooms, and spent petals”, says multidisciplinary artist Anna Thurber. “The temporary nature of the pieces I create is essential to the process. My time and energy are reduced to a pool of water and soggy stems, mirroring the rhythm of the seasons.”

Public art has become a core element of the Esplanade Association's mission to support the ongoing health and vitality of the 64-acre Charles River Esplanade through capital restoration work, park improvement projects, horticultural care, public programming, concessions enhancements, volunteer engagement, and much more. In total, the Esplanade Association has raised more than \$19 million towards this mission, which

is accomplished through a public-private partnership with DCR. In 2021, EA celebrated twenty years of successful stewardship and collaboration between the Esplanade Association and DCR.

Learn more, view accompanying content, and find deeper engagement with the exhibition at www.FrozeninLife.com, and at www.Esplanade.org/Frozen.

On foot, along the Esplanade. Fiedler Field cannot be accessed by car. There is no site parking or rideshare drop off on site. Nearest MBTA stops include Arlington (Green Line, 0.6m), Charles/MGH (Red Line, 0.6m), and Charles Street at Beacon Street (43 bus, 0.5m). For more information on how to access the Esplanade, visit <https://esplanade.org/the-esplanade/map-directions/>.



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The Times encourages residents to submit engagement, wedding and birth announcements, news releases, business and education briefs, sports stories and photos for publication. Items should be forwarded to our offices at 385 Broadway, Revere, MA 02151. Items can also be faxed to 781-485-1403. We also encourage readers to e-mail news releases and photos to

deb@reverejournal.com.

Beacon Hill's weekly COVID positive decreases

By John Lynds

Three weeks after the city's “B Together” policy, which required patrons and staff of certain indoor spaces to show proof of vaccination against COVID-19, was canceled and a week after the city's indoors mask mandate was lifted, the weekly positive test rate in Beacon Hill and surrounding areas decreased while the city's test rate increased slightly.

While new cases were on a steady decline for weeks now, the recent uptick in cases in some neighborhoods is something city health officials are sure to keep a watchful eye on and make adjustments if needed.

However, Mayor Michelle Wu and Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, Commissioner of Public Health and Executive Director of the Boston Public Health Commission, announced last week Boston's COVID-19

Public Health Emergency Declaration will end on April 1, 2022. The announcement follows a vote by the Boston Board of Health during their meeting last Wednesday.

“Today's announcement is a testament to how Boston came together in a historically challenging time to lift up public health and community,” said Wu. “As we transition to this next phase of living with COVID, we will focus on providing the testing, resources, and planning to keep our communities safe and prepared.”

Last week, 1,104 Beacon Hill, Back Bay, North End, West End and Downtown residents were tested for the virus last week and 3.1 percent were positive--this was a 6 percent decrease from the 3.3 percent that tested positive as reported by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) on March 7.

Thirty-four additional residents contracted the virus between March 7 and March 14 and there are now 9,216 confirmed cases in the neighborhood since the start of the pandemic.

According to the BPHC 12,655 residents were tested citywide last week and 2.4 percent were COVID positive--this was a 4 percent increase from the 2.3 percent

that reportedly tested positive for the week ending on March 7.

The statistics released by the BPHC as part of its weekly COVID19 report breaks down the number of cases and infection rates in each neighborhood. It also breaks down the number of cases by age, gender and race.

Citywide positive cases of coronavirus increased 0.38 percent last week and went from 166,087 cases to 166,722 confirmed since the start of the pandemic.

There were four additional deaths in Boston from the virus in the past week and the total number of COVID deaths is now at 1,431. Deaths decreased 55.5 percent in Boston last week with five less deaths compared to the nine deaths reported by the BPHC two weeks ago.

“While the City of Boston is no longer in a state of emergency, we must continue to protect our most vulnerable residents and prepare for the future,” said Dr. Ojikutu. “Now is the time for us to use all of the lessons learned from the pandemic, strengthen community partnerships, develop stronger public health infrastructure, and ensure an equitable recovery for all.”

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29 Commonwealth Ave 5 LLC	29 Hexagon LLC	29 Commonwealth Ave #5	\$9,950,000
Paolini, John F	Kosmo, Thomas	160 Commonwealth Ave #418	\$1,600,000
Carryl, Sophia S	280 Commonwealth Ave LLC	280 Commonwealth Ave #G2	\$610,000
Pedain, Christoph	Cullen, Michael M	434 Marlborough St	\$4,075,000

BEACON HILL

Ryan, Connor	Purdue, Gary L	9 Hawthorne Pl #5E	\$819,000
Young FT	Pamela W Ward T 2010	51 Mount Vernon St #4	\$1,190,000
Kobylka, Justin	Bligh, Heather	129 Myrtle St #129	\$660,000
Sieczkiewicz, Gregory	Chaves, Paulin S	2 Phillips St #4	\$585,000
Kobylka, Justin	Bligh, Heather	80 Revere St #8	\$660,000
21 South Russell St LLC	Anderson, Cynthia L	21 S Russell St	\$2,375,000

BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE

Frazier, Sarah R	Cornella, Lauren J	3 Appleton St #602	\$1,600,000
Michaels, Jordan	Kassler One Charles NT	1 Charles St S #1002	\$1,000,000
Hoey, Brendan R	Stern, Adam V	700 Harrison Ave #406	\$449,000
Kljat, Angelina	Manganella, Luciano	62 Queensberry St #404	\$557,500
Chen, Yang	Khoshkhoo, Sattar	378-386 Riverway #378-6	\$710,000
Gadoury, William J	Kogan, Howard M	225 Shawmut Ave #2	\$2,000,000
Peterson, Jeremy D	Crisler, William J	574-580 Tremont St #7	\$410,000
Glynn, Tricia M	Todaro, Joseph G	14 Union Park	\$8,550,000
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Hogarty, Nicole A	Allied Residences LLC	88 Wareham St #503	\$752,000
Herron, Gina M	Himmelstein, Marty	1180-1200 Washington St #218	\$1,675,000

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Attention to Detail

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY PENNY CHERUBINO

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The gilded scroll in the last clue is on 45 Bromfield Street the new home of a long-time Boston business, Bromfield Pen. This specialty store has moved down the street and is now operating under the new owner's name, Appelboom. This company is from The Netherlands and has more than 30 years of experience in fine writing instruments.

Do you have a favorite building or detail you would like featured? Send an email to Penny@BostonZest.com with your suggestion.

THIS WEEK'S CLUE



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BIKE LANE (from pg. 1)

While a conceptual diagram of the proposed Charles Street bike-lane configuration found on the Boston Cyclists Union website indicates that the bike lanes would be located in one of the travel lanes adjacent to the sidewalk, Alex Shames, community organizer for the group, said the decision regarding which of the three traffic lanes would be eliminated to create the bike lanes is still in flux as the group hasn't heard back from the city yet regarding their preference. "The factors that are important to the Beacon Hill community are that it's two way, fully separated from cars and pedestrians, and that it's connected from both ends," said Shames. "We've heard from businesses that they need to preserve parking and loading zones, so that's also our priority."

Besides the plan for bike lanes on Charles Street, which was created by a North End resident, the Boston Cyclist Unions other "signature campaigns" propose bike lanes for the Arborway in Jamaica Plain; Massachusetts Avenue South (Dorchester, Roxbury, and the South End); and Malcolm X Boulevard in Roxbury.

Over the summer, the Boston Cyclists Union launched an online petition (found at <https://secure.everyaction.com/vpelc2mfUEWN-wBFiBhNXjw2>) in support of its proposal for bike lanes on Charles Street.

"Currently, Charles Street between the Charles/MGH T station and the Public Garden/Boston Common represents a significant gap in the bike lane infrastructure in Boston," the petition reads in part. "South-bound cyclists must contend with three lanes of car traffic to pass through the neighborhood, while north-bound riders have no safe route through Beacon Hill—especially with the closure of Fiedler Footbridge—and must either bike against traffic or circumnavigate the neighborhood altogether. This link is key to connecting downtown Boston to the Longfellow Bridge, which was recently redesigned to accommodate a protected bike lane, and Cambridge beyond."

As of Tuesday, March 15, the petition had garnered 1,235 signatures towards a target of 1,500 signatures, although only 142 of these signatures were from Beacon Hill residents.

The Boston Cyclists Union has 10,000 names in its database, said Shames, and the petition likely reached many of them, regardless of the neighborhoods where they live, and they signed the petition.

"One hundred forty-two if the number that's important to me, and we'll say 142 Beacon Hill res-

idents [support the plan] when we go to the city," said Shames.

Kalli Catcott, a Hancock Street resident since 2017 and resident of the neighborhood since 2011, as well as the member of the Boston Cyclists Union who started the online petition, is among those who support the proposed bike lanes on Charles Street.

Catcott travels down Charles Street almost every weekday on a cargo-bike, commuting to and from work over the Longfellow Bridge, and picking up and dropping off her two children each day at the Advent School and at day-care near Tufts Medical Center, respectively. Since biking is her primary mode of transportation, she also bikes to the grocery store and on other errands.

"There are several reasons I am in favor of a two-directional bike lane," Catcott wrote in an email. "First, safety. As a bike commuter in the city, I have firsthand experience of how some car-drivers don't notice or check for bicycles while changing lanes or making turns. A well-designed bike lane significantly reduces the chances of car-to-bike crashes.

Second, access. Currently, there are not any good bike routes to get from the south-side of the neighborhood back to the north slope. The counterflow part of a bike lane would fix that."

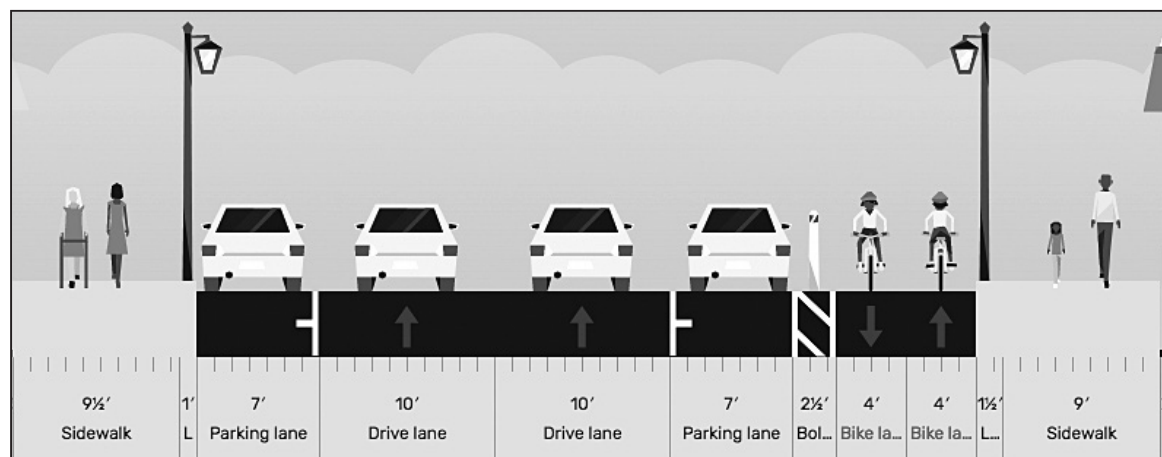
Moreover, Catcott wrote, "I try to talk a lot of people into commuting by bike. The number one reason I hear from folks as to why they won't is lack of bike lanes. I know not everyone is comfortable biking on the street with car traffic and a bike lane down Charles street will provide access to those riders."

In conclusion, Catcott wrote: "Third, people-friendly Charles Street. I'm a Beacon Hill resident and my family walks down Charles Street all the time. As currently designed, Charles Street is five lanes of cars. That is a lot of cars for what is supposed to be a street that is great for strolling. I'd love for the street to feel less like a parking lot. A bike lane would help in this, and even provide a little breathing room for folks walking on the sidewalk."

If two-directional bike lanes were installed on Charles Street, Catcott said she expects to use them every day, "since there would be a way to get northbound through the neighborhood on bike."

Zach Gold, a Myrtle Street resident who bikes nearly every day as his primary mode of transportation, would also like to see bike lanes on Charles Street.

"I became involved with the Boston Cyclists Union specifically



COURTESY OF THE BOSTON CYCLISTS UNION

A conceptual rendering showing the two-way, protected bike lanes being proposed for Charles Street by the Boston Cyclists Union.

to advocate for a protected, two-way bike lane on Charles Street," Gold wrote in an email. "Charles Street has five lanes dedicated to cars—three for driving and two for parking—which is a dangerous and hostile environment for cyclists. Even though it is a route that I would take often, I now walk my bike along Charles Street because I simply do not feel safe riding alongside so many cars without a bike lane."

Gold added, "I support this proposal because our reliance on cars is harmful to the environment and contributes to the dire effects of climate change. Improved bicycle infrastructure is key to reducing emissions and decarbonizing Boston's transportation system.

"The bottom line is that Charles Street needs a protected, two-way bike lane to improve the safety of the street, the accessibility of the neighborhood, and the sustainability of the city," Gold concluded.

Michelle Gurel, a member of the Boston Cyclists Union for more than a decade, as well as a Jamaica Plain resident who makes the seven-mile trek to her job as a nurse at Mass General Hospital via bicycle every day, weather permitting, is another voice in favor of bike lanes on Charles Street.

"I used to contraflow ride down Charles Street, but after going to a Beacon Hill neighborhood meeting several years ago and hearing how it bothered them, I began riding the sidewalk along the Storrow Drive off ramp to Charles Circle," Gurel wrote in an email. "Folks that walk themselves, strollers and dogs don't love bikes along that sidewalk, but they have been flexible about sharing the only safe passage inbound passageway along the off ramp. We do ride home with traffic along Charles Street - thus my desire for a two-way bike lane."

Gurel, who, along with her husband, regularly visits Charles Street to shop and dine, added: "Charles Street is a lovely place that is dear to my heart. I can see the potential it could have to be

less of a car highway and more of a bustling neighborhood shopping-dinning experience with safe passage for all."

But this is far from the first time that bike lanes on Charles Street have been considered, and the Beacon Hill Business Association has consistently voted against such proposals in the past.

Years ago, the idea of bike lanes on Charles Street was first broached and then dropped, and this dialogue has been repeated several times since then, said Jack Gurnon, owner of Charles Street Supply Co., as well as the owner and a 45-year resident of the Charles Street building where the business is located, and a longtime Business Association member who has been working for years on finding a solution for bike lanes in the neighborhood.

"Now, we see a huge push for bike lanes popping everywhere, and they pop up indiscriminately with little forethought," said Gurnon.

It was Gurnon who first proposed installing bike lanes on Mugar Way because, he said, "it's a stretch of land that no one uses, and nobody really walks on the sidewalk back there."

Gurnon described Mugar Way as "very underutilized," and said, "it's a straight shot from the park to the other bridge, and that's what everyone wants."

Bicyclists want a "thorough-through," he said, instead of having to start and to stop at traffic lights on Charles Street.

"Charles Street is a residential street with lots of people on crowded sidewalks, baby carriages, and a lot of people are elderly, too," said Gurnon. "I feel a better solution [for bike lanes] is Storrow Drive."

Chris Quigley, a current Business Association board member, as well as the group's former president, who owns a chiropractic practice at 102 Charles St., also said Mugar Way, along with the Esplanade, would accommodate bike lanes better than Charles

Street could.

"I've been in business on Charles Street now for 31 years, and Charles Street is effectively a one-way street due to double-parking, construction, and deliveries," said Quigley.

"I get here at 7 o'clock in the morning, and there's a line going into the garage, and trucks making deliveries on the other side of the street, so with a bike lane, where is everybody supposed to go?"

Added Quigley, "If they want to have a bike lane going south, that's fine because it would be going with traffic, but you can't have one going the other way."

Ali Ringenburg, a board member of both the Beacon Hill Business Association and the Beacon Hill Civic Association, as well as co-chair of the two groups' Joint Charles Street Committee, also emphasized this wasn't the first time that bike lanes on Charles Street had been explored, and that the Business Association board has steadfastly voted against protected bike lanes – both one-way and two-way – every time the subject comes up.

"The real dialogue has been going on for many years, and we understand it's a very complex issue because it involves a very commercial street with a lot of independent businesses that are all front loading," said Ringenburg. "The street is also an artery for traffic coming in, out, and around the city...and is a heavily trafficked artery for buses, trucks, other drivers, trolley tours."

Like Gurnon and Quigley, Ringenburg also points to Mugar Way as an alternative for bike lanes in the neighborhood as opposed to the "one-dimensional" plan for Charles Street.

"We've had some very constructive conversations about bike lanes on Mugar Way, and those conversations are still active," she said.

In a statement, Rob Whitney, chair of the Beacon Hill Civic Association board, wrote, "The BHCA continues to engage with its mem-

(BIKE LANE Pg. 11)

Wu announces members of the Rent Stabilization Advisory Committee

Building upon her commitment to protect Boston renters, last week Mayor Michelle Wu announced a Rent Stabilization Advisory Committee made up of housing advocates, developers, tenants, and other stakeholders. The advisory committee members will study local housing conditions as well as the structure and outcomes of rent stabilization programs in other cities. They will be tasked with making recommendations to the Mayor and the Mayor's Office of Housing on strategies to stabilize Boston rents and protect tenants from displacement. The committee will meet throughout 2022 with the goal of shaping a proposal for the next state legislative session.

"Cities across the country use rent stabilization as one tool among many to protect tenants and keep families in their homes," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "The majority of Boston residents and families are renters. If we aren't willing to take on the rent increases that are driving families out of Boston, then we aren't meeting the needs of our neighborhoods. I thank the broad group of stakeholders, including advocates, tenants, and developers, who are willing to roll up their sleeves to reimagine what's possible."

Rent stabilization measures in cities across the United States empower municipalities to set certain limits on annual rent increases for existing tenants, and may also include other tenant protections. These approaches promote the

preservation of mixed-income neighborhoods and prevent renters from being pushed out of their communities.

"As an organizer fighting for a housing market that lets people move when they want, where they want, not when they have to, I am pleased to be a part of this committee," said Beyazmin Jimenez, Abundant Housing Massachusetts Board President. "I look forward to working with the other members of this committee to explore ways that the City can create more accessible housing in our communities."

"Having worked with previous Boston mayors on planning and affordable housing policy, I'm looking forward to being able to serve the new administration and offer my expertise to shape the conversation around rent stabilization," said Curtis Kemeny, CEO and President of Boston Residential Group. "This is a step in the right direction, and I am confident that the City will work to ensure a thoughtful, inclusive, and balanced policy that works for all residents."

Almost 65% of Bostonians are renters, and more than half of them spend more than 30% of their monthly income on rent, leaving them struggling to save and vulnerable to housing instability. The 2020 Census also made clear that Black families are leaving the city, with the non-Hispanic Black population citywide falling by over 6% between 2010-2020. Rent sta-

bilization is one of many tools to support renters in the short term, alongside longer-term measures that can be used to tackle housing supply and affordability.

The work of this committee would complement the work of the Office of Housing Stability. The Office of Housing Stability helps tenants in housing crises due to fire, natural disaster, eviction, or condemnation with the goal of putting residents on the path to housing stability. Its efforts include launching tenants' rights clinics for those who are not able to come to City Hall during business hours; offering low- and no-cost mediation and dispute resolution for landlords and tenants; launching the Housing Court Navigator, which provides legal advice for tenants; launching the Landlord Incentive program, which offers financial backing for landlords renting to formerly unhoused people; and creating Boston's first-ever online guide to evictions, designed to assist tenants in every phase of a potential eviction proceeding.

Rent stabilization would complement Mayor Wu's other initiatives to address Boston's housing affordability, including the Transfer Fee and Senior Property Tax Exemption Home Rule Petition, and her commitment to update the City's commercial linkage fee and Inclusionary Development Policies. She is also highlighting the importance of Housing by renaming the Department of Neighborhood Development as the Mayor's

Office of Housing, and bringing a new focus on equity by signing an Executive Order relative to affirmatively furthering fair housing.

This Advisory Committee will convene monthly to hear from experts on different rent stabilization models and City officials from the Mayor's Office of Housing and the Boston Planning & Development Agency (BPDA) on local rental market conditions. The committee will also hold community listening sessions throughout the process to hear community perspectives on housing affordability challenges and potential solutions. The first community listening session will be held virtually on April 19th, and the public can RSVP here to attend.

Rent Stabilization Advisory Committee Members:

- Emma Anderson, Boston Teachers Union member
- Kathy Brown, Coordinator at Boston Tenant Coalition
- Joe Byrne, Executive Secretary-Treasurer for the North Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters
- Karen Chen, Executive Director at Chinese Progressive Association
- Filaine Deronnette, Vice President of Health Systems for 1199 SEIU
- Emilio Dorcelly, CEO of Urban Edge
- Dermot Doyne, Local landlord and business owner
- Chris Herbert, Managing Director of the Harvard Joint Cen-

ter for Housing Studies

• Beyazmin Jimenez, Abundant Housing Massachusetts Board President

• Michael Kane, Executive Director at HUD Tenant Alliance

• Brian Kavoojian, Managing Director of National Development

• Curtis Kemeny, CEO and President of Boston Residential Group

• Joe Kriesberg, President of Massachusetts Association of Community Development Corporations

• Denise Matthews-Turner, Co-Executive Director at City Life Vida Urbana

• Lisa Owens, Executive Director at Hyams Foundation

• Jeanne Pinado, Vice President of Capital Markets at Colliers International

• Mimi Ramos, Executive Director at New England United for Justice

• Megan Sandel, Associate Professor of Pediatric Medicine at Boston University

• Chanda Smart, CEO at Onyx

• Lauren Song, Senior Attorney at Greater Boston Legal Services

• Justin Steil, Associate Professor of Law and Urban Planning, MIT

• Carolyn Villers, Executive Director at Mass Senior Action

• Josh Zakim, Founder and Executive Director at Housing Forward MA.

BIKE LANE (from pg. 10)

bers, neighbors and the businesses along Charles Street in discussions concerning the best solution for improving bike use and safety in traversing Beacon Hill between Charles Circle and Beacon Street, and looking at possible pathways for such travel including, but not limited to, Charles Street. In addition, the City of Boston's recently issued 2022 Temporary Outdoor Dining Program, which allows for the use of Charles Street's parking lanes for outdoor dining during the warmer weather months, needs to be taken into consideration in determining how Charles Street might best accommodate bicycle travel during such time periods. The BHCA hopes to be able soon to share its thoughts, based upon its discussions with members, neighbors and businesses, as to what it thinks might be a good plan for bicycle travel through the Beacon Hill historic neighborhood."

Lynne Wolverton, owner of Linsens on the Hill, which has operated at 52 Charles St. since 1987, is dead set against the proposed

Charles Street bike lanes.

"Any other merchant on Charles Street I've talked to is completely against this," said Wolverton. "It's really going to interrupt our business and make it harder for bicyclists to park. There's no parking for bikes if [cyclists] want to come shopping, although I've never had a bicyclist customer in my 24 years in business."

Regarding bicyclists now on Charles Street, Wolverton said, "It's mostly leisure bikers trying to get from point A to point B. I would feel differently if the bicyclists were people who had no other way to get to and from work."

Longtime Beacon Street resident Chris Clyde also strongly opposes the Boston Cyclist Union's plan for bike lanes on Charles Street, citing myriad safety concerns.

"Charles Street is the only route to Beacon Street for firetrucks, ambulances, and police cars coming from Cambridge Street," she said. "They need a clear lane."

Additionally, Clyde said, "There are three nursery schools on Bea-

con Hill. Children walk to the school, and as they get older, they walk alone. There are also six school buses on Beacon Street in the morning to take kids to schools further away...and if [a bicyclist] hits someone, there's no liability."

Clyde also highly doubts that if bike lanes on Charles Street become a reality, bicyclists would abide by traffic regulations.

"Charles Street has six traffic lights, and I've never seen a bike stop at a red light at Charles and Beacon," she said. "The idea that bikes will be going down Charles Street and stopping at all those lights is not believable."

Rep. Jay Livingstone said he looks forward to continuing the dialogue about bike lanes on Charles Street.

"I hope [the Boston Transportation Department] completes its current public process regarding Cambridge Street soon and that any separate discussion of Charles Street does not delay that work," Rep. Livingstone said via text. "I plan to be an active, engaged par-

ticipant of any new public process the City starts regarding Charles Street to make sure we achieve the best result for the neighborhood."

According to a statement from Mayor Michelle Wu's press office, "For the past several years, the City of Boston has been improving walking and bicycling experience as part of the Connect Downtown project. This project includes streets in Back Bay, Bay Village, Beacon Hill, Chinatown, Downtown, the South End, and the West End. For the next phase of this work, we are evaluating additional corridors where there is high demand for bike facilities, including Cambridge Street and Charles Street. At this point, no specific changes or designs have been proposed by the City. The City expects to hold public meetings and provide other opportunities for feedback on these corridors in the coming months and looks forward to a conversation with community members, advocates, and other stakeholders."

Meanwhile, Shames of the Bos-

ton Cyclists Union said the plan for bike lanes on Charles Street is a neighborhood-led initiative.

"This really is led by Beacon Hill residents," he said. "There is a sense that it's a big lobby coming in and trying to change Beacon Hill. [In reality], I go to Beacon Hill residents and they say, 'this is what you should do,' and I do it - I follow their lead."

Shames said the Boston Cyclists Union is now simply looking for a consensus on the proposed Charles Street bike lanes.

"We know this is a contentious issue in the neighborhood sometimes," said Shames. "We want to bring everyone along. We know that Charles Street is best when it's a place for everyone, and when it's a place for everyone, all of Beacon Hill will benefit."

Readers can email their ideas for the proposed Charles Street bike lanes, including the traffic lane preference, to Alex Shames of the Boston Cyclists Union at ashames@bostoncyclistsunion.org, or tag them on social media.

Community gets a look at mock-up for ‘gas-to-electric streetlight retrofit’ on Stuart Street

By Dan Murphy

The Bay Village Historic District Commission held a public meeting to review a mock-up of an electrified gas street-lamp on Monday, March 14, in the area of 212 Stuart St., which could become the city’s standard for its “gas-to-electric streetlight retrofit” throughout the rest of Bay Village, as well as on Beacon Hill and Marlborough Street in the Back Bay.

Michael Donaghy, the city’s street lighting and asset manager, told those in attendance that the new electrified streetlamp would emit light in the 2,400 Kelvin range to match the lighting level of existing gas streetlights in the area.

Donaghy added that the light’s new “assembly,” which is controlled using an iPad, could be burned at a higher temperature, including 2,700, 3,000, or 4,000 Kelvins, and that he’d be happy to discuss this option with the community.

And while the old gas streetlights have a lifespan of only about two years, the new electrified ones are expected to last at least seven years and upwards of 10 years, said Donaghy.

Citywide, there are now approximately 2,800 natural gas streetlights, which are primarily in Bay Village, Back Bay, and Beacon Hill. Although only 4 percent of Boston’s approximately 70,000



D. MURPHY PHOTO

A mock-up of an electrified gaslight installed in the area of 212 Stuart St.

streetlights are gas lit, they account for 37 percent of emissions from the city, while two gas street-lamps burn as much gas each year as the average Massachusetts home, according to the city.

The electrified streetlight was scheduled to be in place on Stuart Street for a week, ending Wednesday, March 16, but Donaghy said he would look into the possibility of keeping it up longer.

The city has also committed to scheduling another public meeting to view the mockup, tentatively set for March 30 at 7 p.m., for the

benefit of Beacon Hill Civic Association, NABB, and members of the Bay Village Historic District Commission who were unable to attend the March 14 meeting. (The Beacon Hill Civic Association’s board of directors meeting was also scheduled for March 14.)

In addition to two other gas-lamps adjacent on the roadway adjacent to the Stuart Street mock-up, the city intends to install four more of them around the corner from it, said Donaghy.

“Our goal is to replicate what was installed here,” said Donaghy,

adding that the Stuart Street design is a Colonial light fixture.

“We use this type of burner-assembly throughout the city,” he added. “The goal is to have a sense of consistency.”

To install more electrified gas-lights, the city would have to go block by block removing the existing gaslines and installing the new electrical system in their place, said Donaghy.

While Donaghy wasn’t aware of any other U.S. city that has undertaken such an extensive program to electrify gas streetlights, he said Berlin, Germany, made such a change in an effort involving just as many gas streetlights as Boston has.

(Sue Prindle, a long-serving Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay board member and chair of the group’s Architecture Committee, added that London, England, has also made a wide push to electrify its gas streetlights.)

Thomas Perkins, president of the Bay Village Neighborhood Association (BVNA) board of directors, said the new lamps would need to look the same as the existing gas streetlights close by, and that the light pattern and diffusion pattern of the new lights would need to be the same as the existing ones.

Moreover, Perkins said that it’s essential that Back Bay and/or

Beacon Hill are on board with this plan so Bay Village doesn’t end up getting stuck with a “one-off” streetlight design.

Elliott Laffer, chair of NABB’s board of directors, said that the time is right to “get away from gas,” although he urged the city to tackle electrifying its gas streetlights “one block at a time to get it over with.”

District 8 City Councilor, who represents Beacon Hill and Back Bay and grew up in Bay Village, said the city has faced a “major supply chain issue” in replacing the gas streetlights during the pandemic in contrast to the much quicker turnaround time for the new electrified ones.

Of the newly unveiled electrified streetlight, Stacia Sheputa, director of communications and community engagement for the Mayor’s Office of Environment, Energy, and Open Space, said, “I think it’s a really innovative approach and a great way for the city to preserve its historical integrity and help the city towards its goal of becoming carbon neutral.”

Greystar, the developer of 212 Stuart St., had originally filed an application for the installation of seven LED streetlamps for consideration at the Bay Village Historic District Commission’s January meeting, but ultimately Greystar withdrew its application amid concerns raised by the BVNA.



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