



Green strip grinning

By **Auditi Guha**/ Staff Writer
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A small, weedy, abandoned lot between Lincoln and Cambridge streets could soon get a makeover with some landscaping, seats, and even artwork.

The Lincoln Street green strip recently received a grant from the New England Foundation for the Arts, said Christina Miller, open space community organizer at the Allston Brighton Community Development Corp.

"Given the strong artist community in Allston, the idea is to create an artistic component," she said. "It could be a really good partnership."

This grant comes on the heels of a \$22,000 Department of Neighborhood Development Grassroots grant available to communities through the federal Housing and Urban Development to get the beautification started.

"A call to artists for ideas gets posted nationally on June 4. Once the project idea is established, we'll know the amount of funding that will be available," Miller said.

The development company has also applied for a Boston Parks Department Small Changes grant and hopes to get the results in June.

With the money falling into place, neighbors of the strip look to add green space and are excited about the possibilities for the Lincoln Street site.

Dream station

A handful of them brainstormed their dream spot on Monday at the first meeting the project organized, in the Honan-Allston Library.

Ideas ranged from a litter pick-up day; putting utility lines underground; fixing the steps and sidewalks; and building a terraced garden.

"It's a real mess of an area with trash and garbage. It would be a good idea for organizations to invest some money and beautify it," said Harry Mattison, a resident who worked with the CDC last year to submit the federal grant proposal.

"I like the idea of having an area to sit and some art there," said Linda O'Connor, a Mansfield Street resident.

"Anything would be better than what's there," added Adamson Street resident Gin Long who is concerned the slope could be difficult to build on.

Royal Street resident Toyoko Kawabata voiced a different concern.

"A woodchuck is living in the area, and I am worried this project would destroy his habitat," she said. "I will support cleaning up the area, landscaping and art. But I kind of want to keep it untouched [otherwise]."

More to address

Residents pointed out quality-of-life and safety issues that need to be addressed as well - parking near Mayflower, Empire and Lincoln streets, pedestrian safety, crosswalks and signs.

It was suggested that the CDC budget a lawyer into the planning process to prevent a billboard from being installed on the corner of Franklin and Lincoln streets, where one was recently removed.

There was some inquiry about how Cambridge Metals got its parking lot between Lincoln and Cambridge streets. Some suggested this parcel could eventually be included in the Lincoln Street green strip for more green.

Piles of cigarette packages have also been found disposed there on several occasions, they said.

The next meeting has been tentatively scheduled for Monday, June 27, at 7 p.m. at the Honan-Allston Library.

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(Editor's note: To learn more about the project, contact Christina Miller at the Allston-Brighton CDC at 617-787-3874, ext. 215, or e-mail miller@allstonbrightoncdc.org.)

artwork.

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