

Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Committee

September 28, 2017

7:30 p.m.

50 Carby Street

Committee Members Present: Michael Kraft (Chair); Steven Olanoff (Vice Chair); Bob Rich (Secretary); Rory Laughna; Jim McLaughlin; George Lester; Paul Sicard; Enkelejda Klosi; Tom Prior;

Committee Members Absent: Todd Korchin; Abigail McCabe; Stephen Botelho;

Meeting called to order at 7:37 pm

Westwood Day – Saturday, September 23

Our booth at Westwood Day was a success. Two (2) people expressed an interest in becoming volunteers and nineteen (19) people expressed an interest in the PedBike email list. Their names were given to Michael Kraft. We distributed 150 children's bicycle helmets that were donated by David White's law firm. Ideas to improve for next year: have more stickers and have some bike lights available for children who did not receive a helmet.

DPW Update (Todd Korchin via email)

1. We met with the MBTA and the winning contractor (Barletta Construction) regarding the East Street Bridge reconstruction slated to begin within a couple of weeks (very minor misc. tasks) and the bulk of the construction/disruption happening next Spring/early Summer. There will be a public presentation October 11th at 7:30 in the Downey Café. This presentation will focus on the actual design, layout, and timeline of the project. Committee members are strongly encouraged to attend.
2. We met with the State last week for an RSA (Road Safety Audit) at the intersection of North Street and Route 109 to discuss some design options heading into our re-construction of the intersection and improvements to the immediate sidewalks (all to be funded with the recent \$175K award through the Complete Streets Program).
3. There will be a Gay Street Sidewalk public meeting next Tuesday October 3rd at 7:30 in the Hanlon School cafeteria. This is regarding the pursuit of funding the design at this coming Fall Town Meeting. Assuming we receive funding for design we will make the process extremely inclusive with the public and will host 3 Public meetings throughout the design during the different benchmarks we hit at 30% design, 70 % design, and 100% design.
4. All of our paving projects are 100% completed for this construction season. We have recently completed the 4 imprinted crosswalks at the intersection of School/East/Washington Street.

Police Department Update – Paul Sicard

A property owner behind Frugal Fannies on Wilson Way is proposing to construct a walking path.

Mass DOT did a Road Safety Audit North and High Street intersection. Ideas are being generated. This will be paid for with Complete Streets money.

Planning Board and Community and Economic Development Update – Abby McCabe via email

- The Marriott Courtyard Hotel is getting ready to open, possibly by mid-October. They still need to do final paving, line painting, final street scape items. They'll be a sidewalk connection behind hotel to connect to MBTA station and garage, once MBTA grants approval but will be in an interim state without final paving until that point.
- Islington Fire Station – to open next week, possibly Monday, 10/2.
- Police Station – getting ready to open late next week, aiming for Friday, 10/6. Once moved in, the old building will be demolished. Final landscaping to be completed in Spring 2018.
- 323 Washington Street – the next mixed use building in Islington Center is getting ready to open. Final punch list items, may open week of 10/9. Steve Olanoff pointed out several issues related to construction: Bicycle racks were not installed correctly. A mirror is being installed behind the building so that pedestrians can see cars coming around the corner. Bollards are being added to three parking spaces. Exit from Berties Creamery may be a safety concern.
- Islington Project: The Board of Selectmen and Petruzziello Properties have signed the Memorandum of Agreement. This means Petruzziello can now engage his full engineering team to work on submitting an application and fully designed plans to the Planning Board. Much work is still needed to submit an application to the Planning Board, but a late November or early December public hearing with the Planning Board may be possible if they can submit within in next 4-6 weeks.
- East Street Bridge: The MBTA will hold a public information session on the East Street Bridge on Wednesday, October 11 at 7:30 pm. The location is TBD. Check back here: <http://www.townhall.westwood.ma.us/cals/default.htm?ViewBy=7&CalDate=10/11/2017&EventDateID=74104>
- Zoning Articles for Town Meeting on 11/13: Planning Board and Board of Selectmen are sponsoring a zoning amendment to add a definitive cap on the number of residential dwelling units that could be issued a special permit in the FMUOD 6 & 7 zoning districts (Washington and High Streets). This article has been submitted to ease concerns about too many residential units and alleviate some fears that there could be hundreds of multi-family units in our village centers. The article proposes limiting the number of possible special permits to 90 in Washington and 90 total in High Street. Full public hearing legal notice with text of draft amendments are located here: <http://www.townhall.westwood.ma.us/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?BlobID=29362>
- Open Space and Recreation Plan – We are beginning to work on updating our Open Space and Recreation Plan and have started a Steering Committee to work on the update. We will have a consultant to assist with the public meetings and vision sessions expected later in the fall or early winter. Stay tuned, we'll provide you updates as they are available. Steve Olanoff will inquire if we can have a member of the PBSC on this steering committee.

New Business

Steve Olanoff had several updates:

1. The street lights on University Ave from Harvard Street to Canton Street are still not fixed.
2. Trees need to be replanted and lighting needs to be addressed at the solar canopy project at the Eversource parking lot.
3. Steve attended the Moving Together conference today in Boston, where several items were discussed including the new speed limit law and cobblestone sidewalks that cover driveways. MassDOT has released a resource document that provides cities and towns the tools and information they need to plan and develop transportation projects and pedestrian networks to support walkable communities.

http://www.massdot.state.ma.us/Portals/17/docs/pedplan/PedPlan_MunicipalResourcesGuide.pdf

The Municipal Resource Guide is part of the more comprehensive Statewide Pedestrian Transportation Plan currently being finalized by MassDOT.

The Guide was developed based on feedback received during interviews that were held with transportation stakeholders including MassDOT staff, the Massachusetts Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board, regional transit authorities, disability commissions, regional planning agencies, and representatives from state and local governments.

MassDOT is soliciting public comment on this draft document until October 31, 2017. Comments can be sent to Pete Sutton, MassDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Coordinator, at peter.sutton@state.ma.us.

We should discuss this document at the next meeting.

The minutes from the August 24, 2017 meeting were approved.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 19th at 7:30 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.