

Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Committee

April 26, 2018

7:30 p.m.

50 Carby Street

Committee Members Present: Steven Olanoff (Vice Chair); Kela Klosi; Tom Prior; Rory Laughna; Paul Sicard; George Lester; Abigail McCabe; Jim McLaughlin; Stephen Botelho

Committee Members Absent: Todd Korchin; Bob Rich (Secretary), Michael Kraft (Chair)

Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm

Steven Olanoff called the meeting to order at 7:30 acting as Chair

New Business:

Mr. Olanoff distributed a draft trails program summary that he prepared with Hale Reservation and submitted to staff for a preliminary review and for this Committee to review prior to submission to the Town Administrator. This program, employing Hale Reservation, proposes a Town-wide Community Trails program for trail maintenance, trail activity and events using Town volunteers. The proposal is for Hale to manage and coordinate efforts but events would be by volunteers and would be throughout Westwood. The Committee reviewed the proposal to give edits prior to submission to the Town Administrator to requesting funding for the proposed program. The program requests \$10,000 annually from the Town to fund the program and would be overseen by the Town Administrator and the Pedestrian and Bike Safety Committee.

DPW & Police Department Updates:

The Complete Streets funding for the North and High Street intersection is underway and currently under construction. The project include new sidewalks accessible ramps, new crosswalks, shortening of the crossing across North Street by Bubbling Brook, a new left turn lane, and new curbing.

A new left turn lane is also currently under construction to be added to Clapboardtree Street to turn left onto Washington Street. There will also be new sidewalks on the Westwood side of the Clapboardtree Street.

East Street Bridge work is under construction but temporarily stopped due to a work accident.

May is distracted driving and seatbelt months and there will be additional enforcement.

Public Works has hired BETA Group to do a complete analysis and evaluation of crosswalks in Westwood that will look at their safety, accessibility and make recommendations.

There will be a public meeting on Wednesday, June 6 at 7:00 pm at the Library to review the 30% design plans for the Gay Street sidewalk proposal. Members or this Committee should plan to attend.

The Committee discussed the status of their recommendation last year for the 25 miles per hour speed limit town wide. Lt. Sicard explained that there was concern with changing the speed limit, it is under review but no supported by all traffic engineers, which was why the standard speed limit throughout the state of 30 miles per hour was first enacted.

On a motion made by Mr. Laughna, seconded by Mr. Botehlo, the Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Committee voted 7-0 to recommend to the Selectmen that the Town apply for and perform a Traffic Engineering Study on University Avenue between Canton Street and Blue Hill Drive to establish official and enforceable posted speed limits on that roadway.

Westwood Day

The Committee talked about expanding the booth/table at Westwood Day to include a greater emphasis on distracted driving this year. The Committee suggested having a laptop available to display videos, suggested finding kids to help with the videos. It was suggested to reach out to the MassDOT's Moving Together Committee about some of the students that created videos for their conference.

The Committee adjourned at 9:00 pm.