

Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Committee

June 28, 2018

7:30 p.m.

50 Carby Street

Committee Members Present: Steven Olanoff (Vice Chair); Tom Prior; Rory Laughna; Paul Sicard; George Lester; Stephen Botelho; Michael Kraft (Chair)

Committee Members Absent: Todd Korchin; Abigail McCabe; Jim McLaughlin; Kela Klosi

Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm

Michael Kraft called the meeting to order at 7:30 Chair

Guests in attendance: Dave Atkins (Planning Board); Brian Gorman (Planning Board); Elaine De-Reyna (Hartford St); Jen Skolund (Dover Rd); Kate Langenberg (Dover Rd); Bill Langenberg (Dover Rd)

DPW Updates: (emailed in advance)

From: Todd Korchin

Sent: Friday, June 22, 2018 2:13 PM

To: Abigail McCabe

Subject: RE: Pedestrian & Bicycle Safety Committee Meeting - Thur., June 28, 2018 at 7:30 pm

Abby, for the Committee.....

The meeting was well attended and feedback was given by several residents regarding the possibility of looking into areas where the sidewalk could be constructed behind the existing rock wall. TEC is currently looking into this and will provide a thorough evaluation of locations by which this might be an option. The recommendation given by TEC was to keep the sidewalk along the North side of Gay Street the entire length as this would limit the number of trees impacted, rock wall disturbed, and number of crossings. Also, all of the work on the North side would be within the Town's right of way.

We are on the BOS agenda for July 23rd to provide a recap of the Public Meeting we hosted earlier this month and to solicit feedback from all 3 members. Following that meeting we will then continue to complete the design and will look to host a 70% design meeting with the public once again (more than likely in the early Fall).

Todd Korchin

Director of Public Works

Town of Westwood, Ma

50 Carby Street

Westwood, Ma 02090

Westwood Community Trails Program Update:

Steve Olanoff described the program in brief to guests and gave an update. Volunteers will be needed for the trail work. Efforts are currently being organized with leaders from Hale Reservation.

Police Department Updates:

Officer Paul Sicard spoke of the sidewalks on North Street that are now complete as well as some line painting that needs to be finalized.

Paul also spoke of the review BETA has been hired to perform of the crosswalks; signage; lighting; motion vs push button activation. BETA will be reviewing and prioritizing the needs of each crosswalk.

Planning Board Updates:

David Atkins provided a description of the initiative for the Comprehensive Planning Process and gave an update. To help rewrite the plan to ensure the vision of the town is captured input from all areas of the town are needed. This includes the Bike & Pedestrian Safety Committee.

New Business:

- Steve Olanoff - commented on BETA's review of crosswalks to ensure signage, lighting, motion vs push button are included
- Steve Olanoff and Paul Sicard commented on sidewalk initiatives: consider having video of busy sidewalks that are successful in other towns. Paul specifically recommends video during snowy periods after sidewalks have been cleared to reflect town's commitment to keeping them clear for pedestrians.
- Michael Kraft (chair) - Motion Made - To recognize Bob Rich publicly for his hard work and commitment to the Bike & Pedestrian Safety Committee.
 - 2nd for the motion provided by Rory Laughna
- Steve Olanoff - spoke of the Gay Street sidewalk design specifics with a focus on an interest in having the walkway located behind the stone wall. He spoke of the benefits of safety, aesthetics and cost savings. He also spoke of the next steps of the project. How do we push for a design that is behind the wall?
 - Motion Made by Steve Olanoff to Recommend a design for behind the wall option for increased safety and cost savings as well as aesthetics to be considered for the entire sidewalk.
 - 2nd to the motion from Stephen Botelho
 - After further discussion from the rest of the committee Rory pointed out that our committee is not in the position to speak to the cost savings.
 - Amendment to original motion from Steve Olanoff - "Examine options for the Gay Street sidewalk design behind the wall. The Bike & Pedestrian Safety Committee recommends it is safer and aesthetically more pleasing."
 - amended motion was 2nd by Tom Prior

New Items from guests in Attendance:

- Elaine De-Reyna of Hartford Street spoke of the concerns with the increasing traffic volume and rate of speed as a pedestrian risk especially due to the lack of curb divide for the sidewalk. The potential for a car to drive across the sidewalk and contact a pedestrian is too great. She shared a survey letter that she plans to distribute to neighbors. She would like more focus in this area to improve the sidewalk design and general pedestrian safety. Elaine has many neighbors willing to work with the town with any design modifications that would need to be made to improve safety.
- Jen Skolund; Kate Langenberg; Bill Langenberg - all from Dover Rd spoke of the need of sidewalks and the challenges they face by not having them. The current road configuration and

property layout would make an approved official sidewalk difficult to design and implement. Some alternatives were discussed such as private paths to serve as temporary solutions. Long term solutions such as a permanent sidewalk would need community support to start any initiative. Jen, Bill and Kate are willing to get the support of neighbors. The current Gay Street project was used as an example of some difficulties that can be faced when attempting to add a new sidewalk to a street that has historically been considered rural.

- All guests in attendance were open to the idea of attending regular meetings as members.

Westwood Day

- Paul Sicard mentioned contact at Mass General Hospital that may be able to provide safety gear for the booth.
- Stephen Botelho - mentioned possible contributions from Dedham Bike, information about our committee need to be provided.

Elections for Committee Members

- Chair - Michael Kraft
- Vice Chair - Steve Olanoff
- Secretary - Stephen Botelho

Prior Meeting Minutes

- Steve Olanoff moved to approve minutes from March 22, April 26, May 24

Next Meeting

- Next meeting scheduled for August 16, 2018

Meeting Adjourns at 9:20