

Pedestrian and Bike Safety Committee

December 6, 2018 7:30pm meeting

50 Carby Street

Board Members in attendance:

Chair Michael Kraft, Vice Chair Steve Olanoff, Secretary Stephen Botelho, Brian Gorman, George Lester, Kate Wynne, Jim McLaughlin. Ex-Officio members Paul Sicard, Abby McCabe, and Todd Korchin.

Guests in attendance:

Elaine De-Reyna (221 Hartford Street), Richard De-Reyna (221 Hartford Street), Susan Flanagan-Cahill (53 Warwick Dr), Doris Forseith (392 Oak St), Diane Hayes (84 Magnolic Dr), Maureen Greaulish (18 Oak Street), Elizabeth Nicosia (430 Pond Street), Craig James (158 Oak Street), James Hallahan (127 Cobleigh St), Benny Hallahan (127 Cobleigh St), Kyle Hallahan (127 Cobleigh St), Jared Levin (8 Wildwood Drive)

Call to order by Michael Kraft at 7:36

- **Trails Committee update** – Steve Olanoff – A couple of hikes have taken place. Rich De-Reyna spoke of the details of one of the hikes behind Martha Jones. Goal is to get people interested in the trails and possibly adopting a trail for maintenance. Rich admits there needs to be some type of website to publicize the hikes to let folks know when they are happening. WW Patch announces the hikes on Face Book. The hikes are dog friendly too.
 - **Michael indicated he would love to get updates on the hikes.** This can be done by going to the town website and getting updates via the WW Wire.
 - **Trail clearing is one of the initiatives that need to be organized.**
 - **Rec department and DPW will help to fund the trail clearing.**
- **DPW update** – Todd Korchin – spoke about road improvement bond they have proposed to help fund the traffic calming work needed in some areas. This includes sidewalk and paving enhancements. There are still ongoing studies for the crosswalks (early estimates are around \$500K for improvements of crosswalks). There are proposals being presented to the finance committee. Todd agrees there needs to be sidewalks from High Rock to Wessex. There are other areas they would like to include in the road improvement bond (help to cover items outside of chapter 90). In the next few years Todd expects to see significant improvements to sidewalks in the area. The top priority is sidewalk safety and second is infrastructure.
 - Gay Street sidewalk is a separately funded project than the cross walks and other street improvements (it is not part of the bond the DPW is seeking). Todd expects to hear back from the state within a couple of weeks.

- Steve Olanoff asked about granite curbing on Hartford street to slow traffic down or what other measures there could be used. Todd replied that on Hartford speed humps are just not possible but granite curbing would be a benefit for safety of the pedestrians.
- Michael asked about crosswalk improvements to get a few examples of what was done. Todd indicated much of the work was to identify the deficiencies and put additional signage as much as possible. Paul commented that the signs themselves can be redundant and confusing.
- Todd discussed the Farm Lane and pleasant valley. neighborhood traffic issues. During morning commuter hours and afternoon hours there is a significant spike in traffic. Residents have appealed to the town to request that there be a restriction on turning into the neighborhood during certain hours.
- Complete streets next meeting is Feb 5th at 50 Carby street. Also clapboard tree
- Gay st sidewalk next meeting is Feb 12th at Library for the 50% meeting.
- Adaptive signals – project confirmed and due to go live spring 2020
- Steve Olanoff mentioned Uber tax that gets the town money. You rent an Uber and a portion goes to the town. This past year \$5301.
- **Police Department** – Paul Sicard – brought up the East Street bridge being completed. Commented that there have been no accidents. Roadway is wider even with barriers. Pedestrian pathway is much safer. This was a significant change to the area that makes it much safer. Paul confirmed that there have been no accidents. Some residents said there were accidents since but Paul confirmed there were none.
 - Grants – traffic enforcement grant applied for. 10K to put 5k towards officers to put them out on the road specifically for radar. This allows for the sole duty of the officer to be traffic enforcement. The equipment portion of the money will go to a l-dar (laser beam) gun for monitoring speed to enforce speed.
 - Decoy enforcements are another grant that can be sought by the town. This allows for a plain clothes officer to walk into crosswalks to catch drivers that choose not to stop.
 - Paul explained the details of the right of way for pedestrian crosswalks.
 - Steve Olanoff commented on East Street sidewalk and mentioned that he was interviewed by NECN (not NESN).
- **Planning Board** – Abby – seeking to have this board make recommendation for the High Street striping project to open the lanes between Summer and Lowder Brook drive. Steve Olanoff made motion to make recommendation to re-stripe the lanes from one lane to two lanes on a

trail basis, Stephen Botelho second the motion to make the improvements aimed at improving traffic flow on High Street/Route 109.

- Comprehensive plan – Steve Olanoff and Kate Wynne selected as steering committee members.
- Steering committee for Open Spaces and Recreation Steve and Brian – holding hearing next week. Recommendation is to seek to use town preservation act to help provide funding. Past Nov 15th meeting produced more defined goals for the committee.
 - Michael asked how this would improve home values. What is the incentive to having tax payers adopt funding these initiatives?
 - Abby: a town with an open space and recreation plan is typically more eligible for grants.
- Islington Ctr redevelopment project – Diva Café should be torn down soon, developer plans to restore Blue Hart Tavern and move to where municipal lot currently is. Possibly an apartment will be on top and owner looking at uses for the first floor. The Library will be located nearby. Three stages to the project: 1 relocate CVS; 2 move library and MMO; 3 create condo structures on old library site.
- Westwood Lodge property – proposal going to the board for a senior housing unit. 15% will need to be affordable. Planning board will discuss this coming Tuesday night. 7pm at the Downey school
 - Field remains available
 - Sidewalks need to be evaluated for pedestrians
 - Note that it is a special permit that the developer is seeking. There are fewer restrictions.
 - By right the developer can put up 11 single-family house lots. The developer is looking to get a special permit to make a different design so there is an open space senior development, with some affordable units included as required. Developer is proposing 40 units in the age-restricted open space residential development.
- **Residents** – Elaine De-Rayna asked what the average speed for Hartford St – Todd replied it is 39 / 38 MPH.
 - Can signs requesting courtesy to side street traffic be put up (Elaine): reply from board is that these signs are not effective.

- Oak Street residents – Diane Hayes asked about traffic on Oak Street with the hopes to calm the traffic. There are aggressive drivers. A written recommendation of suggestions have been provided by the residents. (copy and paste in the recommendations from residents that were provided prior to this meeting)
 - Todd commented that speed humps do not qualify for Oak street because of the traffic volume and general engineering standards.
 - Todd asked residents if studies can be reviewed before any changes are made. The traffic amount combined with the coming winter do not allow for making swift changes to the area. They need to be designed correctly and implemented when the weather allows for it (spring).
 - Todd said that in the meantime signs can be applied to cross walk areas around Oak Street. Todd will have Brendan Ryan order 6 signs (snap n go type).
 - Todd and Paul gave suggestions to the residents on approaching the selectmen board as well as the FinCom committee to see what outside funding they can look to for helping with cross walk and traffic calming improvements.
- Jan 24th next meeting.
- Kayla will be absent from meetings at least until July.