

Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Committee

January 26, 2017

7:30 p.m.

50 Carby Street

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

Committee Members Absent: Todd Korchin

Meeting called to order at 7:40 pm

DPW Update

No updates.

Police Department Update – Paul Sicard

The East Street bridge project is moving forward.

The new State traffic speed limit law was discussed. Towns that accept the new law can lower the speed limit in non-posted thickly settled areas from 30 mph to 25 mph. These changes would not affect any streets with posted speed limits. After this discussion, Steve Olanoff made a three-part motion: 1) The Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Committee recommends that the Town adopt the new state speed limit law, 2) The Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Committee recommends that the Town go through the process of establishing posted speed limits on University Ave between Canton Street and Route 128, as this street has no posted speed limits since its reconstruction and 25 mph would be inappropriate there, and 3) The Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Committee recommends that the Town consider going through the State speed limit posting process for any individual unposted street that may not be appropriate for a speed limit reduction. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Planning Board and Community and Economic Development Update – Steve Olanoff

In the December meeting, a subcommittee was formed to explore the role that the committee can play on supporting more walking, running, hiking, and bicycling in town. Michael Kraft, Steve Olanoff and Bob Rich were nominated to this subcommittee. The subcommittee met in early January. Steve Olanoff reported that the proposed Town sidewalk fund, receiving money from developers who are granted a waiver from installing sidewalks on both sides of a street, needs to be defined such that the funds will only be used for new pedestrian and bicycle facilities such as sidewalks, paths, and trails.

The subcommittee is working on a plan with Hale Reservation to have their professional staff coordinate events, programs, and the organization of volunteers to lead these activities throughout the Town. Such programs will provide regular opportunities for Westwood residents to walk, run, hike, and bike, as well as volunteering for helping and leading these activities. The committee is trying to find a source of funding for the program.

New Items from Residents in Attendance

There were no new items from residents, but there was some discussion about updates to certain sidewalks in town for Chapter 90 funding. It was recommended that committee members review the Complete Streets document so that we can determine items that should be addressed with Todd Korchin at a subsequent meeting (e.g. sidewalks on Hartford Street). The Complete Streets document can be found on the Town website: <http://www.townhall.westwood.ma.us/index.cfm/page/Planning-Board/pid/25576>.

Islington Task Force

The Islington Task Force Committee has been meeting monthly to review and discuss the redevelopment of that area. The committee met in January to discuss two new proposals, making a total of six proposals. Option 2 and 6 are the most popular proposals thus far. The next review of plans is scheduled for February 15th. The plan is to spend March and April to deliberate on the plans and then send a recommendation to the Board of Selectman. The Selectman will then determine if they will enter into an agreement with the developer, Petruzzello Properties. The developer doesn't have any right to town owned property unless the Town permits it. A vote at Town Meeting is required for approval, expected to be held in Fall 2017.

University Station

Plans for a walkway from the train station parking lot to the Marriott Courtyard hotel will be reviewed by the committee when they are finalized.

New Business:

2016 Annual Report - Bob Rich volunteered to write a draft of the 2016 Annual Report for the committee. The report is due by March 31st.

Conflict of Interest Law – Committee members read and signed the document form at the meeting, which the Town requires annually. Online training is required every 2 years.

Dedham Heritage Rail Trail – George Lester distributed an article newspaper written by Dedham residents listing the pros and cons of constructing a rail trail in Dedham.

Westwood Day - Virginia Lester discussed making a Pedestrian and Bike Safety banner for our table at Westwood Day this year. George and Virginia Lester recently inquired about a table banner from FedEx and Staples. George, Virginia and Kela Klosi will work on this topic and make a recommendation for the next meeting. Michael Kraft asked Abby McCabe to check and see if there is some money available from the Planning Board for small expenditures such as this banner.

Old Business:

The December meeting minutes were approved.

The new Westwood Town website will be going live next week.

The next committee meeting will be held on February 23rd.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.