

## **Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Committee**

February 23, 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; Abigail McCabe; Tom Prior

Committee Members Absent: Todd Korchin, George Lester; Virginia Lester; Enkelejda Klosi; Stephen Botelho; Paul Sicard;

Meeting called to order at 7:35 pm

### **DPW Update (Todd Korchin via email)**

Complete Streets update: The Town recently awarded the bid to Lorusso Corp to install the sidewalk along Route 109 from Pond Street to Mill Brook, reconfigure the intersection of Route 109 at Pond Street, and install the bicycle lane along Blue Hill Drive. DPW will be coordinating a pre-construction meeting with them and scheduling the work, all of which will be completed by July 1 of this year.

Todd is also pursuing another Town Meeting request of \$60,000 for the design of future projects to be applied for through the Complete Streets program. These projects consist of improvements to the North Street/Route 109 intersection, re-design of the Clapboardtree/Winter Street intersection (that will include extending the sidewalk to connect from Clapboardtree to Winter Street), and continued improvements to the Town's sidewalk infrastructure.

Todd is waiting for TEC to finalize the Gay Street sidewalk survey and then will meet with Gay Street residents to discuss.

### **Police Department Update – Paul Sicard**

No update.

### **Planning Board and Community and Economic Development Update – Abby McCabe and Steve Olanoff**

There is a Planning Board meeting on Tuesday, February 28. The Planning Board will consider two articles that may affect pedestrian and bicycle safety:

Article 8: To see if the Town will vote to approve certain zoning amendments to the Westwood Zoning Bylaw related to Section 5.5.5 [Corner Clearance] to prohibit fences from being located within a certain distance from intersections, or take any other action in relation thereto. Note: we discussed our desire to have the Planning Board include bushes, fences and other structures to this article so that none of these impede pedestrian, cyclist and automobile visibility. The Planning Board will make a zoning bylaw recommendation, write the article and then send it to Town Meeting for approval.

Article 13 (Petitioner's Article): To see if the Town will vote to approve certain zoning amendments to Section 9.5 [Flexible Multiple Use Overlay District (FMUOD)] to eliminate multi-family residential uses within the FMUOD-6 (Washington Street Business District) and FMUOD-7 (High Street Business District) and remove reference to the percentage of Residential Units in Section 9.5.13, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Note: we discussed how this article may affect building additional housing units in Westwood and its effect on pedestrian and bicycle activity in Town.

The Town election will be held on Tuesday, April 25<sup>th</sup>. Westwood will vote on whether or not we will permit facilities to sell recreational (i.e., non-medical) marijuana. This needs a 10% turnout of Town voters to meet the quorum.

The Town is looking to increase accessory apartment special permits from 1% (45) to 2% (90).

### **Subcommittee to Promote Walking, Running, Hiking and Bicycling**

In the December 2016 meeting, a subcommittee was formed to explore the role that the committee can play on supporting more walking, running, hiking and bicycling in town. 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. Steve Olanoff reported that we missed the budget deadline for this year, since budgets are approved by the Board of Selectmen in December. At the next subcommittee meeting, we will invite Eric Arnold, Executive Director of Hale Reservation to attend.

### **New Items from Residents in Attendance**

There were no new items from residents.

### **Islington Task Force**

There will be a meeting on Wednesday, March 22 of the Islington Task Force at Thurston Middle School to discuss new development plans for Islington. There will also be another meeting on Wednesday, April 12. The Islington Task Force is trying to reach a consensus on a plan for Islington redevelopment so that they can make a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen. 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.

### **New Business:**

The 2016 Annual Report was approved by the committee.

Westwood Day - Abby McCabe reported that there is a small amount of money from the Planning Board that can cover the cost of purchasing a committee table banner for Westwood Day.

### **Old Business:**

An issue was raised by Dave Atkins regarding the temporary closure of a sidewalk in Islington in front of a current construction site. Dave was concerned that there was no way for pedestrians to safely use the westbound sidewalk of Washington Street without walking in the street into oncoming traffic. Michael Kraft sent Paul Sicard an email to investigate this issue.

The MassDOT Complete Streets Funding Program Project Prioritization Plan is listed on the Town website: <http://www.townhall.westwood.ma.us/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?BlobID=28001>. Committee members are encouraged to review the list prior to our next meeting for a discussion, so that we can offer suggestions to the DPW on which projects to prioritize after current construction is complete.

The January meeting minutes were approved.

Abby requested that all members of the committee go on the new Westwood Town website to sign up for meeting notifications.

The next committee meeting will be held on Thursday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.