

Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Committee

March 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; Tom Prior; Abigail McCabe; Stephen Botelho; Paul Sicard; Enkelejda Klosi;

Committee Members Absent: Todd Korchin; George Lester; Virginia Lester

Meeting called to order at 7:35 pm

DPW Update (Paul Sicard on behalf of Todd Korchin)

Complete Streets update: The Town recently awarded the bid to Lorusso Corporation to install a sidewalk along Route 109 from Mill Street to Mill Brook Road, reconfigure the intersection of High Street and Pond Street, and install a bicycle lane along Blue Hill Drive. Work will start next week on the Mill to Mill Brook portion of the project and the reconfiguration of the intersection at Pond and High Streets. The project will be completed by July 1st.

Police Department Update – Paul Sicard

The temporary closure of a sidewalk in Islington in front of a current construction site will remain in effect until the project is complete, expected to be this summer.

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

There will be a meeting of the Planning Board on April 11th to discuss modifying plans to the University Station village area. Our committee reviewed the Phase II Master Development Plan and discussed traffic flow, parking, sidewalks, greenery, etc. We had some serious concerns about pedestrian and bicycle access. The following motion by Rory Laughna was seconded and then discussed: **The PBSC recommends against the proposed University Station plan modification because 1) it fails to adequately address pedestrian and bicycle safety and vehicle circulation, 2) it lacks destinations for reasonable recreation and connectivity to the other areas within the development, 3) it otherwise fails to fulfill the vision as originally presented to the Town and 4) it is not a true mixed use development.** The motion passed unanimously.

The Planning Board will be attending the Finance and Warrant Commission's public hearing on Monday, March 27. Two articles will be discussed that may affect pedestrian and bicycle safety: Article 8: the height of fences, landscaping and other structures at intersections, and Article 13: the elimination of multi-family residential uses within the Washington Street and High Street business districts.

Subcommittee to Promote Walking, Running, Hiking and Bicycling

Eric Arnold or a member of his staff from Hale Reservation will attend next PBSC meeting in April. The committee is encouraged to brainstorm ideas about what the program with Hale could entail before the next meeting.

New Items from Residents in Attendance

There were no new items from residents.

Islington Task Force

There was a meeting on Wednesday, March 22nd of the Islington Task Force to discuss new development plans for Islington. The Islington Task Force reached a consensus on Option 6 with conditions for Islington redevelopment and will make a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen for their consideration. A vote at Town Meeting is required for the use of town-owned land, expected to be held in Fall, 2017.

New Business:

Fox Meadow Drive is currently a private road and is being considered as a public way. The Planning Board voted against accepting the street as a public way due to fact that the sidewalks are not currently ADA compliant. The Planning Board has been asked to reconsider its vote, the Selectmen will then vote, and it will go to Town meeting. The following motion by Rory Laughna was seconded and then discussed: **The PBSC recommends that the Planning Board does not approve Fox Meadow Drive as a public way because the sidewalks are not currently ADA compliant.** The motion passed unanimously with one abstention by Steve Olanoff.

Old Business:

The MassDOT Complete Streets Funding Program Project Prioritization Plan is a reference list on the Town website: <http://www.townhall.westwood.ma.us/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?BlobID=28001>. Michael Kraft asked committee members to pick their top 3-5 project priorities and send them to Steve Olanoff before the next meeting and he will assemble a list for discussion at our next meeting in April.

The February meeting minutes were approved.

The next committee meeting will be held on Thursday, April 27th.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.