

Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Committee

April 27, 2017

7:30 p.m.

50 Carby Street

Committee Members Present: Steven Olanoff (Vice Chair); Bob Rich (Secretary); Rory Laughna; Jim McLaughlin; Tom Prior; Abigail McCabe; Paul Sicard; George Lester;

Committee Members Absent: Todd Korchin; Michael Kraft (Chair); Stephen Botelho; Enkelejda Klosi;

Others Present: Tyler Simpson from Hale Reservation, Todd Sullivan from the Conservation Commission, Nicole Banks the Town's Recreation Director, and Karen Manor Metzold of Westwood Land Trust.

Meeting called to order at 7:35 pm

New Business: Trails and Sidewalks Discussion on possible partnership with Hale Reservation and other agencies

Steven Olanoff explained that he and two other members (Michael Kraft and Bob Rich) have created a subcommittee to look into a trails program with the goal of having a paid person responsible for coordinating volunteers. Westwood doesn't have a shortage of volunteers but it is important to have a person consistently coordinating to organize trail maintenance, clean up events, create maps, and organize hikes and walks or other similar events that encourage more pedestrian activity throughout town and in the area. A new part time position is recommended to have a main point of contact to identify needs, areas of improvement, establish a website, and provide more structured efforts. Tyler Simpson from Hale Reservation was present shared some ideas that Hale has and they are interested in participating. Some ideas included an "adopt a trail" program, community walks, organized monthly hiking events, an annual volunteer training day, publicity, and earth day events. The Committee discussed ways to fund the position such as grants, donations and corporate sponsorships from local businesses, and a more steady revenue stream.

DPW Update (Abby McCabe 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 is ahead of schedule and will be completed soon. Todd is working on the next round of Complete Streets funding and will submit an application to improve North Street and High Street by (Bubbling Brook) and Winter Street and Clapboardtree Street intersections.

Police Department Update – Paul Sicard

Work on the Dedham Street off ramp has started. A three week grant to reduce the dangers of distracted driving was just completed. There will be a crackdown on illegal use of handicapped parking placards from May 6-13.

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

There was 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 Site Plan and discussed traffic flow, parking,

sidewalks, greenery, etc. The Pedestrian and Bike Safety Committee ultimately recommended the Planning Board not approve the University Station Modified Master Development Plan, but the Planning Board ultimately approved it on April 11. The Planning Board will continue to work to improve the undeveloped areas of University Station to emphasis pedestrian connections and encourage a walkable environment and they will next be reviewing a proposal from Brigham and Women’s at their May 9 meeting. Town Meeting is scheduled for May 1. The Islington Center Task Force has completed their review of the request for proposals submissions for the Town-owned properties in Islington and are recommending what has been referred to as “option 6” (to rebuild and replicate the ICC building, a new CVS on School Street corner, relocate and renovate the library to were the municipal parking lot is, restore the Blue Hart Tavern and locate next to the library on the west side of Washington Street, and construct a new mixed use building and community center on the east side of Washington Street). The Task Force and the Developer that responded to the request for proposals is expected to present to the Board of Selectmen on May 15.

New Items from Residents in Attendance

There were no new items from residents.

Old Business:

Steve reminded everyone to send their suggested sidewalk upgrades and improvement priority list to him or Mike Kraft prior to the next meeting.

The minutes from the March meeting were approved.

George Lester presented ideas for a new Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety banner for Westwood Day. He presented banner concepts for the committee to review and after discussion, a general consensus was formed. George will gather more information on vendors and pricing for the next meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 25th at 7:30 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 pm.