

Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Committee

December 7, 2017

7:30 p.m.

50 Carby Street

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

Committee Members Absent: George Lester; Jim McLaughlin;

Meeting called to order at 7:35 pm

There was a moment of silence for Eddie Thomson.

DPW Update – Todd Korchin

- The Gay Street sidewalk design funding article was approved at Town Meeting on Monday, November 13th, which allows the Town to spend \$225,000 for the sidewalk design. TEC has been contracted for the project. The first public meeting to solicit initial feedback from residents will be held at the 25% design level (estimated to be around May 2018). The second public meeting will be held at the 75% design level. The third public meeting will be held at the 100% design level and will include a presentation to the Selectman as well as a public meeting.
- Adaptive traffic lights are being investigated for High Street to better coordinate traffic.
- High Street and North Street intersection update – Todd presented plans for the High Street and North Street intersection near Bubbling Brook. The plans are similar to the improvements that were recently made at the High Street and Pond Street intersection. Complete Streets funding (\$175,000) will be used to pay for the project.
- TEC is working on designs for the Winter and Clapboardtree Street intersection.
- Joe Previtera (16 Dean Street) informed the committee that traffic calming measures using striping and painting on Newton Street in Brookline has worked well. Todd Korchin to meet with the head of Brookline DPW to discuss.
- Dave Atkins (85 Parker Street) would like to see the DPW create a list of smaller projects in Westwood (e.g. flashing beacons on crosswalks). He also suggested that the Town create a fund to support these projects, and tentatively suggested that this be named the Pedestrian and Crosswalk Safety Improvement Fund. If approved, this could potentially be funded at Town Meeting with Free Cash and through grant programs. The deadline for an article on the Spring Town Meeting warrant is early January. Todd Korchin will inquire about a placeholder for an article until there is sufficient time to draft an article.
- There was a broader discussion of funding for DPW projects. Westwood receives \$540,000 from state chapter 90 funding each year. Todd tries to stretch the dollars as much as possible, but the amount received by each town is considerably less than needed by most towns and is thus insufficient to complete all projects.

Zagster Bike Sharing Presentation – Derek Stehlin

- Derek Stehlin from Zagster made a presentation to the committee.
- Shared mobility (e.g. Uber, Lyft) and bike sharing has grown considerably over past 10 years.

- Zagster is a 10-year-old company that provides full service bike sharing services. Users can access the bikes through a mobile app on their phones. Riders need to be 18 years or older due to liability. Helmets are not provided.
- The economic model for Zagster bike sharing is based on community financial support (through grants, corporations, towns, universities).
- National Development in Westwood has a Zagster system that is open to the public on Station Drive off of University Avenue.
- The committee will discuss in greater detail at a later meeting.

Police Department Update – Paul Sicard

- East Street bridge update: Trees have been cleared and railroad ties have been delivered. The site work is underway and the majority of construction will be in 2018 and completed in 2019.
- University Ave update: National Development is working on the railroad crossing project. CSX to install new tracks.
- A 15-unit age restricted housing complex has been tentatively proposed at Harlequin Stables on Route 109. This open space residential development could provide an opportunity for sidewalk improvements in this area of town.

Planning Board and Community and Economic Development Update – Abby McCabe

- University Station Phase II / Residential Development Upcoming Planning Board Application – A special permit for Hawthorne at University Station is being submitted. This is a proposal for 100 residential condos in two 4-story buildings (50 units each) with underground parking, located between Bridges Senior Assisted Living and Brigham & Women's. There will be a public hearing to discuss this topic on January 9, 2018.
- Islington Project update: The CVS no longer includes a drive-through. An application to the Planning Board is expected to be submitted very soon for a January public hearing.
- Open Space and Recreation Plan update – Westwood is updating the Open Space and Recreation Plan and have formed a Steering Committee to work on the update. Steve Olanoff was elected chair of this committee. A survey was commissioned and Steve Olanoff briefly reviewed the results of the survey, in which over 600 Westwood residents responded. A vision session is scheduled for Thursday, January 18th at the Thurston middle school cafeteria at 7 pm [Rescheduled to February 1].

New Business

Vesna Maneva (1208 High Street) is a new resident in Westwood, who expressed an interest in getting involved in the committee. She was encouraged to attend upcoming committee meetings.

A motion was made by Paul Sicard to create a placeholder to create an article on the Spring Town Meeting warrant for a pedestrian and crosswalk safety improvement fund. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Todd Korchin will discuss with Mike Jaillet.

The minutes from the October 19th, 2017 meeting were approved.

The next PBSC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 25, 2018 at 7:30 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.