

Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Committee

February 18, 2016

7:30 p.m.

50 Carby Street

Committee Members Present: Dave Atkins (Chair); George Lester; Virginia Lester; Lucy Maroun; Bob Rich (Secretary)

Committee Members Absent: Michael Kraft (Vice Chair); David White; Steven Olanoff; Enkelejda Klosi; Todd Korchin

Ex Officio Attendees: Paul Sicard; Abigail McCabe

Resident Attendees: Eric McKenna (30 Putting Drive), John O'Brien Jr (91 Hawktree Drive)

Meeting called to order at 7:43 pm

Police Update:

Sgt. Sicard informed the committee that neighbors initially had concerns about the fencing that was installed at the East Street rotary. There were concerns from residents that adding fences would reduce sight lines and visibility approaching the rotary. However, thus far there has been a reduction of traffic accidents since the fencing was added. Sgt Sicard also said that the town is looking into adding a sidewalk on Nahatan Street from Clapboardtree Street to the Norwood town line.

DPW Update: (Todd Korchin via Dave Atkins)

Mr. Korchin reported that the Westwood Complete Street document that was recently written and approved at Town Meeting received a rating of 89, one of the highest ratings in the state. This now allows Westwood to apply for up to \$50,000 in funding for sidewalk projects. Westwood should prioritize a town sidewalk list in preparation for this application.

Article 18 on the upcoming Town Warrant authorizing funding for the design of the sidewalk project on Gay Street will be presented at Town Meeting in May.

January meeting minutes were approved

New Business:

There was a discussion regarding the application for development of 301-315, 317, & 323 Washington Street in Islington. The developers had met with the Planning Board on January 12, 2016, revised the plan, and will return to present the new plan to the Planning Board on February 23, 2016. Dave Atkins had provided input to the developer and Ms. McCabe showed

the revised plans to the committee. The committee reviewed the revised plans and had questions regarding 1) the inclusion of recycling bins in the project space, and 2) who cleans the outdoor general seating areas. No formal actions were taken by the committee at this time.

Dave Atkins presented proposed plans to improve the East Street bridge. The plan that was shown will both lower the road and raise the bridge. This will increase the clearance from the current 10'6" to 13'6". The road under the bridge will also be widened. Steve Olanoff (via email) reminded the committee that 1) Everett and Canton Streets should not be used as cut-throughs during construction since they are residential streets, and 2) the 6' wide sidewalks planned for both sides of the road under the bridge should not be reduced by the width of the curbing. Sgt. Sicard thought that one lane of traffic will be available under the bridge during construction except for a few week-ends in which traffic will be completely shut down.

Virginia Lester discussed the bicycling bills that were discussed on Beacon Hill on January 6, 2016 before the Joint Committee on Transportation. The committee is considering the following four bills that affect cyclists. MASSBIKE encourages all citizens to contact their lawmakers to support these bills. To track the progress of these bills, visit www.malegislature.gov and type in the following bill numbers:

Truck Side Guard Bill H. 3019/S. 1810

This bill would require side guards and convex mirrors on larger vehicles operating in Massachusetts.

Bike Lane Bill H. 3072/S. 1808

This bill is pretty simple in that it would make standing or parking in a bike lane or other on-road bike facility a ticketable offense with a \$100 fine.

Vulnerable Users Bill H. 3073/S. 1807

This bill would require motorists to provide a minimum of three-feet when overtaking a "vulnerable user" even if it requires them to cross the centerline to do so.

Bike Path Crosswalk Bill S. 1809

Passage of this bill would make it legal for bicyclists to do what they are already doing: ride across a bike path crosswalk, provided they yield to pedestrians and operate with reasonable caution.

Dave Atkins informed the committee that there is a petition article from the residents on Dover Terrace planned for Town Meeting. FinCom will review. No action was taken from the Pedestrian and Bike Safety Committee.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 24, 2016 at 7:30 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 9:28 pm.