

Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Committee

January 6, 2016

7:00 p.m.

50 Carby Street

Committee Members Present: Dave Atkins (Chair); Steven Olanoff; Enkelejda Klosi; George Lester; Virginia Lester, Lucy Maroun; Bob Rich (Secretary)

Committee Members Absent: Michael Kraft (Vice Chair); David White

Ex Officio Attendees: Paul Sicard; Abigail McCabe

Resident Attendees: None

Meeting called to order at 7:07 pm

Police Update:

Sgt. Sicard informed the committee that the pedestrian signs in the East Street and Smith Drive area have been temporarily removed but will be replaced. He also noted that a second fence has been added to the Islington Fire Station construction project to allow for pedestrian access around the project.

DPW Update: (via email)

Mr. Korchin is meeting with the Long Range Planning Committee regarding the Gay Street sidewalk project for the purpose of submitting a warrant for the upcoming Town Meeting. The Canton Street traffic calming measures have been suspended during the winter and will resume again in the spring. The project to replace current street lights with new LED lights is now 85% complete.

Michael Kraft (vice-chair via email):

Mr. Kraft requested that the DPW look into adding gravel to the dirt section of Sandy Valley Road near Lowell Woods, as that section is currently torn up with potholes and mud.

New Business:

There was a discussion regarding the application for development of 301-315, 317, & 323 Washington Street in Islington. The developers met with the Planning Board on December 1, 2015, revised the plan, and will return to present the new plan to the Planning Board on January 12, 2016. Ms. McCabe showed the revised plans to the committee, which includes an underground parking structure for 24 commercial and residential spaces and 12 1-bedroom residential apartments. The committee reviewed the plans and discussed issues related to

pedestrian and bicycle safety including 1) the lack of a traffic signal on Washington Street turning left on to East Street (BETA Engineering has not supported a need for this in the past), 2) the need for a raised sidewalk on Washington Street to help remind drivers not to stop there during red lights, 3) the parking location of commercial delivery trucks in the back of the project, 4) the lack of adequate outdoor seating areas, 5) the need for trash and recycling containers, and 6) the need to include one or more bicycle racks in the development. No formal vote was taken, however, Dave Atkins is planning to attend the Planning Board meeting on January 12th and if given the opportunity to speak, will relay the committee's thoughts to the Planning Board.

The committee was also informed about other Planning Board topics, including a denial of a subdivision located adjacent to the Audi dealership on Route 1, an earth moving project and a 10 lot subdivision proposal on Hedgerow Lane off of Canton Street.

Virginia Lester discussed two items. The first was the need for clearer visibility of house numbers that are visible to drivers from the street. The second was the hearing that took place earlier today on Beacon Hill 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:

Truck Side Guard Bill H. 3019/S. 1810

This bill would require side guards and convex mirrors on larger vehicles operating in Massachusetts. See more at: <http://massbike.org/blog/2015/12/29/state-house-hearings-on-key-bike-bills-set-for-jan-6/#sthash.eh8j3kxY.dpuf>

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. See more at: <http://massbike.org/blog/2015/12/29/state-house-hearings-on-key-bike-bills-set-for-jan-6/#sthash.eh8j3kxY.dpuf>

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. See more at: <http://massbike.org/blog/2015/12/29/state-house-hearings-on-key-bike-bills-set-for-jan-6/#sthash.eh8j3kxY.dpuf>

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. See more at: <http://massbike.org/blog/2015/12/29/state-house-hearings-on-key-bike-bills-set-for-jan-6/#sthash.eh8j3kxY.dpuf>

Meeting schedule for 2016 – Dave Atkins requested that the 2016 meeting schedule be changed to the fourth Thursday of every month and that the time of the meetings be changed

to 7:30 pm. Therefore the remaining 2016 committee meetings will be held at 50 Carby Street at 7:30 pm on:

Thursday, February 25 (this meeting was subsequently rescheduled to February 18)

Thursday, March 24

Thursday, April 28

Thursday, May 26

Thursday, June 23

Thursday, July 28

Thursday, August 25

Thursday, September 22

Thursday, October 27

Thursday, November 17 (no meeting on fourth Thursday due to Thanksgiving)

Thursday, December 22

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.