

Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Committee

March 24, 2016

7:30 p.m.

50 Carby Street

Committee Members Present: Dave Atkins (Chair); Michael Kraft (Vice Chair); Lucy Maroun; Bob Rich (Secretary) Steven Olanoff; Enkelejda Klosi

Committee Members Absent: David White; Todd Korchin; Paul Sicard; Abigail McCabe; George Lester; Virginia Lester

Ex Officio Attendees:

Resident Attendees: Linda Walsh, resident of 47 Phillips Brooks Rd.

Meeting called to order at 7:28 pm

Dave Atkins made several announcements:

1. The quorum for this committee is five (5) members.
2. There is a Public Safety Facilities meeting tonight at Thurston Middle School to discuss the proposed new Police Station.
3. There is an East Street Bridge public hearing on Monday, April 11th at 7:30 pm at the Downey Elementary school.
4. There is a FinCom Final public hearing Monday, March 28th at 7:30 pm at the Westwood Library. Among items to discuss are the Dover Terrace/Birch Tree petition article and the Gay Street sidewalk funding project.
5. A reminder that Town Elections will be held on Tuesday, April 26th. There are contested races for selectman, school committee, library trustee and planning board.
6. The IAM Strong 5K walk/run will be held on Sunday, May 1st at 9:30 am at Westwood High School.

DPW Update: (Todd Korchin via Dave Atkins)

Mr. Korchin reported that the warrant for the design of the sidewalk project on Gay Street that will be presented at Town Meeting in May has changed. The warrant article is now asking the Town to approve \$90,000 for only the survey portion of the Gay Street sidewalk project.

Linda Walsh was introduced to the committee as a resident interested in joining the committee. Linda has a relevant background as a MASS DOT transportation planner for the past 17+ years and has worked on non-traditional projects such as Rail-Trails and Safe Routes to School.

February meeting minutes were approved

Steve Olanoff reported that there were some low branches on the Fox Hill stone dust trail. He will speak with DPW about this.

New Business:

Abigail McCabe (via Dave Atkins) reported that the next Planning Board meeting will be held on Monday, April 11th. There will probably be a vote on the proposed application for development of 301-315, 317, & 323 Washington Street in Islington. The committee reviewed the updated plans for this development and discussed various aspects related to pedestrian and bicycle safety including outdoor lighting, outdoor seating, traffic flow patterns, signage, underground parking and audible/visual signals for cars to alert pedestrians. There were no new concerns after this discussion and there were no formal actions taken by the committee.

The committee next discussed Complete Streets. Todd Korchin of the DPW requested input from the committee to provide a sidewalk priority list in order to apply for Complete Streets money from the Commonwealth. Dave Atkins reported that the committee had already created a list on January 21, 2010. He thought that it would be a good starting point for DPW, although it needed to be re-visited and updated with a new methodology to explain the priority ratings. Steve Olanoff is planning on meeting with Todd Korchin on March 25th to discuss further. Linda Walsh reported that there is \$50,000 available to hire a consultant that can help prioritize the list and devise a plan before submitting it to the state.

Dave Atkins reported that all Town committees are required to file an annual report every year that is due on March 31st. Bob Rich volunteered to start a draft that the committee can review.

Bob Rich informed the committee that there was a 15 week program called America Walks, an online educational program for walkable community advocates. The 15 week course culminates in a visit to Vancouver, BC for a Pro Walk, Pro Bike conference in September.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 28, 2016 at 7:30 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.