

**Westwood Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Committee
Wednesday, September 2, 2015 Meeting Minutes**

Committee Members	
<i>Appointed by Board of Selectmen</i>	<i>Ex Officio</i>
David Atkins, Chair Michael Kraft, Vice Chair Enkelejda Klosi Virginia Lester George Lester Lucy Maroun Bob Rich Steve Olanoff David White	Abigail McCabe, Town Planner Sgt. Paul Sicard, Westwood Police Department Michael Jaillet, Town Administrator Todd Korchin, Public Works Director

Attendees:

Members Present: Dave Atkins, Kela Klosi, Virginia Lester, George Lester, Bob Rich, David White

Ex Officio and Others Present: Paul Sicard (Public Safety Officer) Abigail McCabe (Town Planner) and Nora Loughnane (Director of Community & Economic Development), Irmgard “Emmy” Behlau.

East Street Bridge Update

Chairman Atkins informed the Committee that he will be meeting with the Town Administrator as well as the MBTA project manager, Peter Paravalos later this week. Peter is also the Chairman of the Westwood Historic Commission and they are meeting to discuss design options for the East Street Bridge. The Pedestrian Bike Safety Committee suggested raising the height of the bridge and also widening the road to allow for a bike lane and sidewalks on both or at least one side of the street, which would mean widening the road to at least 42 feet in width. A physical barrier between the road and the sidewalk was also suggested. It was noted that the MBTA has claimed that if the bridge were raised Islington Station would also have to be raised to a platform. Ms. Loughnane added that the Board of Selectmen asked the MBTA for another funding source to prove temporary measures such as infra-red cameras with flashing lights in addition to the painting and signage the Town has installed. If the road is widened the project scope may need to be expanded to include extending into the private land.

July 1, 2015 Minutes

On a motion made by David White, seconded by Paul Sicard, the minutes of July 1, 2015 were approved as written.

Westwood Day

Mr. White informed the Committee that his company will be providing the bicycle helmets. Last year they provided about 150-175 helmets and they ran out pretty early in the day. George Lester said he would bring the pictures of bike racks around town to identify as a fun quiz. It was suggested to include a photograph of the new bike lanes on University Avenue and Blue Hill Drive, any new photos should be emailed to Dave. Dave Atkins and David White said they would be at Westwood Day around 9 am to set up. David White also suggested a re-use it bike area and said he would contact Bikes Not Bombs, Landry’s, and the Boy Scouts.

Planning Board Updates

Ms. McCabe updated the Committee members on the status of recent and current planning board items. The Complete Streets Policy was approved by the Planning Board and forwarded to the Selectmen and was submitted to the Selectmen for their September 14 meeting when they were reviewing Town Meeting Warrant Articles. Later in September the Selectmen will be reviewing the Warrant in detail. Lambert’s was approved for outdoor seating with some conditions to improve the property, the shell Station on Route 1 is currently before the Planning Board

for a redevelopment of the existing station and to construct a new building with a food mart and drive-through, and Arch Orthodontic was approved to locate in the stagecoach plaza on High Street.

Additionally, a developer recently purchased some property in Islington center and was before the Planning Board for a pre-application conference with the Board in August to review the concept plans for façade improvements at 301-315 Washington Street and demolish the two small office buildings at 317 and 323 Washington Street to construct a new three story building with first floor commercial and two floors of residential. In August the proposal was for eighteen apartments on the top two floors. Ms. Loughnane added that the Town would like to establish an Islington Center Task Force that will look at the entire area and make suggestions and give advisory guidance to the Planning Board and Selectmen on the future development opportunities for Islington. The Task Force would be charged with looking at the full area as a pre-planning process and not individual projects. Representation from various boards and commissions as well as residents, businesses and staff would serve on the Task Force. The Task Force members would be appointed by the Board of Selectmen.

Kela Klosi expressed interest in serving on behalf of the Pedestrian and Bike Safety Committee and as a resident of Islington.

On a motion made by Bob Rich, seconded by David White, the Committee selected Kela Klosi to serve as the representative for the Committee on the Islington Center Task Force.

The proposal for a new police headquarters building will also be before the Planning Board on September 15 along with a subdivision application to extend Deerfield Avenue so that it connects and creates a formal roadway between Deerfield Avenue and Westwood Glen Road. Ms. Behlau asked if the Planning Board would consider permeable sidewalks. Ms. Loughnane responded that the Planning Board is supportive of permeable sidewalks and the Conservation Commission has changed their position recently and they are now supportive of permeable sidewalks when they didn't used to be because it depends on how high the water table is because other waste could get into the ground water.

The application for a 130-room Courtyard Marriott at University Station is also before the Planning Board.

Public Safety Updates

Paul Sicard noted that the Town is seeking funding for the East Street Bridge and they have been implementing features of the Safe Routes to School Program and have installed new sidewalks at the Downey School. They are going out to bid on the Canton Street Traffic Calming project in two phases. The Gay Street Feasibility Study is underway by the Department of Public Works (DPW) and they are looking into trails and a multi-purpose path set back from the roadway.

Pond Street and Nahatan Street Recommendations

This discussion based on the recent CTPS study was postponed to the next meeting

On a motion made by Paul Sicard, seconded by George Lester, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Abigail McCabe

Secretary