

**Westwood Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Committee
Wednesday, October 7, 2015 Meeting Minutes**

Committee Members	
<i>Appointed by Board of Selectmen</i>	<i>Ex Officio</i>
David Atkins, Chair Michael Kraft, Vice Chair Abigail McCabe, Secretary Enkelejda (Kela) 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: Kela Klosi, Virginia Lester, George Lester, Michael Kraft, Lucy Maroun, Steve Olanoff

Ex Officio and Others Present: Paul Sicard (Public Safety Officer) Abigail McCabe (Town Planner) and Todd Korchin (Public Works Director), Jenny and Ari Cassarino of 38 Dover Terrace, Michelle Hughes of 14 Dover Terrace, Steve Batelli of 2 Summer Street

Public Works Update and Police Department Updates

Mr. Korchin, Public Works Director, summarized the purpose of the complete streets policy to the people present and informed the Committee that the Board of Selectmen adopted the policy at their recent meeting and the complete streets designation is scheduled to be on the Town Meeting Warrant for November. Adopting a complete streets policy at the local levels means that the town will consider all road users for infrastructure projects. Additionally, Town Meeting approval will make the Town eligible to receive funding from the state for certain projects through M.G.L Chapter 90 money, which are the annual funds received from the state for paving projects. Only twenty other communities have adopted complete streets policy so far. Gay Street improvements would be a priority project in the future and extra funding from the state would be helpful as the cost to add sidewalks to even one side would be a significant expense. All other paving projects (Blue Hill Drive, Downey Street, Smith Street) paving work has been completed for the season. Committee members asked about painting the sharrows and Mr. Korchin responded that sharrows and pavement markings will likely be added in the spring as that was preferred rather than installing right before winter. A portion of Blue Hill Drive is still state owned but the Town may request acceptance of the road at spring Town Meeting in May, but the full width and logistics are still under review. Mr. Korchin added that the Deerfield Field bids have been opened, a timeline for construction schedule from the contractor is under review, and construction is expected to start soon. Upgrades to the cemetery that include adding burial spots and locations for cremations is underway.

Sgt. Sicard, Public Safety Officer, informed the Committee that the painted yellow options for the East Street Bridge have been reviewed. Improvements have been made at the East Street rotary to include new lanes for I-95 and Allied Drive. The lights at Everett Street, Route One, and Washington Street are being retimed; more cycles are being considered after recent timing changes caused a significant back up on Route One, the testing is ongoing at this time. The Town is also looking to add a left turn lane at the Clapboardtree and Washington Street intersection. The sidewalk has been interrupted at the Fire Station in Islington and they are looking to resolve the detour sidewalk during construction in response to a complaint. Sidewalk options at Deerfield School are also under review.

Feedback from Westwood Day

David White was not present but had reported that approximately 125 helmets were fitted and distributed. It was suggested to add photos of signage for the game of what you would do in this situation.

9/2/15 Minutes - On a motion made by Paul Sicard, seconded by George Lester, the minutes from the September 2, 2015 meeting were approved as amended.

CTPS (Central Transportation Planning Staff) Study of Nahatan & High and Pond & High Streets

Steve Olanoff summarized that there was recently a study completed by CTPS of these locations. The study suggested round-a-bouts, lights, new curbing, and pedestrian options. Staff will send out the links to the MPO (Metropolitan Planning Organization) CTPS study again to the Committee for further review at the next meeting.

Resident Concerns

Dover Terrace & Birch Tree Drive - Residents Jenny and Ari Cassarino of 38 Dover Terrace and Michelle Hughes of 14 Dover Terrace attended to inform the Committee of a situation in their neighborhood. They explained that there was a foot path that allowed pedestrian access from Dover Terrace to Birch Tree Drive that was well used by the neighborhood, particularly children walking to school. The path was recently fenced off by the new owners of 120 Birch Tree Drive. The Dover Terrace residents questioned whether there was an easement or if there were any rights to the walking path.

The Committee members suggested checking the tax collector and assessing records as well as the original subdivision plans from when the area was first developed. Additionally, it was recommended to engage a title examiner search the property's records. The Town Planner said she would review the Planning Board's old subdivision file to see what was shown on the original subdivision plan. A Committee member thought there may be some rights to the Dover Terrace residents based on Massachusetts General Laws related to prescriptive easements.

Summer Street Corner – Steve Batellio of 2 Summer Street reported to the Committee that his property is located at the corner of Summer and High Street/Rte. 109 and a vehicle recently went into his house, over the rocks placed out front to prevent vehicles from going onto the property. Mr. Batellio asked if there was anything further that could be done, such as signal timing changes or crosswalks. Officer Sicard responded that he would look into this and but initially recommended additional speed limit signs be installed and the addition of a pedestrian crossing signal. The Committee members suggested larger rocks / boulders be placed out front across the length of the property to stop vehicles.

Police Station and Deerfield Avenue Extension Updates

Ms. McCabe, Town Planner, explained that the Planning Board voted to approve the Definitive Subdivision plan to extend Deerfield Avenue from where it ends behind Deerfield School out to connect with Westwood Glen. Presently, there is a right-of-way easement that vehicles use as but it's not a formal road and cars are travelling through the American Legion, Town Hall, and Police Station parking lots presently. This proposal is to construct an actual road to be accepted by the Town. The creation of the road includes improvements to drainage, sidewalk, landscaping, and would allow for safe travel. The proposal for the new police station headquarters building was continued to the Planning Board's October 20 meeting and the Public Safety Task Force was having a meeting this evening as well.

On a motion made by Paul Sicard, seconded by Kela Klosi, the meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Abigail McCabe, Secretary