

**Westwood Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Committee
Wednesday, November 4, 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: David Atkins, Michael Kraft, Kela Klosi, Virginia Lester, George Lester, Bob Rich, Lucy Maroun, Steve Olanoff

Not present: David White, Abigail McCabe, Todd Korchin and Paul Sicard

Call to order at 7:05pm

The draft October minutes which had been distributed via email beforehand were approved unanimously with deletion of Bob Rich who was absent and updated name of Mike to Michael Kraft.

Atkins gave updated reports from Town Departments who were unable to attend.

DPW

Sidewalk study – DPW plans to pursue funding for design in Spring Town Meeting and apply for complete streets grant for funding.

Article at Fall Town Meeting to approve Complete Streets; Olanoff explains what Complete Streets is.

Steve Olanoff attended MassDOT Moving Together Conference and believes we will receive a good score by MassDOT for our complete streets policy.

Steve Olanoff suggests we prepare a prioritization plan for the town; e.g. a list of locations we believe should be addressed first in terms of complete streets projects. Atkins noted the Bicycle and Pedestrian Network plan has a map which indicates priority locations for sidewalks and bikes.

Steve explained process for obtaining funding through C.S. process and its priorities; \$12.5MM up for grabs by the 22 communities; Up to MassDOT to decide who gets it. Could be available July 2016. Projects up to 750k each.

Dave – first step to approve participation in program; supported by all impacted departments;

Steve said the Selectmen approved the policy itself. The Town Meeting article will approve Westwood’s participation in the program, an element of which is having a policy.

East Street paving included improved ramps and crosswalks which is an example of making complete streets.

Bob Rich expressed concerned that people may leave early from TM (the complete streets article is the last warrant article); also worried that developers might object; Olanoff not concerned that would happen. Olanoff – if not passed, would hold up our ability to apply for funding through CS.

Olanoff mentioned interesting graph from the conference showing that the higher percentage of walking and bicycling correlating directly with lower obesity in the population.

Canton Street traffic calming measures are being installed; committee had previously looked at the issue of granite curbs and will monitor. Committee has previously expressed its concerns and Complete Streets issues.

Steve Olanoff provided additional planning board updates –

Courtyard Marriott approved; Shell station redevelopment approved; Police Station and Deerfield extension – subdivision approved with conditions;

Far Reach Rd – ordinary subdivision (no concerns per Steve). Being done as a cluster.

Marriott – Steve was not completely satisfied with the sidewalk connections but the design was approved.

Shell station – they will replace entire sidewalk.

Resident concerns

Dover Terrace – Abigail McCable had reported by email that town counsel engaged title examiner; but found no specific support in other documents to determine who owned what. Concern that swimming pool may be too close to the lot lines; Steve thinks that if lots have not been combined, that may also hinder their setbacks. Jenny Cassarino of 38 Dover Terrace and Michelle Hughes of 14 Dover Terrace attended again to update committee on their research and suggestion that it was part of a taking for roadway; Steve says the fact that strip is 40 feet wide strongly implies it was meant as a road. Residents went to assessors and found evidence it is a right of way; Conclusion – need title exam as next step, which is coming.

High Street at Lowder Brook. Steve Batellio of 2 Summer Street: No cross walk; people at Meditech like to walk/run. Per Dave, Paul Sicard has reported about this to Dave – Dental Arts building is being further renovated and possibly another building to be built (per Steve) So a crosswalk has nowhere to go right now, but if there is a new development at 100 High Street, might get developer to agree to put that in. If Meditech were willing to build partial sidewalk would help. Also, unfortunately, intersection just redone a few years ago; Meditech had expressed concerns because their entry was being used to make u-turns; this was reconfigured to avoid right on red, etc. Unfortunately, sidewalks were not included at that time. Steve: done by MassDOT. New sidewalk for 109 bridges, but only on one side of road. Get further on High Street, where does it go and when do you get to cross over.?

Need to discuss with Todd possible re-do of the choke point on High Street between Summer and Lowder Brook to find out what is the status and see if there can be a sidewalk added.

Also concerns about other changes that have slopes and grass where it makes it impossible to walk there.

Nahatan Street – Ellen Modi 380 Nahatan lives at Nahatan between Clapboard Tree and Norwood; few street lights; no sidewalk; can't bring out trash at night without lights; people walk on graded area; people walk a 5am. Lots of deer. Riding bikes – have to walk bikes all the way up to Clapboard Tree. People with baby carriages, kids from schools, etc; Olanoff – town could have done it for free years ago, but neighbors turned it down. Steve – new street lights coming and they will be less likely to throw light into neighbors. Suggested that Ellen speak with Todd Korchin.

Discussion about Clapboardtree and Nahatan intersection and reconfiguring for sidewalk, etc. Step 1 contact Todd; Bob suggested speaking with the neighbors. Steve - no dedicated budget for sidewalks; need to create priority list of sidewalks.

Atkins suggests we get back to list of priority sidewalks that we had created some time ago. Suggested that Todd be consulted at next meeting to advise on what information we can provide to aid in prioritization.

Kate Nordahl – 83 Juniper Ridge Rd – commutes on train to Boston. Walks from home to 128 station. Since the changed off ramp, changed the light so now it doesn't stop all traffic. Danger – when leaving the station – people exiting the parking lot. Steve – certain of the walk lights stop all traffic and others do not.

Sicard – looked at intersection – agrees with Kate's issue. Checked with Mass Highway and it's their light. Designed this way; moving away from exclusive pedestrian cycles. Westwood DPW asked if it could be changed; don't want to because backs cars onto highway. Will consider a few second delay. Yet the problem is the people exiting the station, not the ones who are coming from the highway.

Suggested that we create a follow up to MassDOT and get them to give some explanation and allow for input from PedBike.

Atkins suggested Kate speak to Todd.

SIDEWALK FEASIBILITY STUDY of Gay Street and High Street

Olanoff raises concerns – nice all on one side of street, but at one point (Thatcher on) squeezes in between road and stone wall, but due to height difference, want to elevate stone wall to make it work, which will be expensive. Rather not see stone wall touched; put sidewalk behind the wall. Also concerned about privacy fencing, which changes the character of the street. Suggest the plans be modified to remove the privacy fence unless requested by residents.

Kela would like some benches to break up the sidewalk length, as well as shady spots. Add spots to break up the length for those who are walking the full distance. Make it more of a public space, rather than simply a connection from what part of the town to the other;

Dave – should we alert residents on Gay Street and get their feedback?

Meeting adjourned at 930.