

**Westwood Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Committee
 Wednesday, December 2, 2015 Meeting Minutes
 50 Carby Street, Westwood, MA 02090**

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, Kela Klosi, Virginia Lester, George Lester, Bob Rich, Steve Olanoff, Abigail McCabe, Todd Korchin and Paul Sicard

Not present: David White, Michael Kraft, Lucy Maroun

Old Business & Resident Concerns related to Dover Terrace and Birch Tree Drive:

Shane and Kathy Lawlor, new owners of 120 Birch Tree Drive, and Mary Proscia, owner of 130 Birch Tree Drive, were present. They heard that Dover Terrace residents had come to this Committee with concerns over the recent purchase of 120 Birch Tree and were concerned about implications related to the parcel next to #120 formally serving as a path or cut through between Birch Tree Drive and Dover Terrace. Committee members explained that a couple Dover Terrace residents came to this Committee in the fall after the new owners (the Lawlors) installed a fence and asked if the area between 120 and 130 was supposed to remain open as a path between the two dead-end streets. The Committee said that staff and Town Counsel would look into the property's history and planning department files. Ms. McCabe reported that Town Counsel has reviewed the parcel next to 120 Birch Tree Drive and performed a title check and found that the approximately 5,000 sq. ft. parcel was owned by the original developer Barlow Trust until around 1990 when it was sold to the former owner of #120 Birch Tree Drive. The Town had never owned the parcel and the parcel was never formally part of the street layout or given to the Town. The land is privately held and therefore, the abutters do not have any rights to access the property as there was no condition of the original subdivision approval for any kind of formal connection between Birch Tree Drive and Dover Terrace. The Lawlors explained that they purchased the property over the summer with the two parcels and have installed a fence because they would like to have a pool. Ms. Proscia explained that they do not recall there every being a path or any formal connection. The Committee explained that the Town was not getting involved and if the Dover Terrace residents wanted to pursue anything further they should communicate with the property owner directly or their only other option would be to try to pursue a prescriptive easement.

There being a quorum, the Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:55 p.m.

On a duly made motion, the Committee voted to approve the minutes of November 4, 2015 as amended.

The Committee appointed member Bob Rich to serve as the Committee's new secretary to help take the meeting minutes.

DPW (Department of Public Works) Updates:

Mr. Korchin explained that the street light program replacing existing street lights with LED fixtures is currently underway and expected to be completed by early January; the renovations to Deerfield Field is largely complete with only minor punch list items remaining, improvements included new stone dust walking trails and lighting; all paving projects are done for the year; two pedestrian crossing signs installed on East Street; a speed traffic radar sign installed on Pond and Oak Streets; the Canton/Everett/Forbes traffic calming project is underway but will be work will stop for the winter and resume

in the spring; striping for bike lanes on Blue Hill Drive will be in the spring; the Town is expecting bids next week for work at Westwood Cemetery; and Westwood recently received a very high pavement management index rating from the state.

Police Updates:

Sgt. Sicard informed the Committee that the East Street traffic lights have been installed and the final timing for the pedestrian light cycle at University Avenue and Blue Hill Drive is in progress and not yet finalized.

Review of Sidewalk Feasibility Report:

Mr. Korchin summarized a recent sidewalk feasibility report prepared by BETA Group of High Street (Route 109) from Pond St. to Millbrook Rd. and Gay St. from Deerfield Ave. to Buckboard Ln. The study examined existing conditions in these locations and made recommendations to the Town for sidewalk improvements. Mr. Korchin is considering potential warrant articles for spring Town Meeting in May and is interested in pursuing design plans for sidewalks on Gay Street, Pond, High Street and be combined with pavement management. One option may be to pursue this work (particularly sidewalks on Gay Street) as part of a complete streets project since the Town recently became a Complete Streets community and adopted the Complete Streets Policy. The Board of Selectmen will be reviewing warrant articles in January and will likely close the Annual Town Meeting warrant in mid-January. The Committee expressed support for sidewalks on Gay Street and considered that a priority.

Old Business:

Resident Concern on Summer St./Lowder Brook Rd. – A resident came to the Committee in the fall and asked about a pedestrian crossing and sidewalk on the east side of High Street as there is no sidewalk from Summer St. to Lowder Brook Drive on the east side so people have to cross High Street (the resident worked at Meditech off of Lowder Brook). Staff reported that they are still reviewing options. There may be a new development at 100 High Street which may provide an opportunity for pedestrian and intersection improvements.

Islington Development of 301-323 Washington Street, Islington Task Force, and Planning Board updates were continued to the next meeting on January 6, 2016. Ms. McCabe informed the Committee that the Planning Board opened the public hearing on the redevelopment of 301-323 Washington Street on December 1, asked for several plan changes and continued the hearing to January 12, 2016. The Task Force has met once and will be meeting again next week. More updates will be provided in January.

On a motion duly made and authorized, the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.