

Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Committee minutes

Date:	1/21/10		
Meeting start:	7:35 p.m.		
In attendance:			
David Belcher	Suzanne Becker	Dave Atkins	Steve Harte
Wendy Muellers	Kela Klosi	Virginia Lester	George Lester
Steve Olanoff	Eric Dubiner	Bill Conley	Nora Loughnane

1. Walk/Ride Day

Steve Olanoff shared information on Walk/Ride Days, organized on the last Friday of each month by the Green Streets Initiative (www.GoGreenStreets.org). They encourage active transportation for safe, fun, healthy streets and communities.

2. Clean Air and Mobility Program

Steve Olanoff shared information on a grant program being offered by the MPO for infrastructure investments that increase pedestrian safety. Communities can submit an application if they have a worthy project and can commit to a 20% match from the town. MPO has \$2 million in funds earmarked for this opportunity and has an April 1 deadline for project submission. Talk centered around a project that would address the crosswalk issue in the area of Washington Street and Croft Regis Road. There is a possibility of submitting an application that would call for pedestrian-activated, pole-mounted flashing lights and/or curb extensions to shorten the crossing and create a physical barrier for cars that attempt to drive around other cars stopped for pedestrians. Steve has had discussions with leaders in Wellesley about their flashing lights, which cost approximately \$20,000 for equipment and installation. Steve will work with Mike Jaillet and Ralph Phaneuf to investigate the town's commitment to a project and plan an application.

3. Passing a Stopped Bus

Suzanne shared her experience of vehicles passing stopped school buses on Clapboardtree Street. There have been several recent near-misses involving commuters and schoolchildren. Recently an increased police presence has resulted in some of these lawbreakers being stopped and ticketed. Suzanne will bring further awareness to the issue by writing a letter to the editor of the Westwood Press and will investigate writing an entry on www.westwoodblog.org.

4. “The List”

At 7:55 we began prioritizing items from our list that was generated by Westwood citizens who have submitted, and voted on, ideas for improving pedestrian and bicycle safety on the Westwood Idea Scale site.

Highlights of the discussion:

It was determined that there is no schedule for repairing sidewalks and no funds are specifically set aside for this purpose. The DPW compiles a list as requests come in.

There was discussion around reviewing the street lighting in town to ensure that there is consistency in the lighting. Steve Olanoff shared that the key to safety is consistency in lighting, not necessarily intensity of lighting. For example, an extremely bright area followed by a dark area can actually create a hazardous condition for drivers as their eyes don't have time to adjust to the dark area.

Tim Walsh will be retiring as Director of Public Works on March 1. We would like to have someone from our committee involved in the hiring process for his replacement to ensure that his replacement will be invested in pedestrian and bicycle safety issues.

Formation of research groups as a result of our discussion:

Listed below are the issues and the person who volunteered to research the issue and report back at the next meeting.

Issue	Contact person
Lighting near the Senior Center entrance	Suzanne Becker

Crosswalk near Tot Lot and entrance to TMS Nahatan-High St. intersection	
Snow removal/snow piles on sidewalks surrounding Sheehan School	Steve Harte
East Street bridge	Kela Klosi
See Click Fix reporting system for municipalities	David Belcher
Sidewalk on Downey St.	Eric Dubiner
Gay Street sidelines Crosswalk and stop line painting schedule	Wendy Muellers

5. Change in Meeting Times

Currently our scheduled meeting time of the third Thursday of each month conflicts with School Committee meetings. It was proposed that we move our meetings to the fourth Thursday of the month, except when this presents a conflict due to a holiday or school vacation.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.
Next meeting is Thursday, February 25 at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Harte