

MEETING MINUTES

Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Committee

Date:	03/27/2014
Meeting start:	7:30

Committee Members

Michael Kraft Chairman	John Craine Secretary	Wendy Muellers Vice Chairman	
Chris Giovino	Kela Klosi	George Lester	Virginia Lester
Steve Olanoff	Nora Loughnane	Paul Sicard	Todd Korchin
David Atkins	David White	Lucy Maroun	

In attendance:

Michael Kraft Chairman		Wendy Muellers Vice Chairman	
Chris Giovino	Kela Klosi	George Lester	Virginia Lester
Steve Olanoff	Nora Loughnane	Paul Sicard	Todd Korchin
David Atkins	David White	Lucy Maroun	

Comprehensive Plan Transportation Sub-Committee

The meeting was called to order at 7:40pm.

We need to make amendments to the draft document that was discussed at the January meeting. The goal is to have it done by the end of April so all subcommittees can meet in May.

Action Item: Dave Atkins will take Nora's notes and circulate with Steve Olanoff, Kela Klosi, and Wendy Muellers to prepare a document for discussion at the next meeting, Thursday, April 24.

CPTS adjourned at 7:51pm.

Routine Business

Michael Kraft called the meeting to order at 7:51pm.

Steve Olanoff moved to approve the January meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by David White and approved unanimously. There are no meeting minutes from February because the committee attended the DOT public hearing described below and the committee did not meet.

Review of Action Items from previous meeting

No action items from last meeting

Public Comment

Rick Trimble

1531 High Street, across from Stanford
with Reynolds Farm

possibility of a sidewalk or crosswalk
the curve is too dangerous for a crosswalk
gone from 12 to 23 dwellings

is there a way for residents to walk safely to crosswalk and get across high street
children cannot safely cross high street
in the mornings, Tresca trucks trying to make light at Pheasant Hill can't stop
walkers are prisoners on high street from blueberry to pheasant hill
want sidewalk from blueberry to pheasant hill to solve the problem

Paul Sicard grew up on this street, familiar with the difficulty of the curve and supportive of the traffic difficulties observed. Tresca trucks are actually slow, but massive.

Nora: the process is that this board would recommend to DPW. If sidewalks were constructed to benefit this neighborhood, there would need to be a betterment assessment; residents pay a share of the cost these houses are inside the bus zone

need 51% of neighbors in favor; then everyone would have to pay something.

we should notice this for the next meeting and invite Todd

The shoulder is not at sidewalk grade now

Kela suggested we could do something to raise money for the town for this purpose.

Ongoing Business

Ped Bike Planning Board Budget - Planning Board budget: allowed a 4% increase, gave to PedBike. This is a small amount of money to fund printing of outreach materials, etc.

MAPC Pedestrian and Bike Plan - MAPC adopted verbatim all the changes. BOS recommended planning board adoption of the plan.. BOS recommended planning board adoption of the plan.

Virginia: would like to emphasize how the MBTA station creates an opportunity for mixed-mode commute.

Nora: main change is to make the language about advisory lanes optional. This was the principal objection during the process of review in town--the plan had originally called for striping Thatcher as a single lane with bike lanes on either side. This type of "advisory lane" has not been done anywhere in Massachusetts yet, but has been used in Europe. The towns concerns were incorporated into the plan and the language modified to make the advisory lanes suggestion "advisory."

Updated all roads to actual widths and recommendations--page 17.

Dave: last pages are the roadmap.

Nora if adopted this becomes guidance for future DPW.

areas in purple on map are priority sidewalks

The next times for action on the plan are:

- April 28 public hearing by Planning Board
- May 5 Town Meeting

The plan is advisory...not a requirement to do things, but guidance of what to do first. If someone complains and it is on the list, that gives more authority; especially if the plan has been endorsed.

Steve, David W moved seconded, unanimous approval to endorse adoption of this plan by the Planning Board and Town Meeting.

East Street Bridge - no updates

Route 109 overpass construction and bike lanes - no updates

Oak Street pedestrian crossings at Martha Jones Rd - Lucy: Oak Street pedestrian crossings near Martha Jones ES - two meetings ago we discussed a speed study.

Paul: we don't do them in the winter b/c of snow. Now that snow is finally going away, we will finish Church street study, then Oak Street.

Lucy: what do I do? Ask neighbors to request police presence?

Paul: Oak Street is on the list, but we do not have a dedicated enforcement team. New signs will be able to do traffic counts, record speeds, display messages. 2nd one is a bigger message board. Programmable so you can use in school zones.

Downey School Safe Routes to School improvements - DOT project will add new sidewalk from Smith down to the school. Crossing guard will be moved down.

Added flashing school zone light.

redoing canton street down forbes to the path - next years construction; 2015

LED street lights - all lights at University Station will be LED; DPW looking into group purchases of lights

Bicycle signage - not discussed

Westwood Day 2014 - September 27; Bike helmets? David White's firm will donate 100 helmets.

MPO interseptions study -They will do a complete traffic study of the Nahantan/109/Pond to figure out how to fix the geometry. They will come back with recommendations for the Town. Includes everyting from Pond to the crosswalk at the church/Fisher School.

Mill Brook + Pond Plain - concerns about safety of kids walking to Sheehan. Phone pole that was in middle of sidewalk is being moved. Blocked sidewalk and visibility.

University Station - 1. Mass. DOT report on I95 SB interchange at University Station and Blue Hill Drive

Preliminary designs of reconfiguration of the I-95 off ramp; the hearing was a reveiw of the 25% design plan.

Residents expressed concerns about the cul-de-sac at end of Blue Hill Drive; drop offs, etc. Members of the Ped Bike committee and other residents expressed concerns about the difficulty of biking and walking from Blue Hill Drive to the MBTA station. Nora reported that since the hearing, DOT has made a change (in the 75-100% design) to make the multi-use path from Harvard St to MBTA continue all the way to the cul-de-sace as a 10-foot wide path. This will allow a bike to go down bike lanes on Blue Hill, through the cul-de-sac, and into University Station and the MBTA. The plan also incorporates a signalized (when pedestrians present and push the button) pedestrian crossing at the ramp/University Ave.

Chris asked if his suggestion to make the third lane be a dedicated right turn lane continuation had been incorporated into the final plan. Nora will check, but the current design drawing does not reflect this.

The committee discussed the history of the garage structure. It was built in the 1990s. Lighting problems have been recently resolved. There are continuing problems with water leaking through. Snowmelt machines do not work--sat idle for years as MBTA did not use top floor; when the machines were turned on, they failed to work. MBTA has no plans to fix.

Kela asked about the possibility of bike cages like what the MBTA has done at Alewife and Forest Hills for dedicated bike parking. There are bike racks directly in front of the first floor entrance, but no locked storage facility.

New Business

Wendy Muellers has moved out of town; must resign as Vice Chair
Dave Atkins nominated to replace Wendy as Vice Chair

Steve Olanoff reported on the Warner Trail Extension
This trail starts in Rhode Island; ended in Canton. Now it will continue through a tunnel under 95, signal hill park, along the Neponset River.

Other Business

Virginia reminded committee members of the recent case of a runner found unconscious on Oak Street with no ID. Dave talked about the product "RoadID." Let's include for Westwood Day; get brochures to hand out.

Action Needed for Next Meeting

none

Adjourned at 9:38pm.

Respectfully submitted,

John Craine, Secretary