

## Pedestrian and Bike Safety Committee

February 27 7:30pm

### Meeting Notes

50 Carby Street Westwood, MA

### Champagne Room

#### Board Members in attendance

- Steve Olanoff (vice-Chair)
- Heather Ford (Secretary)
- Kate Wynne
- George Lester
- Brian Gorman

#### Board Members Not in attendance:

- Enkelejda (Kela) Klosi
- Michael Kraft (Chair)

#### Residents in attendance:

- Jessica Thomson 235 Pond St
- Taber Hilton 167 Pond St

#### Call to order by Acting Chair Steve Olanoff at 7:33pm

- **Planning Board Updates:**
  - A new Mexican restaurant Casa Loca is proposed for the old Bonefish location on 174 University Avenue. They are looking to open in June and will have some outdoor seating.
  - Brigham and Women's Phase II is coming, will be before the Planning Board March 17.
- **Comprehensive Plan Update:** Town Centers and Transportation Elements – Review drafts
  - It was discussed that both the Transportation (headed by Steve) and Town Centers (headed by Kate) had been discussed at the January 30 meeting. Members were encouraged to email Abby McCabe with any further notes.
- Brigham and Women's Phase II: Steve noted that the plans from tonight's meeting had changes to the building and to the parking garage. He expressed concern about changes to the pedestrian egress and traffic orientation. He asked where the sidewalk was with regard to the parking garage. Steve said he

would contact Abby McCabe about this issue. Questions were also raised about a possible crosswalk and the vehicle entrance in the parking garage.

- **Public Works Department Updates**—None.
- Steve reported that adaptive traffic lights on Rte. 109 would cost approximately \$900,000 for six “smart/adaptive” traffic lights. State money was applied for this project with the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). [Steve is an alternative representative to this organization] The MPO allocates Federal money for up to five years from now. Projects are scored--MPO currently has the traffic lights as a fifth priority, despite more expensive projects going forth.
- **Any new issues from residents**—Thomson reported that her family lost their son and her husband suffered long-term injuries following a traffic accident in November 2017. She emphasized that crosswalk safety is a very personal topic to her. Steve noted that we are waiting for the outcome of the crosswalk study, and also that there has been a pushback on raised crosswalks owing to ambulances. Brian echoed comments made by former Committee member Sgt. Paul Sicard that a speed limit study might not lead to a speed limit reduction. State law is that towns can set a speed limit for a thickly settled area. This law is in effect in Dedham, Needham, Boston, and Cambridge. This issue has been previously brought to the Planning Board and forwarded to the Select Board, but was not ultimately implemented due to lack of popularity. Thomson reported she had previously met with members of Westwood’s police department. It was suggested we recommend it to the Planning Board. Brian also urged Thomson to attend the Fin Com meeting Monday (3/2). Steve also pushed for support of the Bond Bill at Town Meeting in May.
- **Social Media**--Heather posted about this night’s meeting in a Westwood Facebook Group and on Westwood Patch’s site. Citizens raised issues. It was decided that, as we cannot engage with citizens on social media, Heather would let the committee chair know about the issues which were raised.
- **Review of Draft Meeting Minutes from January 30**—Minutes were accepted with a motion from Heather, seconded by Kate to approve as amended.
- **Schedule Next Meeting Date** – Thursday, March 26. April meeting will be April 16 owing to school vacation. It is hoped that Christopher Coleman, the new Town Administrator, might attend the April meeting. The meeting might also take place at the Police station. George expressed concern that a member of the Police Department has not replaced Paul Sicard.

The Committee voted to adjourn at 8:45pm by Steve, seconded by Kate.