

Pedestrian and Bike Safety Committee

October 29, 2020 7:30pm

Meeting Notes

Zoom

Board Members in attendance

- Robert Gotti
- Steven Olanoff
- Michael Kraft, Chair
- Alex Yale
- George Lester 8pm
- Kela Klosi, Vice Chair
- Heather Ford, Secretary
- Abby McCabe, Town Planner, Ex-Officio
- Chris Coleman, Town Administrator

Residents in attendance:

- Ellen Modi 380 Nahatan St
- Vicky Makrides 340 Nahatan St

Call to order by Michael Kraft @ 7:31pm

- **Town Administrator Chris Coleman**
 - Thanked committee for their work
 - Mr. Coleman reported that the Police Chief is planning to have a member attend committee meetings, a different member rotating members.
- **Planning Board Updates:**
 - No new applications.
 - **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.
 - The draft plan is to be presented at the November 17, 2020 Planning Board meeting
 - Kela Klosi suggested a better way to get to the ice rink on University Ave. for pedestrians. Michael Kraft noted there is a crosswalk and crossing at Route 1. It

was noted that the new ice skating rink is in Norwood and not Westwood but the Committee discussed cooperation between abutting towns on projects specifically for pedestrian improvements and safety.

- Steve Olanoff noted that there will also be a future reconfiguration of the intersection of Route 1 and University Ave. in Norwood and we should be working together on coordination.
- Robert Gotti—Noted that an Amazon Warehouse facility is also going forward in Norwood near the Westwood town line.
- A draft letter of support was presented to the Board members to review.

On a motion made by Heather Ford, seconded by Steve Olanoff, the Committee voted 7-0 to submit a letter of support on the Comprehensive Plan for the Transportation and Town Centers sections.

- **Public Works Department Updates—**
- The Monday, Nov 23 Select Board meeting will include a presentation about the second phase of the road improvement bond.
- Steve expressed concern for the lack of room for bicyclist on High Street from Summer St. to Lowder Brook Drive where a traffic lane was expanded from one to two lanes to help with vehicular traffic but the shoulder was removed. Several members asked about learning more about this status and what's needed from the Public Works Director.
- On a motion made by Steve Olanoff, seconded by Alex Yale, the Committee voted to discuss installing appropriate signage and sharrows on High Street with Public Works.
- **Any new issues from residents—**Ms. Makrides of Nahatan Street requested lights and a sidewalk along Nahatan Street in the section between Clapboardtree and Norwood line. She has been in contact with DPW on getting streetlights. Ms. Modi was also present and requested street lights on that section of Nahatan Street because it is extremely dark and the only portion without lights.

Steve Olanoff commented that he believes years ago the state reconstructed the road in that area and the work also included installation of sidewalk with the state providing most of the funding at the time. However, the resident abutters at the time were opposed and the street was replaced without sidewalks.

The Committee explained that they will bring this request to public works and the police to review, which is typically where request go to be considered from a safety standpoint but the Select Board is the road commissioners and thus the ultimate authority.

On a motion made by Steve Olanoff, seconded by Alex Yale, the Committee voted 4-0-2 (Mike Kraft and Rob Gotti abstained) to recommend the Select Board install

street lights on the section of Nahatan Street between Clapboardtree and the Norwood town line.

- **Review of Draft Meeting Minutes from September 22, 2020**—Minutes were accepted as written with a motion from Mike Kraft, seconded by George. Approved.
- **Schedule Next Meeting Date** – Thursday, 12/3

The Committee voted to adjourn at 8:45pm.