

**Town of Westwood  
Pedestrian & Bicycle Safety Committee  
Thursday, April 22, 2021  
Meeting via Zoom**

Committee Members in Attendance: Chair Michael Kraft, Robert Gotti, Steven Olanoff, and Alex Yale.

Ex-Officio Members in Attendance: Abby McCabe, Town Planner

Chair Kraft called the meeting to order at 7:34 pm and announced that the meeting would be recorded via Zoom.

Ms. McCabe agreed to prepare the meeting minutes as the recording secretary for this meeting.

Police Department Updates:

Ms. McCabe reported that no one from the police department was available this evening but officers are expected to be available on a rotating basis to attend meetings going forward. The Committee discussed the possibility of establishing the speed limit to be posted on University Avenue. Now that University Station is substantially complete the members recommended a new survey to establish a speed limited to be posted.

Planning Board Updates:

Mr. Gotti summarized recent and upcoming applications before the Planning Board. The Planning Board supported the Committees recommendation for parking layout changes at 384 Washington Street for the monument business and recommendations were also suggested to the application for the redevelopment of the gas station on High Street, both hearings were continued and the Board is expected revised plans. Zoning changes set for Annual Town Meeting on May 3.

Public Works Updates:

Ms. McCabe reported that spring and summer paving work will begin soon. The second phase of the road improvement bond that includes crosswalk improvements will begin this spring. The bid for the Winter/Clapboardtree Intersection improvements was received and work is underway. Road paving will be over the summer. Public Works hosted the Canton Street Sidewalk public meeting on March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Any New Issues from residents & New Items:

Chair Kraft said he spoke to Town Administrator Mr. Coleman and inquired about his attendance at Committee meetings and how to bring the construction of the Gay Street sidewalk forward. The Committee members discussed a desire to have the sidewalk in especially now that the Hanlon Elementary School will likely soon be reconstructed. Along with the new school a sidewalk for students is important as not all students will take the bus. Members noted that building the sidewalk was also listed as a high priority in the 2020 Comprehensive Plan and supported by many residents in town. The Committee discussed how to petition this to be on an upcoming Town Meeting warrant and the Select Board warrant process.

Action Taken:

On a motion made by Mr. Olanoff, seconded by Mr. Yale, the Committee voted 3-0-1 (Kraft, Olanoff, Yale in favor, Gotti abstained) to recommend funding for the construction of a sidewalk on Gay Street to be placed on the warrant for the next Town Meeting.

A Mr. and Mrs. Rubin of 979 High Street were present to express concern about the crosswalk near the Dunkin Donuts and Bibi's Café on High Street. The crosswalk is not safe because there are not clear markings and the crossing is in a difficult location where there is a bend in the road and no breakdown lane.

Ms. McCabe said she would check with the Public Works Director if this crosswalk was on the list of crosswalks being improved.

Chair Kraft informed the Committee that he invited a guest speaker for the next meeting on Thursday, May 27<sup>th</sup>.

Action Taken:

On a motion duly made and voted on, the Committee adjourned at 8:27 pm.