

Town of Westwood  
Pedestrian & Bicycle Safety Committee  
Thursday, November 17th, 2022  
Champagne Meeting Room - 50 Carby Street

**Committee Members in Attendance:**

- Michael Kraft, Chair
- Steven Olanoff, Vice Chair
- Enkelejda Klosi
- Tom McShane
- David Atkins
- Michael Tinsley
- Kate Wynne

**Ex-officio:** None

**Residents in attendance:** None

**Police officers in attendance:** Stephen Conley

**Selected to record minutes:** Michael Tinsley

**Meeting Start:** 7:36 pm

**Topics Discussed**

- Following a short discussion about September minutes, the September minutes were approved.
- October minutes were approved. Michael Kraft and Michael Tinsley were not in attendance for October meeting so abstained from approval vote.

**Updates from Police**

- Officer Stephen Conley presented a traffic report example that Westwood PD analyzes periodically. The report showed traffic statistics for Clapboardtree Street from November 1st to November 8th, including vehicle counts for different speed ranges. (The report was used to show the committee how the data is organized and displayed. The data was not noteworthy otherwise.)

**Public Works**

- The “Complete Streets” program was discussed. A third grant is expected to fund the installation of sidewalks from Booth Drive to Canton Street, which would complete the connection to Islington sidewalks.
- The new traffic signals on High Street were discussed. Currently the traffic signals are not syncing with one another. The issue was investigated and it appears that the entire system for this area needs to be replaced and upgraded. There was a request to make this project a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) project to help secure funding. Evidently another grant was approved to fund the project.
- There was a short discussion on the Downey Street / Smith Drive crosswalk expansion.
- The Gay Street sidewalk project was discussed. Steve explained that the Town completed a 25% design submittal so the project can be considered for funding by the MPO. If approved, at this point the earliest funding opportunity would be in 2028.
- Paving projects were discussed. The committee discussed plans to completely repave Clapboardtree Street, Winter Street, and portions of Canton Street.

### **Planning**

- Kate explained recent state zoning law requirements, including recent changes promoting multifamily development within a .5 mile radius of any MBTA stations. (The exact territory and density requirements differ according to town size, population, bus vs. train stations, etc).
- The attorney general is currently reviewing the Westwood Zoning By-Laws to confirm they are satisfactory in light of these new law requirements.

### **Community Trails**

- Steve reported briefly on Community Trails.

### **Old Business**

- Dave led a discussion on the committee’s obligations as outlined in the Complete Streets program, including recording various town metrics annually (e.g., total number of crosswalks, total MBTA bus stops, total number of children in school walk zones, etc., etc). This “scorecard” would help track the progress and relative success of different town initiatives. Other added benefits were discussed as well (MassDOT giving higher ratings / scores to towns that keep such measurable metrics, etc). There was some brainstorming on how this data could be collected consistently.
- Short discussion on wheelchair accessibility at the Rt 128 and Islington stations.
- Steve led a discussion about the “Moving Together” conference that he attended, and described certain presentations with initiatives and information that could benefit Westwood.

### **New Business**

- Dave led a discussion on the possibility of switching to hybrid-style meetings in the future. While the committee enjoys the dynamics and rapport of in-person meetings, the question was raised about whether remote meetings might foster better community involvement. Hybrid meetings may prove to be the “best of both worlds” - providing remote access but also a physical meeting place for less technologically-inclined residents.
- Next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, January 26th.
- Meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM.