

**Town of Westwood
Pedestrian & Bicycle Safety Committee
Thursday, January 27, 2022
Meeting via Zoom**

Committee Members in Attendance:

Chair Michael Kraft, Vice-chair Enkelejda (Kela) Klosi, Steven Olanoff.

Ex-officio: None

Residents in attendance: None

Chair Kraft called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm and announced that the meeting would be recorded via Zoom.

Selected to record minutes: Steve Olanoff

Planning Board Report

- None

DPW Report

- None from DPW
- Steve Olanoff reported on a traffic study for Pond Street that was presented at the recent Select board meeting. It was noted that the Select Board, DPW, and Police Department were all involved in the study, but the Ped/Bike Committee had not even been informed of this study. After discussion and review of the study and proceedings at the Select Board meeting, the following motion was made and approved to be sent to the Select Board.

Motion made by Steve Olanoff, seconded by Kela Klosi and **passed** unanimously:

The Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Committee submits the following comments and recommendations to the Select Board and Town Administrator regarding the Pond Street/Clapboardtree Street Traffic Study presented at the January 24 Select Board meeting:

- The replacement of the two Yield signs at the two traffic islands is a good improvement, but a much better improvement would be the elimination of those traffic islands.
- The corners of the intersection should then be squared off with smaller turning radii to slow down all turning traffic.
- The crosswalks would then become shorter, straightened out, and safer for pedestrians using them.
- The four “STOP” signs should be marked “ALL WAY” with these signs added below each sign.
- The Committee comments that advance notification of this study would have allowed them to participate in the discussion and been able to make these recommendations in advance or at the Select Board meeting.

--end of motion--

Police Department Updates

- None.

New Committee Members

- Members will continue to advertise and seek out new members because several members have moved on to other committees and boards, leaving the Ped/Bike Committee seriously short of membership.

Gay Street Sidewalk

- The need to organize the community to show support for the Gay Street Sidewalk project at the Select Board meeting on February 28 was discussed and all agreed that it should be the focus of all committee members for the next month. The project was reported to be under consideration for inclusion in the upcoming Capital Budget with a five-million-dollar appropriation.

Westwood Community Trails Report

- Monthly hikes continue to attract participants which varies according to the weather. Plans will be made for the annual Earth Week Town volunteer cleanup.

New Business from residents in attendance

- None

Old Business

- The proposed conservation restriction for Hale was explained and discussed. It would permanently preserve the public use of Hale for hiking and other recreational use.
- The direct sidewalk connection from University Station to the railroad station next to the hotel still is not proceeding even though it is an approved and required element of the project.

New Business

- Shuttle bus service should be under new review after a study was recently completed by MAPC on the need for such services to connect people, jobs, and businesses along and between Routes 1 and 1A in towns from Dedham to Wentham.

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 3, 2022

Adjourn by 9:00 pm