

Town of Westwood

Pedestrian & Bicycle Advisory Committee
Thursday, May 25, 2023
Carby Street
Champagne Meeting Room

Committee Members in Attendance:

- Steven Olanoff (Vice Chair)
- Tom McShane
- Michael Kraft (Chair)
- Michael Tinsley
- Maria Costantini
- Dave Atkins

Ex-officio: None

Residents in attendance: Joe Previterra

Police officers in attendance: Officer Baker

Selected to record minutes: Mike Tinsley

Meeting Start: 7:43 pm.

Topics Discussed

Police Updates:

- Last month the towable / movable speed signs were on Pine Lane, Gay Street, High Street, Smith Drive, Nahantan Street, and Canton Street.
- 10 feet is the narrowest that engineers will allow for the travel lanes on Canton Street.
- The “no-truck” enforcement on Canton Street is ongoing.
- Police are monitoring pedestrian traffic on Washington Street (especially with Neroli’s popularity). People are not using crosswalks but it is difficult to enforce.
- Officer Baker passed out a report on the decibel level of crosswalk signals (specifically University Ave and Station Drive); the conclusion is that the signal is too quiet and therefore difficult to hear with heavy traffic.
- Discussion on the recent pedestrian accident at Roche Brothers.

Planning Department:

- No updates to report.

Canton Street Project:

- The Canton Street discussion was largely an overview of the recent Canton Street meeting. The Canton Street meeting was described as lively and at times contentious.
- There was a short discussion about the width of the street, and the implications of adding or subtracting a “multi-use” lane on Canton Street.
- Discussion about how *support* of the Canton Street sidewalk project at the recent town meeting seemed to come from newer Westwood residents.

Community Trails:

- Steve led the discussion. 12 people showed up for the recent hike up Powisset Peak on May 6th. The weather was good and the hike was a success. The next hike is Saturday, June 3rd.

“Complete Streets” Program:

- No significant updates to report.
- There does seem to be progress, albeit slowly. Tom proposed putting each target metric into a “bucket” based on the relative difficulty of tracking the data (e.g., easy, medium, or difficult to obtain). He suggested that it may be worthwhile to attack the “easy” and “medium” metrics first, and put the difficult metrics on the backburner for now. Tom said he will work on this idea and report more formally at a future meeting.
- Michael Kraft asked who is generally responsible for overseeing the Complete Streets program. Apparently it was a policy adopted by the Select Board, but it isn’t clear who is expected to actually handle it on an ongoing basis. Responsibility seems to fall on the Ped / Bike Committee.
- Discussion with Officer Baker about posting signs for the new 4-foot law recently passed in Massachusetts.

New Business Items:

- Westwood Day: there was a discussion about whether the committee will have a presence at Westwood Day. Mike T. proposed introducing the 4-foot law as part of the Ped / Bike display table.
- Maria asked whether the committee could discuss the Hale fundraising efforts and perhaps vote as a committee to formally support it or not. This led to a larger discussion about whether it is the appropriate role of this committee to explicitly “campaign” for certain town activities; Michael K. will try to clarify what our limitations are.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:56 PM.