

Town of Westwood

Pedestrian & Bicycle Safety Committee
Thursday, March 23, 2023
Carby Street
Champagne Meeting Room

Committee Members in Attendance:

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

Ex-officio: None

Residents in attendance: Joe Previtera

Police officers in attendance: None

Selected to record minutes:

Enkelejda Klosi

Meeting Start: 7:39 pm.

Topics Discussed

Updates from Police summarized via email:

- Michael Kraft is waiting for the Police report. He discussed the fatal accident on University Avenue. Steve Olanoff shared details about the absence of traffic islands in the middle of the crosswalk. Additional engineering studies would be needed. The intersection requires crossing six lanes.
- Steve Olanoff also discussed the need for a path from the station to the hotel.
- At the Canton Interchange of 95-93-128, usually every year there is a fatal accident.
- The interchange is fully designed but is not proceeding due to lack of funding.

Planning Board: Nothing to report from the Board.

- Attendees discussed Gay Street, Downey Street and Canton Street.
- For Canton Street, the town is seeking federal money to construct a sidewalk on one side and a multiuse pathway on the other side. The MPO is about to put Canton Street onto the FFY 2028 TIP. Town needs to finish the design and obtain any permits needed.
- Gay Street must be entirely funded by the Town because it will not be done to federal standards. The Finance Committee and the Select Board would need to put Gay Street in the list of the capital projects for it to appear for a vote at Town Meeting.
- School Committee could be an ally for building sidewalks in Gay Street.
- Resident Joe Previtera mentioned that Gay Street could possibly be done and completed in phases. Kela Klosi suggested that phasing the Gay Street project could ease the financial constraints and keep the project active and with some improvement every year.

Update from Westwood Community Trails and Hikes

- April 1 is the next hike to be held in the Dedham town Forest on the median of Route 128. as reported by Steve Olanoff. He mentioned that last month there were 7 people walking in the rain in February, and 4 people in rain and snow in March.
- Michael Kraft thanked the DPW for the grading on Sandy Valley Road.

Updates on compiling database for crossroads and sidewalks

- Dave Atkins met with Todd Korchin and collected some information that needs to be compiled, such as how many ADA crossroads were done.
- Also needing collection of data on how many lines are painted in the middle, sharrows, etc. throughout town.
- Michael Kraft, Steve Olanoff, and Maria Costantini discussed the 4 feet wide State Law and how to go about putting up the recommended signs and whether they should include just a bicycle or an image of a walker and wheelchair. They will work with Todd and the Police Department.
- Tom McShane suggested that the Police Department should get information from the state on where to put the new signs.

New Business/Concerns By Residents In Attendance:

- Joe Previtera spoke on a number of issues including school buses, biking to school, and the proposal of phasing Gay Street.
- Steve Olanoff discussed the restriping of lanes at Nahatan and High Streets as was recommended in a CTPS study done for the Town.
- Dave Atkins suggested a presentation of the committee's concerns for a brief 3-5 minutes on a regular basis to the Select Board.
- Tom McShane shared a community event for the PMC Westwood Ride on May 22nd.
- The attendees discussed the possibility of using Westwood Media and/or letters in the newspaper about the main topics the committee is working on in order to get more support from the community for our major goals.

Approval of last Meeting's Notes: Motion made by Chairman Michael Kraft to approve, seconded by Steve Olanoff.

Next Meeting Date: April 20, 2023

Meeting Adjourned: 9:07 PM (Motioned by Steve, seconded by Maria)