

Town of Westwood
Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee
Meeting Notes

Thursday, September 26, 2024

Westwood Police Station, 588 High Street
Jaillet Community Meeting Room

Committee Members in attendance: Steve Olanoff (Vice Chair and presiding), Maria Costantini, Enkelejda (Kela) Klose, Kate Nee, Mike Tinsley

Ex-officio Members in attendance: None

Other attendees: Fred Vanwagenen, 181 Canton St.; Paul Benya, Fox Hill Village

Meeting Start: 7:35 pm.

Maria Costantini was selected to record the meeting notes.

Topics Discussed

DPW Updates

A written report was submitted by Todd Korchin, DPW Director. He also provided one of the new 4-foot rule signs for display at the committee's Westwood Day booth. He stated in the report that before anything could be done about the requested pedestrian crossing at High Street, Fox Hill Village would have to commit to installing a sidewalk on their property leading up to the Town property at the site.

He reported about the High Street traffic signal controls that he had reached out to the Traffic Signal company that performed the Adaptive Signal installation. He is still awaiting a formal report pertaining to the effectiveness of the system and how it is functioning. He will provide their feedback as soon as there is any information from them.

Police Updates

None

Planning Board Updates

Town Planner Elijah Romulus submitted a written report. He reported that the Planning Board is conducting an Environmental Impact and Design Review of the proposed new Fire Station on

High Street. Steve thought the only issue concerning this committee would be sufficient distance between the station and the sidewalk so that fire trucks parked on the apron would not block pedestrian passage on the sidewalk.

There is a proposal to build five homes at 101 High Street that would have one shared driveway. This would eliminate some significant topological problems and have one driveway instead of five on a heavily traveled section of roadway. There is some opposition from abutters.

Kate and Steve reported that the Attorney General's office has approved the Planning Board's articles from Town meeting, including the MBTA Zoning (Section 3A), but we are still awaiting approval from Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC) for compliance with their rules and regulations.

Select Board Updates

Town Administrator Chris Coleman has reported that he and other Town officials will be working with Fox Hill Village on the residents' request for a pedestrian crossing at High Street and the issues involved, including sidewalk connectivity.

Westwood Day

Steve reported that the Committee had a table set up by Mike Kraft with a canopy and our banner, a 4-foot rule sign on display, and with Landry's Bicycles showing an e-bike. Because of the weather there was not a lot of traffic. At around 1:00 pm Steve and Tom dismantled the booth and Steve delivered to the raffle winner the prize of a set of bike lights donated by Landry's.

Annual Report on the Westwood Comprehensive Plan

Steve Olanoff made a presentation to the Planning Board on September 10th on the progress that the committee has made to date on implementing the Ped/Bike actions listed in the 2020 Comprehensive Plan. Issues such as the promised path connecting University Station to the Railroad Station and the eventual connection to the Blue Hills were well received by the Planning Board. Their concerns were about establishing a Town-wide speed limit which the Ped/Bike Committee had considered a few years ago, participation in the Committee by the schools, and for the issue of too many high schoolers driving to school and the resulting problems.

Complete Streets

Nothing new reported.

Canton Street Working Group

Members were urged to attend the next meeting of the Canton Street Working Group on Monday, September 7 at the Pine Hill School because they will mostly be taking public input.

Sidewalk Plan

Although there was no new discussion on this issue, the need for a Town-wide sidewalk plan was recognized as something that should be on the agenda of every meeting so that we can track any progress made.

Community Trails

Steve Olanoff reported that due to a change in the person organizing the hikes, there was some miscommunication and there was no hike for September.

Climate Plan

The Climate Action, Resiliency & Sustainability Plan being written by the Planning Department will still take any comments or corrections.

Fox Hill Village Access

Paul Benya from Fox Hill Village was given an update on how the Town is looking into solving the problems for pedestrians trying to walk out of Fox Hill Village and onto High Street. When informed that a possible solution was to build a sidewalk on the east side of High Street down to the intersection at Summer Street where a crossing already exists, Paul brought up the problem that someone wanting to walk over to Grove Street would have to walk all the way down to Summer Street and back up in order to get to Grove.

New Business

The Select Board has established an advisory committee for locating a dog park in town. It is already meeting regularly.

Meeting Minutes

The minutes were approved for July 25, 2024.

Next Meeting

The next meeting was not scheduled.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.