

Cambridge Pedestrian Committee meeting notes April 26, 2012

Committee members in attendance: Helen Rose (chair), Mark Robinson, Sara Freeman, Robin Finnegan, Sean Peirce, Elizabeth Bierer, Jeanne Cronin, Pete Kane, Joseph Rose, Debby Galef, Rose Billeci

City staff in attendance: Rosalie Anders, Bill Dwyer, Kathy Murphy

AGENDA:

1. Introductions, approval of minutes

Minutes from February meeting had not been sent out so approval postponed until next month.

2. Police Report

Kathy Murphy reported there have been 35 pedestrian accidents since 1.1.2012, two of which have been serious though not fatal. Because they are still under investigation, she does not yet have a report she can share with the committee. Kathy will bring more information and statistics to the next meeting.

3. Public works update

Bill Dwyer handed out an update on sidewalk and roadway work as well as on-going large projects. He reviewed the list and responded to questions.

4. Reports and discussion

- Central Square: Rosalie attended the Central Square community meeting. There were about 100 people in attendance. The focus was mostly on development and an anticipated increase in density. In the discussion of pedestrian-related issues, complaints were voiced about pedestrian/bus interactions. There were general complaints about Carl Barron Plaza, but the concerns were non-specific. The difficulty in maintaining retail businesses in Central Square was raised as an issue.
- Kendall Square meeting: Helen and Rose reported there was little focus on pedestrian issues. The plans still seem to be very fluid.

5. Huron Ave. process: managing storm water is focus of work being done.
6. Rosalie reports the City is about to launch a project to assess the community's vulnerability to climate change – storm water management as well as sea level rise. Once the report is published in about 1.5 years, there will be a public meeting.

7. Mass Inc report on transportation and climate goals: Rosalie said there seems to be a shift in attitude by MassDOT. They have launched the GreenDOT project and seem to be paying more attention to pedestrians, bicycles, "complete streets."
8. Legislation:
 - Speed limit – the process continues to be frustrating.
 - Vulnerable road use legislation focuses on anyone not in a car.
 - Increase in fines for jaywalkers: bill still in the legislature.
 - Legislation has been introduced to reduce the speed limit to 20 MPH near senior centers.
9. Walking apps: Rosalie brought up the idea of developing apps for walking. Because it was 8pm there was little discussion of this idea.
10. Rosalie said there is a new City website, due to go live May 8th.