

Pedestrian Committee
DRAFT Meeting notes
May 24, 2012

Deb Galef, Helen Rose, MJ Jensen, Pete Kane, Robin Finnegan, Sean Peirce, Andrea Yoder, Elizabeth Bierer; Cara Seiderman, Rosalie Anders, Kathy Watkins, Stuart Dash

Rosalie told the committee that she is retiring in June, and committee members expressed good wishes and provided a cake.

Kathy Watkins presented the roadway design options under consideration for Kendall Square, including the preferred option, and explained the rationale. Committee members expressed some concerns about how Point Park will feel when it is more of a traffic island, and about possible increases in traffic on Main Street and possible difficulties for cyclists heading north from Main St.; committee members who work in the Kendall Square area agreed that there are too few outdoor spaces to sit and eat lunch away from traffic.

Stuart Dash showed conceptual plans for Central Square, including possible building height increases. The committee discussed concerns about the square as a pedestrian environment and a destination. People did not feel that there were difficulties navigating—crossing Mass. Ave. does not seem to be an issue, and the difficulties near the top of Western Ave. will be addressed in the Western Ave. reconstruction. The issue is more about the streetscape, for example on Green St. and the top block of Pearl Street. They agreed that expanding the concept of what Central Square is (just a strip on Mass. Ave.?) is important, and that it is important to provide a more visually attractive walking environment along Mass. Ave. Robin was impressed by all the history that Charlie Sullivan provided during last month's Jane's Walk and wondered about information plaques in the square. The committee will meet further to discuss options.

Huron Ave. will be the subject of the June meeting. Jeff Rosenblum will lead a walk. Some concern has been raised in the neighborhood about parking, and one resident has been telling neighbors that curb extensions are dangerous. Getting accurate information out to the community will be important.