

Draft Cambridge Pedestrian Committee minutes - Oct. 25, 2012

members attending: Helen Rose, Debby Galef, Sean Peirce, Rose Billeci, Elizabeth Bierer, Ben Hammer, Andrea Yoder, MJ Jensen

city staff: Cara Seiderman, Bill Dwyer, Kathy Murphy

After introductions and mention of the new Harvard rep. Ben Hammer, Bill Dwyer proceeded to discuss the DPW's plan for snow clearance. This is actually the plan from last year, which was barely used due to minimal snowfall.

18 miles of city-cleared sidewalks, with hand crews and mechanical equipment, covering 2/3 of the city. Priorities are schools, public buildings, squares. The snow is generally not removed as there's no place to put it. Snow melting machines used elsewhere are expensive and have high maintenance costs. Tickets for uncleared sidewalks are doorhangers. More information may be found on the website and snow clearance brochures are sent out with water bills. Fewer than six inches of snow at bus stops will not be cleared by the city. The goal is three to four days with a big storm. There are six sidewalk machines for the whole city.

Construction report: season is ending soon. New pavement will be weather permitting. Water drains should be fully cleared by residents in anticipation of storms.

Snow and ice clearance Oct. 4 meeting report: chaired by JoAnn Haas of CCPD and attended by DPW, post office and Green Streets representatives, as well as some community members. Best shoveled street contest will continue, run by post office with help from Green Streets and DPW. Mail carriers often report unshoveled sidewalks. Some discussion of having city clear all sidewalks but DPW does not view this as feasible, particularly as most residential streets require hand shoveling.

Sgt. Murphy reported that there have been 74 pedestrian vehicle crashes so far this year, most of them occurring in crosswalks. Cambridge and First Streets was the top location but no place really stood out. The crash trend line is down, meaning fewer crashes per number of trips. The city is still checking car seats, with a special phone # to call. We can e-mail Kathy with particular intersections we'd like covered.

North Point: The developers have said that they love the idea of different kinds of open space. They plan to add another play area. The idea of shared streets has been accepted. We will be reviewing plans for each building as they are presented.

Huron Ave.: Cara mentioned the cycle track study done for Canadian cities, showing that they are indeed safer than alternatives. There was a discussion of parking issues. Employees of the Huron Ave. businesses who do not have Cambridge parking stickers want access. This is not legal.

Regular parking meter costs went up recently. The city parking lot underneath the Harvard Motor Lodge now charges \$3/hour and there are fewer cars vying for the spaces, which means they are available to more people.

Future of pedestrian committee: discussion about whether the structure should be changed

Next meeting is Nov. 15th (3rd Thursday)