

CAMBRIDGE PEDESTRIAN COMMITTEE MEETING

DATE: February 28, 2013

Location: City Hall Annex

Committee Member Attendees: Elizabeth Bierer, Robin Engel Finnegan, Debby Galef, Sean Peirce, Helen Rose, Joseph Rose, Andrea Yoder

City Staff Attendees: Cara Seiderman, Bill Dwyer

Visitors: Prospective Pedestrian Committee members.

I. Minutes, Agenda Review

Last month's minutes were approved.

II. Pedestrian Committee Planning

- A. Huron Avenue Project: Discussed issues to be covered at the upcoming meeting with Jeff R. regarding the Huron Avenue Project. Cara Seiderman summarized some of comments from local business owners and residents including those comments that were opposed to adding an additional crosswalk at Standish Street at the cost of losing two parking spots. The business owners on Huron Avenue have started a petition to oppose any loss of parking. The Pedestrian Committee needs to voice support for the inclusion of this crosswalk which the group believes is a vital part of the design. Also included in these comments is opposition to a designated loading zone so that the bike lanes are not blocked during deliveries. For the meeting next Monday, March 4th with Jeff Rosenblum, the committee will support the plan as is but voice concern that not enough was done to show the public that including cycle tracks was an option.
- B. Planning for Meeting with Traffic, Parking & Transportation Department. Issues to be discussed:
 - 1. Keeping the widened bike lane (currently temporary during construction) under the Harvard underpass because it has significantly slowed down traffic.
 - 2. City wide problem of taxis idling in bike lanes.
 - 3. The possibility of having more pedestrian only zones on Sundays by closing streets. Cara Seiderman noted that the logistics of planning and implementing these ideas require working with several different city departments.
- C. Pedestrian Plan Revision: Cara Seiderman said that a city staff person would be assigned to work with the committee on this but that person has not yet been identified.

- III. **Zoning Proposal for Bicycle Parking:** The planning board has submitted a zoning proposal to updated Bicycle Parking requirements. Main points of discussion included the change to bike parking requirements which would now not be dependent on the requirements for car parking. All new development will have requirements for bicycle parking except that the Planning Board does not want requirements for 1, 2 & 3 unit housing [*update: this changed on March 19 to include 3-unit housing*]. The committee will send a letter supporting it, highlighting the importance of supporting sustainable transportation and noting that that better organized bicycle parking makes for a better urban environment for pedestrians as well. This will be first on the agenda for the Planning Board meeting on March 19 at 7 PM.

IV. **Updates + Reports**

- A. DPW Report by Bill Dwyer: DPW's response to the latest snow storm was reported on. (732 snow issues were reported via phone calls and I report, 352 citations were give out, 13,000 tons of snow were removed) DPW is still working to clear some areas. Bill Dwyer to look into why the Concord Ave. cycle track has not been fully cleared.
- B. City Projects: Both the Broadway and Main Streets projects are set to begin this spring. For future projects the Pedestrian committee asked Bill Dwyer what the possibility is for cycle tracks included in snow clearing. We will need to work with DPW to determine a pragmatic approach.
- C. Committee Work: Reviewed the comments previously sent from the committee to DPW regarding their Five Year Plan. Bill Dwyer stated that the DPW has received the committee's comments and is currently reviewing them. We will think about how these comments can also be tied into the Pedestrian Plan in the upcoming revision process. Many of these comments include initiatives that will require the committee to work with several of city's departments.
- D. Grand Junction Pathway: Councilor Toomey has put forth a proposal to create a pathway overlay zoning district for this area to preserve this open space for the anticipated rail-with-trail to be developed. Possible opposition could come from some property owners but there are key protections for property owners to retain the building rights and use them on other parcels as well as a density bonus for donating property or easements for the path. (Note: The state has decided not to move forward with the commuter rail line that would have run along this route.)