

Cambridge Pedestrian Committee

Minutes from October 24, 2013, 6-8 PM

Present: Helen Rose, Ben Williams, Victoria Farr, Debby Galef, Elizabeth Bierer, Nora Marantz, Magda McCormick, Sean Peirce, Robin Finnegan, Andrea Yoder

Staff: Cara Seiderman, Bill Dwyer

Visitor: Casey Wy

1. Minutes, Agenda Review, Introductions

a. Last month's minutes **approved**.

2. Projects and Planning

a. DPW Update

i. iReport was updated, but it still lacks a construction input option. Citizens can also report issues by calling DPW, traffic ticketing, or the police.

- Cambridge does not issue permits for blocking the sidewalk, and sidewalk blockers should be ticketed. Use the "Sidewalk" option if reporting through iReport.

ii. There has been more construction than normal, but all work will be smooth for winter via project completion or temporary paving.

iii. 5-year plan: The Committee can have input on street construction plans by monitoring the 5-year plan

(<http://www.cambridgema.gov/theworks/ourservices/engineering/aboutengineering/fiveyearplandescription.aspx>). The Committee may be able to work with the Traffic Calming coordinator to discuss individual projects.

- Cambridge also maintains a public list of projects finished since 2006.
- Individuals can call DPW Community Relations to get info on streets not on any public list.

iv. The sidewalk on Cambridge Common is still torn up.

v. City Projects (for details on these projects, see DPW handout from meeting)

- Western Avenue (D'Allessandro Corp)
- Harvard Tunnel (MIG Corp)
- Contract 12 (P.Gioioso & Sons)
- Huron A (P. Gioioso & Sons)
- Huron B (Bartletta)
- Myrtle/Magnolia Project (D'Allessandro Corp)
- Common Manhole #7 (Newport Construction)
- CAM017 (Caliacco Corp)
- Binney St Infrastructure Project (Gilbane/J. Derenzo)
- Fawcett St Project (d'Allessandro Corp)
- Waterhouse Street (D'Allessandro Corp)
- Longfellow Bridge
- Remedial Contract (Mattuchio Construction)
- Misc. Sidewalk Contract (Deroma)
- Broadway (Prospect-Portland) (D'Allessandro Corp)
- Broadway (Third-Ames) Mass DOT Project (DeFelice)
- Chapter 90 – Contract 14 (DeFelice)

- Chapter 90 – Contract 16 (Marchese)
- MLK School – Putnam Ave
- Cambridge Water Dept
- Traffic Dept

vi. University Projects

- Harvard University
- MIT

vii. Utility Company Projects

- NSTAR Gas
- NSTAR Electric
- Cooling Pipe Project (NSTAR Elec/Vittiglio)
- Comcast
- Veolia

viii. Private Development Projects

- 75/125 Binney Street
- 225 Binney Street
- 75 Ames Street
- 181 Mass Avenue
- 610 Main Street
- 159 First Street
- 8 Education Street
- 10-40 Child Street (Building N)
- 1801 Mass Avenue
- 70 Fawcett Street
- 160 Cambridge Park Drive
- 223 Concord Turnpike (Faces Project)
- 603 Concord Avenue
- 355 Fresh Pond Pkwy
- 40 Norris Street

b. East Cambridge/Kendall Square Open Space Study

<http://www.cambridgema.gov/CDD/Projects/Parks/ecambkendallparks.aspx>

i. ECKOS – analyzing open space opportunities in Kendall Square

- Pedestrian Committee members Victoria Farr and Rose Billeci are on the committee of 17 members
- Working on creating a new open-space plan, primarily focused on network and park-planning
- Met in May, July, and September, and undertook walking tour of sites in June and October. ECKOS has already discussed historical context.
- Hoping to have late fall and early winter public meetings
- Currently undertaking a telephone-based “Survey of Needs” with 230 participants. There is also an online survey of all Cambridge residents available through the project website, above.

ii. Handout Map:

- Red-dashed is the focus area
- Green is “public space” (most privately-owned but publicly-accessible)
- Focus area is 5 acres of new space:

- #3: Point Park (globe fountain) – city-owned. Looking at opening that space up for visitors
- #7: Triangle on 1st Street – city-owned. Currently a pile of rocks. The corner closest to the Galleria has trees from a donor.
- #9 – Grass field, not regulation size for full soccer-field, but considering it for youth fields of some sort
- #13 – Pork chop parcel, given to Cambridge in exchange for Google taking part of public rooftop garden for development. The space is adjacent to the future Grand Junction, so there may be tie-in opportunity
- #8 – Rogers St Park, which currently hosts a board asking for input (*a la* Candy Chang)
- An RFP for a competition coordinator to begin a design competition for parks has been posted. All design submissions will be property of the city. Designs may be network or individual; there hasn't been a decision on that matter yet.
 - Design Competition potential considerations:
 - Inventory of park amenities?
 - Generally discomfort with walking in the neighborhood during off-peak hours: *"mysterious steam in the dark"*
 - Consider activity hubs and unconnected destinations
 - Grand Junction Path, Memorial Drive
 - Innovative wayfinding using the public ROW
 - Well-defined connecting walking path, similar to the Freedom Trail or the Emerald Necklace
 - Look at other improvements underway (e.g. Binney St)
 - Compare Third St a decade ago and today for signs of progress.
 - November meeting was to be on the 7th, but is postponed.
- c. Spring Walk in Kendall Square
 - i. CS received email from Alan Breed
 - ii. Jen Lawrence was out sick but is better
 - iii. Plan out outside discussion separate from regular meeting. Would be helpful to have walking representative to start with
 - iv. Will schedule by email
- d. Safe Routes to School and more—kids walking
 - i. Had a meeting to try to make city easier for students/children
 - ii. Healthy Children Task Force Subcommittee
 - iii. Big project, needs a staff person. Talking about how to continue, whether it be intern or new position or what
 - iv. Simply not enough staff time to do it at the moment
 - v. Unclear to people – question whether biking to school is safe enough at the moment, lacking infrastructure. Maybe focus on walking
 - vi. People bike from HS to fields @ Danehy, for example, and they need help getting there safely. For example, getting support from HS rowing team
 - vii. Kids can also bike on sidewalks in most of the city (really? Yes.)

viii. Goal is in part to get bystanders / parents

Crossing guard placement, under police dept

e. Bike crash data update

i. Jeff Parenti has re-coded 9 years of bike crashes and may be able to combine it with counts

ii. Data appear to show something new/different/surprising about where/how of crashes

iii. Parked cars on the outside cause a lot of dooring and sideswipes

- Also a lot of T-boning / angle crashes where drivers hit bikes when drivers are going in and out of parking spaces or exiting side streets or driveways
- 2x as many left turn crashes as right-turn crashes, same issue as pedestrians
- Not many kids involved, and it's generally the motorists who are at fault

3. Updates

a. Snow and Winter

i. Post-meeting report from Debby Galef

ii. Not much has changed. Discussed expanding bus stops. Not doing school bus stops, city didn't seem interested

iii. New flip signs to block parking during heavy snows, seem to work well, may expand

iv. Best shoveled sidewalk competition?

4. Announcements & Upcoming Meetings

a. 3rd Thursday of November (21st) email CS with agenda items

b. December 11th @ 6pm on 2nd floor (bring food if possible/potluck)