

## Cambridge Pedestrian Committee

Minutes: May 26, 2011

In attendance:

Sean (vice chair), Rosalie, Andrea, Pete, Debby, Cara, Bill Dwyer, Mark Robinson, Jeanne Cronin, Helen Rose

Minutes/agenda review

Updates, projects, announcements

Reports from the hood

Construction updates

Police report

Go green month and golden shoes

Cambridge common

Kendall square project update

Development project review

Other

Committee priorities and goals

Planning for upcoming meetings

June

July/August walks

Minutes

Discussion of Officer Elections: aim to have them in June

Reports from the hood:

Debby has been to a meeting with Representative Capuano about Somerville/Cambridge, about bridges and Sullivan Square. Capuano thinks one lane into Cambridge on the Longfellow is sufficient. He later said one lane on Broadway didn't seem sufficient. For Anderson bridge also concerned about traffic issues. He does say he's in favor of bicycle riding.

Debby also went to McGrath/O'Brien meeting, mostly focused on Somerville, but heavy East Cambridge Planning Team representation. One project is about overpass by Target. A group was in favor of "de-elevation" of that overpass. Debby will pass along the meeting minutes when she gets them.

Bill Dwyer brought a list of ongoing sidewalk work.

Sean asked about the Broadway reconstruction. Design work is done, but Bill is not hopeful that construction will be done this year.

There will be a Central Square visioning process with a kickoff. Cara brought a flyer: June 9 5:30, St. Paul AME Church on Bishop Allen Drive. Councillor Reeves is listed as the sponsor of a "Red Ribbon Commission".

Forest City wants to up-zone their site. Novartis wants to up-zone theirs, but their up-zoning is a done deal.

No Police Report

Go Green: many great events. The bike ride was amazing: nearly 300 cyclists showed up. Past years topped out around 160 participants.

Golden shoes: Rosalie ordered "Cambridge Walks" labeled bags as giveaways, as suggested by the committee. A plus: easy to store! Many people have found and returned shoes.

Go Green awards: Debby attended.

City got a Bike Commuter Week award for third most bicycle miles, amazing considering the weather.

Cambridge Common Renovation: June 9. Details in the weekly pedestrian report.

13 Appian Way in the Longfellow Building (Harvard School of Education), Askwith Auditorium. Come early to see plans at 6:00.

The common is one of the oldest, most historic places in the city of Cambridge. The project has been going on, in one form or another, since the mid 1990s. Considered among where the US Army started, because it's where George Washington took charge of his troops.

Almost all the major streets in Cambridge meet at the Common. It's similar to a traffic circle. Improving bicycle & pedestrian accommodation. Reducing conflict. There was a move to ban cycles from the common some years ago but that has long been put to rest.

Current effort is to perk it up, tweak it. Redo the sidewalks. There was an attempt to use compacted soil, and the company that sold it did an installation, but it didn't work out. Many puddles. Failed experiment.

Current edge paths are asphalt. Brick is not historic material. Plan for more asphalt paths with brick edging.

Common itself looks shabby. Playground was redone recently.

Plan includes regularizing the paths, and moving some to reflect where people actually walk. Eliminate excess paving around the monument.

Flagstaff Park will be part of it; this is the area above & around bus ramp. Technically part of the common. Create a multi-use path along Flagstaff Park. Signals very complicated due to bikes and pedestrians.

Buses sometimes violate the signal. New signals, markings, orientation should address this; also talking directly with the T operations folks.

Subcommittee organization

Bike committee has more project-related subcommittees and work between the official meetings

Have a standing time for subcommittees where we have space reserved in city hall annex. Monday evenings the city staff work until 8pm so would be available. First Monday might be best, as it is soon after the regular committee meeting.

Possible projects:

Puddles at intersections

snow & ice removal

Look for a new paradigm for litter enforcement

June: signals, traffic calming, elections, snow & ice, enforcement

How much should the planning about a city roadway or sidewalk project focus on the input of the immediate neighbors, and how much should it look at the transportation needs of the city as a whole?

summer walks:

July: Kendall Square

August: Huron Avenue (sewer separation) Concord Avenue to Fresh Pond