

## Cambridge Pedestrian Committee Minutes

Thursday, April 25, 2013

Present: Cara Seiderman (CDD), Robin Finnegan (note-taker), Ben Williams, Victoria Farr, Ryan Westrom, Elizabeth Bierer, Bill Dwyer (DPW), Owen O’Riordan (DPW), Kathy Watkins (DPW), Debby Galef, Magda McCormick, Sean Peirce, Helen Rose, Rose Billeci, Nora Marantz

I. Committee member introductions: new and old members introduced themselves.

II. Minutes: No March minutes yet

III. DPW Presentation of 5-year street and sidewalk plan:

<http://www.cambridgema.gov/theworks/ourservices/engineering/aboutengineering/fiveyearplandescription.aspx>

Thanks to input from the Pedestrian Committee, the language on the complete streets and the benefits of the raised side street details has been further developed. The list of streets has also been updated.

Owen O’Riordan estimates that 60% of the sewers in Cambridge have now been separated.

In response to a question about why utilities lines are not being put underground, Owen said their estimate is that it would cost \$1,000/linear foot to put lines underground.

The 5-year plan does not include non-city projects such as bridges.

There was discussion of several related topics: When sidewalks are too narrow for accessible sidewalks on both sides, during reconstruction an accessible sidewalk is installed on just one side; Raised crossings on side streets, rather than ramps, allow for a more gradual slant & better drainage; Pros and cons of more frequent pedestrian crossings.

In response to a question, Bill Dwyer talked about the DPW’s iReport system for reporting a variety of issues/problems. Reports can be made via the website or by smart phone after downloading the application on the website: <http://www.cambridgema.gov/iReport>

IV. Updates, Announcements & Reports

The City Council has held its first (of two) votes and voted to advance a zoning petition by the Planning Board to amend the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Cambridge to create a new Section 6.100 Bicycle Parking.

The annual Jane’s Walk will focus on Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 will be in Central Square. Robin Finnegan will forward information about the walk to Cara to include in the Pedestrian Report.

V. Projects

a) Waverly/Purrinton Path Extension - Two options are being considered: 1. Continuing the existing path for another block and having a separate roadway for vehicles needing to access the loading docks; and 2. Constructing a shared space. Committee discussed briefly. There is

a piece of public art that could be installed in the area. There was interest in continuing the discussion if the timing of decision-making permits.

- b) Huron Ave. – Final open house is next Wednesday. No decision on adding a crosswalk will be made until after May 1<sup>st</sup>. The design will not preclude the possibility of an additional crosswalk be added in the future. We will figure out another time to complete the survey of how people get to the area to shop.
- c) Concord Ave./Garden Street area: Second joint Pedestrian/Bike Committees meeting on May 20<sup>th</sup>.