

PEDESTRIAN COMMITTEE MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 18, 2014

Present: Rose Billeci, Helen Rose, Debby Galef, Sean Peirce, Elizabeth Bierer, Victoria Farr, Dana Benjamin, Cara Seiderman

1. Pedestrian Committee Events-next walk

Emails were sent out with links to other organizations that have already established walks and sights such as Historical Society and CitySmart walks. Committee is to review these and to use as a guide for planning another walk sometime in the spring of 2015.

*We need input from members for our next meeting. Please review these links and come up with suggestions for our next walk. Also, we need to pick the location of our next walk. Decision to be made at our October 23, 2014 meeting.

We are also looking to update the pedestrian committee website and to put links from these walks onto our website. Also, to put the Kendall Square walk from June 2014 onto our website.

2. Projects, Reports and Updates

a. DPW

No report

b. Garden street construction project

Another study is being conducted regarding parking on the street. No decision has been made.

c. Snow/Ice

Meeting will be held in October. Any suggestions please email Debby. There was some discussion regarding more leverage if you receive a ticket besides just a fine. This is to inhibit people from not clearing the sidewalks. Some information needed to find out what percentage of tickets are actually paid, how much money is collected and where does the money go.

d. Harvard Kennedy School

This is for 79 JFK St. Modifications to this building by Harvard. The main issue is to provide parking space for dignitaries/high officials who visit the campus. Currently, these officials are provided a limo/driver who brings them to this location and then parks behind the building in a courtyard. Harvard (through this new proposal and design) is getting rid of the parking behind the building in this courtyard. Which leads the question as to where these drivers will park their limos while they wait.

Harvard's proposal does not have a solution, which leads the committee to believe that the road/bike lane will be blocked or part of the sidewalk will be taken out to accommodate vehicles.

The committee would like for Harvard to provide a drop off on their property and not use public space. A letter needs to be written to the planning board for this to happen. Planning board meeting for the JFK St. proposal is October 7, 2014.

- e. Ames St
This proposal is for a building on Ames St. in Kendall between Mead Hall and Legal Seafood. We will have a separate committee meeting on Monday Oct. 6, 2014 to review this project. This meeting will also include the bike committee. This is to prepare for the Planning Board meeting on Oct. 21, 2014 that will review the Ames St. project. *[update: PB hearing and discussion postponed, waiting for revised plans]*
 - f. Open Space- ECKOS
Currently, it is in stage II. Eight teams have been selected and these teams will provide designs for the open space. Selection of the winning design is in January 2015.
 - g. Greenough Blvd
DCR has been contacted regarding extending a ten ft. path to a twelve ft. path. The committee has not heard back from DCR. The next step will be to contact elected officials to intervene.
 - h. Grand Junction study
An MIT study was conducted to determine if a multiuse path was doable. The study says that technically it can be done.
3. Other
- a. MassDot pedestrian and bicycle audits
Grant from MassDot is going to conduct audits on certain locations to see how efficient and safe these intersections are on a daily basis. These audits will also use data from areas police have done enforcements. These areas include Inman Square; Mass Ave. and Vassar; Cambridge St. and Cardinal Meideiros – one will be the subject of a site visit.
 - b. Lowell park meeting
DCR meeting Tuesday Sept. 23, 2014
 - c. New members
Announcement will be made beginning of October. Please help recruit.