

Cambridge Pedestrian Committee

Meeting Minutes: October 2016

Attendees: Cara Seiderman (CDD), Debby Galef, Sean Pierce, Matt Nelson (CPD), Jodie Cohen-Tanugi, Andrea Yoder, Helen Rose, Liza Cohen, Elizabeth Bierer, Bill Dwyer (DPW), Brian McLane (DPW), Dana Benjamin (TP&T), Magda McCormick

- I. **Agenda Review, Minutes** September Meeting Minutes approved with amendments

- II. **Infrastructure Projects**
 - a. **Porter Square** Review of June 16, 2016 plan to be implemented next year.
 - b. **DPW Updates** Construction season ends this month with street paving finishing soon.
 - c. **Other** Mobile message signs are positioned around the city to encourage safety and rules of the road. Any suggestions for creative wording should be directed to Matt Nelson (mnelson@cambridgepolice.org).

III. **Pedestrian Committee Work**

Review of Punch List brought discussion of overlay map for DPW review/coordination with 5 year plan.

New state law allows towns and cities to reduce road speed to 25 mph and designate zones for 20 mph. At November 7 Meeting, the City Council will need to authorize the Traffic Dept. to designate the speed limits. There will be a period of time needed to advertise the changes legally, then implementation. This is expected to be done by the end of the year.

IV. **Development Project Review**

Mass. and Main: Residential and commercial development adding much street side furniture/trees/etc. and alley way to connect Mass. Ave. and rear parking area. Committee expressed concerns about current design and made recommendations including:

sidewalk portion dedicated to walking should be wider, with less space for the street furniture zone (which seems overly generous)

trees are great addition

move bike racks from public space to within property boundaries

lighting is important (especially in alley way)

benches should follow style and ratio of those already in place on Mass. Ave. on other blocks

furniture and built streetscape (tables, seating, benches, tree wells) look too visually cluttered making pedestrian pathways confusing and insufficient

A letter will be sent to the Planning Board.

V. Future Meeting Ideas

- a. Herb Nolan (Solomon Foundation) could be invited to discuss plans for the proposed connection from the Charles River to Fresh Pond through the two cemeteries.
- b. The DCR could be invited to discuss plans for the redesign of the Fresh Pond Parkway and Mt. Auburn intersection and surrounding areas.

VI: Announcements and Next Meetings: November Meeting scheduled for Nov. 17