

Pedestrian Committee Meeting Draft Minutes 10/25/2018

Attendance:

Committee: Debby Galef, Magda McCormick, Sean Pierce, Johanna Pittman, Helen Rose, Olivia Turner

Staff: Cara Seiderman (CDD), Greg Hanafin (CDD), Brian McLane (DPW)

Guests: Adham Kalila, Carolina Rodriguez, Gary Tran, Carolyn Yang

We would like to have elections next month for officers. Sam, the secretary stepped down, Magda wants to relinquish the vice chair role, and Debby is willing to step down as the chair.

We discussed the potential for combining all three committees (bike/pedestrian/transit). The bike committee showed enthusiasm, and suggested we take this for a trial run in the spring. The transit committee staff feel that their issues are significantly different and they may not want to meet regularly with the other two committees. We will postpone our discussion of workplan until January.

We will have our annual meeting about snow in November.

There is hope that the pedestrian committee do another article for the city magazine. We need to commit by Friday November 16. Drafts are due December 7, with final version due in mid-January. Possible topics include: spotlight walks in Cambridge. We don't have to provide photos. Do we want to highlight this past year's walk? We will discuss at our November meeting. Send any suggestions for topics to the membership listserv.

Paving done by Halloween. Sidewalk construction by Thanksgiving. Streets completed this year: Thorndike, Dudley, Parker, Healey. Raised crosswalk at Parker/Concord.

Sidewalk poetry: 5 more (Linnaean, Porter Sq)

RFB (rapid flashing beacon) installed in Porter. City looking for other suggestions for locations.

It can be frustrating to report items via SeeClickFix and not get a response. City prioritizes work based on sidewalk traffic. The staff position of superintendent of streets to oversee all of that prioritization is currently open and things are in process to fill it.

There will be a snow plow with the blade painted with children's handprints. Details are in this week's pedestrian report. Brian encouraged committee members to retweet the announcement.

Salt brine (salt water) project for sidewalks. The city will be pre-treating sidewalks and roadways. Pilot area: Linear Park. Could reduce salt usage by 75%. City needs specialized equipment for application. Residents will still be responsible for clearing their own sidewalks. The salt brine will be used in areas the city clears.

Project Updates

South Mass Ave: starts week of October 29, weather permitting. Work has to be done during the daytime due to temperatures, making for messy traffic conditions. New crosswalk won't happen until the spring. Color pavement markings are weather/temperature dependent.

Variable message boards are up to announce the work. Police will be out doing enforcement, with warnings to start, followed by citations after a grace period.

Porter Square: paved last week, painted (during the daytime) in a couple of weeks.

Inman Square: meeting on Wednesday 10/24. Some modifications needed to improve pedestrian conditions. Construction will start next spring. There will be art in the plaza.

Watertown Greenway Path started construction. There will be a lighting trial of adjustable and dimmable lights in Danehy Park. November 7 meeting to observe. Cara will send out a notice.

Crashes:

Putnam & Magazine. Dump truck reversed over pedestrian. There were witnesses.

Erie Street/parking lot: senior citizen resident, hit & run.

Los Angeles memorializes (online) the crash and allows people to leave memories of the deceased.

Boston Cyclist Union & Livable Streets created a video about truck safety. Will be in next week's pedestrian report.

Symposium on how trucks operate in the city. At Main Library. Will be open to the public. November 15, during the day. Details in next week's report.

Recommendations came out of NHTSA to have side guards. City doesn't want to mandate it on its own, as it would cause the City to have trouble finding contractors with that equipment.

Upcoming Meetings (invite bike committee):

We would like to invite Jeff Parenti from the DCR to come & talk to us. Issues of note:

- Parkland pathways
- Lighting on Memorial drive
- Signal policies. Push buttons. Concurrent vs exclusive
- No turn on red
- Craigie bridges & bike lanes
- Snow clearance

Street lighting. What could we do with pedestrian scale lighting. Don't forget to use SeeClickFix to report light problems. Motion sensitive lighting.

Minutes from September approved.

December meeting (joint meeting)

Greg will do a Doodle poll for December 12 & 13