

Cambridge Pedestrian Committee -- Draft Minutes

January 29, 2019

Attendance

Members: Debby Galef, Sean Peirce, Magda McCormick, Olivia Turner, Johanna Pittman, Jodie Cohen-Tanugi

Staff: Cara Seiderman (CDD), Greg Hanafin (CDD), Dana Benjamin (TP&T), Rick Riley (Police), Pardis Saffari (CDD), Khalil Mogassabi (CDD)

Guests: Jeff Parenti (DCR), Mark Boswell, Peter Stokes, Dien Ho

I. Introductions

II. Pardis Saffari (CDD's Economic Development Division) is planning a community walk of Mass Ave between Harvard, Porter, and Davis to promote the area's walkability and the diversity of businesses that call the area home. The committee discussed possibilities for participating in the walk. Pardis will send along a list of participation options, and the committee will continue to discuss and respond by the end of February.

III. November minutes (11.15.18) approved. Vice Chair position remains open and will be voted on in the February meeting.

IV. Jeff Parenti (State Department of Conservation and Recreation) presented an update on DCR projects in Cambridge. Highlights of his presentation include:

Memorial Drive Phase III project. Project will address Memorial Drive from the MIT boat house to the Eliot Bridge. All options are on the table. He estimates a 12-18 month design period (in process), construction bid in by summer of FY20, and construction work occurring after summer FY20 over a 3-4 year period. A key area of interest is the BU Rotary. Short-term plans include painted bike lanes to ensure greater safety. Speed studies and ped-bike-car counts will take place in the spring.

Ames Street and Memorial Drive. A recent collaborative project between MIT (design) and DCR (build) improved the Ames St. crossing and added bike lanes. The committee discussed lingering potential issues with desire lines from pedestrians wishing to cross Mem Drive from MIT anywhere between Mass Ave and Ames St.

We discussed DCR's snow removal methods. DCR snow removal priority map here:

<http://eoeea.maps.arcgis.com/apps/SimpleViewer/index.html?appid=4a64ec9cf8ac4bb5a5bc97e5e443e798>

Issues with No Turn on Red intersections on DCR parkways were discussed. Jeff shared that the Commissioner had the authority to make changes and would prefer to receive a written request with all known problem locations listed. Sean Peirce will collect a list of problem intersections for the Commissioner to review.

V. A Grand Junction committee is forming, deadline to apply January 31. Committee members are encouraged to apply. Alexandria Real Estate has purchased property between Binney and Cambridge St. and will present their development proposal, which engages the Grand Junction project, at the Feb. 4 2019 Ped/Bike/Transit committee meeting.

VI. Dana provided a TP&T update. Porter Square signals are prepped for installation (once they are in, the changes to the lane markings on Mass Ave toward Harvard Square can be made). A new signal is being installed at Broadway/Ellery. New locations for RFB's nearly finalized and Dana is still taking ideas for additional locations. Signals on Hampshire St. between Prospect and Columbia are now coordinated to provide a "Green Wave" for cyclists (optimized for traveling 15 MPH).