

Pedestrian Committee notes – 1-28-16

1. Agenda review minutes

- Did intros, With; Councillor Jan Devereux in attendance
- Debby, Magda, Helen, Liza , Sean, Elizabeth, Joe, Sam, Andrea
- Bill Dwyer, Cara, Jan, Allison, Matt PD
- Magda moves to accept last month's minutes, Helen seconded, and they're approved

2. Updates

- Jan joined and talked about a pedestrian issue on city council meeting (next week's meeting)
 - Sandwich board signs – 3 stores had applied...two seemed ok, one was on a quite congested stretch of Harvard Sq, JFK street. They're everywhere, seemingly
 - Challenge for the visually impaired in particular, also for strollers, for wheelchairs
 - Aesthetic issues in historic districts...
 - Businesses pay \$75 per year for them...
 - They will try to understand how many are permitted, how many are checked
 - Bill: Sidewalk business use permit. For patio seating and for sign boards. Working on changing it. Application was always submitted to city clerks office first. Approved by city council, then came to DPW to handle...every sign board needs to be permitted...
 - We could write an email to the Council and collect them, or to individuals...Protocol: Submit to Council@Cambridge.gov and copy Dlopez@cambridgema.gov
- DPW update from Bill Dwyer – 5 year plan revisited and updated next month
 - Thankfully low on snow this year so far...
 - Commonwealth Connect is the new way to submit work orders, replaces iReport...
 - Still working for CRS – Cambridge Report System for inhouse stuff...
 - Send a photo and location, which helps...
- List of problem intersections – Sean's list
 - We need to close out things that have been addressed
 - Find a way to collaborate on it – wiki or Google sheet?
 - Sean has been capturing problem intersections, and soliciting them from other people....
 - Many have been addressed (with DCR owned areas as a notable exception). Something we want to update, and make sure we cross off
 - Debby suggests that we have everyone look at it before next time, and send new entries, and ones that we think have been addressed...
 - Cara: May be able to get some bit of \$\$\$ to address some small pedestrian or cycling issues
 - Example: adding a crosswalk, though might need to add curb cuts...
 - Elizabeth expressed concern that some rebuilt intersections are still problems
 - Cara – let's get it into Google Doc
 - Liza: Let's link it on our homepage...
 - Cara: For next year, let's ask for a pot of money for us to address small things...

- Cara: Everyone has to go in there and at least add their initials to something, or add an issue...
 - Put it up on Google Docs and share w/ the committee (Sam to handle)
 - Magda raises the point that we don't just want problem intersections from a design standpoint, but also from a non-compliance standpoint...
 - Elizabeth: How wide are the lanes?
 - Cara: Lane-widths are pretty narrow, and where we have more room, we squeeze it out for a bike lane...
 - But we do have some that are wider – not 100% consistent. But when we redo streets, we talk about using the space for other purposes...
 - Cara: Want to geek out on the standards? Feds have revised the standards...Cara is on the review committee....
 - Cara: Mass DOT – first state to publish a separated bike lane design guide...
- Infrastructure projects – Harvard square plan
 - Slowly but surely implemented over the last 10 years...
 - Shared streets, flagstaff bike lane, super crosswalk...
 - All of this is online if you want to see it...
- Envision Cambridge – the official name for the new city plan...
 - Alewife sub-committee, Housing, Mobility, Community Engagement and Overall
 - Potential opportunity from a member of the standing committees (Bike, Ped, Transit, Climate) to be a committee member on the other sub-committees or working groups, and
- Development Projects – Debby attended
 - MIT PUD – PB Hearing
 - Complaints about transit capacity
 - Complaints about architecture...
 - We'll hear when there's another hearing scheduled...Cara puts all of these announcements in one place, Allison has been posting them, so that we can weigh in, offer our thoughts...
 - 399 Binney Street
 - Where Kendall Sq. cinema is...
 - They have rejiggered driveway to protect Grand Junction path...
 - We looked through the plans...
 - Other

3. Committee projects and planning

- Community walk in June: Alewife, East Cambridge, Cambridgeport – Liza to lead, Sam to volunteer, and Debby for the pedestrian committee summer walk...
- [Announcement and planning for future meetings](#)