

# Pedestrian Committee Meeting Notes

## 3-23-17

Attending: Jodie Cohen-Tanugi, Debby Galef, Stacey King, Magda McCormick, Sean Peirce, Helen Rose, Joseph Rose, Sam Stern; Cara Seiderman (CDD), Dana Benjamin (TP&T), Brian McLane (DPW), John Nardone (DPW), Matt Nelson (Police), Devon Bracher (Police)

Visitors: Ashley Barquin, Rady Nan

### Agenda Review, Minutes

- Did a round of introductions, names + neighborhoods...
- Minutes were sent out after last time...approved...
- Reviewed protocols because we have a few guests, Ms. Barquin, BU journalism student, and Mr. Nan from Kittleson & Associates

### Snow – John Nardone from DPW

- 20<sup>th</sup> year in the department...
- 40 inches in 2017 so far
- 2 weather services the city uses, neither sensationalize as much as what you see on TV weather.... (NOAA is a good website for anyone to use)
- Water department does fresh pond path and Concord Avenue
- Ramping up (minute-taker pun intended) clearance of sidewalk ramps and bus stops in the past few years...
- 2015 led to the acknowledgement of more clearance needed at more corners/streets...
- 95% of all bus stops in the city (and adjacent curb ramps in the city)...
- Mentioned that there was pressure from disability committee and from pedestrian committee to do more.
- Questions:
  - What would it take for city to clear all sidewalks?
    - Money aside (it's significant), manpower to do it would be 1,000 people in place
  - Matt asks (half joking, I think) Space-savers as garbage collection opportunity?
  - DCR and MBTA, they're not great, what do we do about that?
    - They haven't talked to them in a while...
    - DCR used a lot of prisoners to clear in 2015...
    - Committee could send a letter...
  - Liza asks: Could we get other sidewalks/ramps in the list to be plowed?
  - Sam: We should try to propose sidewalk equipment for the citizens budget proposal...
  - They struggle to get the sidewalks cleared around parks to ordinance – lack of equipment, lack of manpower, a bit of both...
    - They have recently hired more contractors, getting Bobcats in with private operators working on it...
    - \$150,000 - \$180,000 for the piece of equipment they have to clear sidewalks...

- Some of the big Cambridge companies, Novartis, Genzyme, are getting rid of snow privately...
  - Could we propose that as a community benefits program?
- Clearing curb cuts privately? Debby is concerned that people who aren't able-bodied can't get around ...
- Sam intends to send a letter to elected officials and the DCR head to get them to do a better job off shoveling...

### Infrastructure Projects (DPW)

- Huron Ave has been started already, that and adjacent stuff will be done by end of the year...
- More contractors coming to the city next week and the week after...
- 40 degrees and rising for pouring concrete and for paving...
- Place to see all construction? DPW website lists all large-scale projects, maybe a few smaller ones slip under the radar...
- [Cambridgema.gov/theworks/cityprojects](http://Cambridgema.gov/theworks/cityprojects) for a list of all projects...
- More updates at next month's meeting, as we'll be deeper into the heart of construction season...
- Separated bike lane projects going on...Cambridge street, Inman sq to Harvard sq...
  - Liza is part of the stakeholder group...
  - Looking at whether these lighter-touch, no construction approaches work...
  - Harvard square separated lane (Mass Ave Trowbridge – Bow)
  - Brattle contra-flow lane (Mason to Eliot)

### Development project reviews

- Wheeler street, revising their plan, future discussion likely
- 211 Concord Tpk ("Lanes and Games")
  - <http://www.cambridgema.gov/CDD/zoninganddevelopment/specialpermits/specialpermits#sp326> – we reviewed this in the meeting, the sidewalk along Route 2 is not really viable, can we gather up some comments about the need for better pedestrian rights of way...
    - City has asked DCR to allow them to pave the path that accesses Discovery Park. Needs Con Comm review
    - Sam will check with Forrester whether they and their landlord can submit comments to DCR
    - Sam will draft a letter with comments from the Committee: request paved path; redesign entry to project site from Route 2 (it is a wide unsafe driveway); move sidewalk further back onto their property with buffer to Route 2;
- EF Education third building...They're eager to present the plans to us, so expect them to attend a meeting in the future

### Pedestrian Committee Work

- Walk planning, March 31<sup>st</sup>, 3:30 at Alewife...
  - Draw out a map while we walk, and talk to the intern prior to the next meeting to get the brochure created...
  - Jodie, Debby and Sam, along with intern from city likely to attend, maybe Liza too
  - Need a sub-committee for the walk, maybe?

- Intern can help Liza create the brochure, not the content...
  - Can we get the brochure about the wetlands from DPW?
- Matt asked about future walks – (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design CPTED)
  - Police are trained in it...Could be interesting....
  - Matt is presenting at next meeting...What kind of crimes do we want to hear about?
    - Personal safety, especially walking at night
    - Drop in crime
    - Link to the maps
- Watertown path -- Send a letter in support of the lighting of the path? “We’re eager to see this project move forward, eager to see it. We’d like to participate, we’d like to see good lighting.”
  - Sam to draft a letter, and share before next committee meeting...
- Project or Improvement of the year...
  - Liza suggests that we keep it on the agenda to remind committee to look at projects regularly and think about ones that might deserve special recognition. Could be completed projects but could also highlight best management practices, e.g., high quality pedestrian access through construction zones