

Cambridge Pedestrian Committee

Meeting Notes 11/15/2018

Attendance

Members: Andrea Duchesneau, Debby Galef, Sean Peirce, Johanna Pittman, Olivia Turner

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

- I. Agenda Review / Minutes
 - a. Minutes from the October meeting were distributed

- II. Elections
 - a. Debby Galef was elected as chair and Johanna Pittman as secretary, both by unanimous vote
 - b. Position of vice-chair will be left open for now
 - c. New terms start in January

- III. DPW Update / Snow
 - a. We are approaching the end of the construction season; expect little to no paving work until late March or early April
 - b. Brian McLane provided an overview of DPW's snow clearance plan for this winter, along with historical data on snowfall and operations.
 - i. First snow operations are tonight (light snowfall expected)
 - ii. City clears 23 miles of sidewalk in priority areas around schools, parks, bus stops, etc., plus 2-3 miles of dedicated bike facilities
 - iii. Pilot program this year in a portion of North Cambridge with brine pre-treatment on sidewalks, which prevents snow from bonding to pavement and may reduce costs and salt use
 - iv. Danehy Park parking lot and a Harvard property in Allston are snow "farms" where snow can be removed overnight, but this is resource-intensive
 - v. DPW communicates with the public on social media and the SeeClickFix app.
 - vi. DPW purchases a variety of weather forecasting products to help calibrate storm responses. This winter's long-term forecast calls for greater likelihood of large temperature swings and intense storms.
 - vii. Property owners who do not shovel their sidewalks in compliance with city's snow clearance ordinance receive a warning on first offense, then fines of \$50/day. There is also a "best shoveled block" competition.

IV. Updates

- a. Sean Peirce provided an update on Vision Zero, which met the previous day and discussed two recent truck-involved pedestrian fatalities, as well as the planned extension of 20 mph speed limits to residential zones.
- b. Debby Galef reported on the urban freight forum that was held earlier today, which covered safety initiatives from London; new vehicle technology such as mirrors, sensors, and cameras; and changes to vehicle design.
- c. Cara, Olivia, and Debby shared recent experiences with the South Mass. Ave. project, which is nearly complete. One additional element of the project is a “geofenced” designated pickup area for Uber and Lyft at 77 Mass. Ave., which is designed to improve safety and the use of curb space.

V. Next Meeting / Announcements

- a. The December meeting will be a joint meeting with the Bicycle and Transit committees. Date and time are still TBD. Each committee will present their top 5 goals, and there will be a round-robin discussion.
- b. Cara mentioned that the Envision Cambridge process has issued recommendations, a number of which are mobility-related. One of the items is an update to the city’s Pedestrian Plan. These are all still just proposals at this point.
- c. Olivia will be our liaison to the River Street project.
- d. Johanna will work with Jen Lawrence on an article for the next issue of Getting Around Cambridge, possibly focusing on public art on foot or the new Cambridge-Watertown ped-bike trail.