

DRAFT Minutes Pedestrian Committee
November 21, 2019

Attendance

Committee Members: Robin Bonner, Debby Galef, Sandy Goldberg, Elka Kuhlman, Magda McCormick, Angie Meltsner, Sean Peirce, Erica Seidel, Wade Smith, Erik Tillman, Theresa Tobin, Olivia Turner, Jenine Turner-Trauring, Milan Vit

Staff: Cara Seiderman (CDD), Jen Lawrence (CDD)

The committee agreed that the duty of taking meeting minutes will rotate every month. A sign-up sheet was circulated, and members signed up for dates for November 2019 – August 2020. Minutes should include major points discussed and any decisions made. Attendance is recorded by sign-in sheet. Draft minutes should be sent to Cara and Greg.

Brief introductions were made, and the minutes from the October 2019 meeting were approved.

Jen Lawrence, the city's Sustainability Planner, gave a presentation about the next issue of the Getting Around magazine, a yearly publication that promotes active transportation in Cambridge. Traditionally published in June each year, the 2020 publication is scheduled to be available in April. The 2020 issue will include stories about people and experiences; big projects will be outlined with links to direct readers elsewhere for the detailed information. The publication strives to be inclusive of all modes of transportation. The 2020 edition will include articles about Men's Health League Health bike rides, how to get out of town without a car, projects that grew out of community suggestions, the bus priority lane on Mount Auburn Street, and more. The pedestrian committee discussed ideas for their contribution(s) to the 2020 edition and agreed to provide three articles that will be used for Getting Around or other city publications: (1) a walk from a dog's point of view (Sandy), (2) near-miss transportation experiences (Erica), (3) where to see cherry blossoms in city parks (Angie). First drafts are due to Jen Lawrence by mid-December.

Committee reviewed where and when there are outreach opportunities in Cambridge. Standard events are: Science Week (April), River Festival (June), Park(ing) Day (September). Other opportunities are the Getting Around Publication and walking tours. Committee asked about establishing a Twitter account and might follow up with Jen Lawrence. The Twitter account for the Cambridge Development Department is @CDDat344.

Committee reviewed projects and accomplishments from 2018–2019: provided a liaison for the River Street project, reviewed development projects proposed by the city and private developers, provided representation in the Vision Zero process, helped with Safe Routes to School, maintained a "hot spots" database, provided an article for Getting Around, provided input on the DCR's Memorial Drive rebuild process. The committee did not sponsor a guided walk in 2019.

Committee brainstormed project ideas for 2019–2020:

- Outreach Work and Public Events: Participate in one or more events such as Science Festival, River Festival, PARK(ing) Day.
- Communications via Publications & Social Media: Build community and engage with the public through articles, brochures, social media. Consider tips for people new to the city (especially drivers who may need education regarding pedestrian/crosswalk issues) and outreach to local businesses with employees who commute into the city.

- Crosswalks & Traffic Signal Timing for Pedestrians: Working with TP&P, look at non-signalized crosswalks and signal timing.
- Community Walking Maps: Aggregate and publish.
- Community Walks: Create thematic walks such as art, trees (cherry blossoms), food, urban foraging, scavenger hunt, getting out of the city without a car, discovering nature, hidden spaces.
- Pedestrian Plan: Update.
- Data Analysis & Visualization
- Promoting Walking for Health: Consider a presence at Science Festival and/or tying in to other ideas for 2019–2020.
- Wayfinding: Historic and/or directional signage for pedestrians.
- Traffic Rules and Enforcement (including issues with ride hail vehicles)
- Snow
- Outreach to Homeless: A community that walks a lot and can possibly involve in walking tours.
- Citizen Feedback (such as SeeClickFix)
- Collaboration with people with disabilities and/or those who are non-sighted

Cara will post a spreadsheet of the ideas; members should sign up by interest. (*Please review the Working Groups discussed at this week's meeting [here](#) and fill in what you are interested in working on and any additional ideas.*)

Subcommittees can meet outside of the monthly meetings and should provide a report to the monthly meeting to be incorporated into the minutes for an official record.

Olivia, the Pedestrian Committee liaison for the River Street Project, attended the public meeting on November 19 and reported that attendees like the proposed raised crosswalks and the proposed concurrent pedestrian crossing signals at River Street and Putnam Avenue. Attendees were not enthusiastic about the proposed bus lane, which would mean only one lane of regular traffic.

There is a Grand Junction working group meeting on December 3, 2019. A public meeting has not yet been scheduled.

Committee reviewed a [proposal for multi-use development at 87–101 Cambridge Park Drive](#), and agreed to send the following comments to the Cambridge Planning Board:

- Positive response to having a pedestrian and bicycle path connection from Cambridge Park Drive to the Fitchburg Cutoff multi-use path
- Preference that the connecting path be a wider multi-use path rather than a path with discrete sections for pedestrians and bicycles
- If the developer cannot secure permission from the MBTA for the connecting path option that includes an easement on the MBTA parcel, the developer should reconsider how to configure the connecting path so that users would not share the path with a lane for motor vehicles
- Would like to see an explanation of activity and possibly inclusion of activation space on the west side of the development

Minutes submitted by Robin Bonner.