

Pedestrian Committee Meeting 1/28/21  
Minutes

## Attendance

Committee Members: Pam McLemore, Magda McCormick, Erik Tillman, Erica Seidel, Jenny Turner-Trauring, Robin Bonner, Helen Rose, Debby Galef, Sean Peirce, Wade Smith, Theresa Tobin, Elka Kuhlman, Sandy Goldberg, Ian Henneberger

Staff: Greg Hanafin (CDD), Cara Seiderman (CDD)

Public: Michael Brandon, C. Pierola, John Bowman

December minutes approved

## City Project Updates

Huron Ave/Glacken Field

- In connection with complete reconstruction of Glacken field as a park project, City has opportunity to update Huron.
- Proposed: Continuous sidewalk (minimum width), added crosswalks, raised intersection, two-way protected bike lane with curb.
- Additional conversation: are there other places around Fresh Pond where the paving can be taken out? There are concerns from the Fresh Pond advisory board about adding more pavement to offset some additional pavement on Huron, but it's not much.
- Members of the committee expressed their support for retaining the outer sidewalk across from Dunkin Donuts (erroneously referred to as "redundant"), as it feels safer than the other side of the parkway where there are a lot of scary conflicts with motor vehicles. It also is much better lit than the interior paths on the Fresh Pond side, and is free from conflicts with people cycling. Several people say they use that sidewalk when they walk.
- Discussion about driver/pedestrian crash at crosswalk from gas station to Fresh pond.

Still ongoing design work on details for Carl Barron Plaza

[Grand Junction Path](#): a lot of comments on the story map; moving ahead with design

## Development Project Updates

[Alewife Park \(IQHQ\)](#): there was a meeting the developer held last Thursday. Next step is for them to put together a more formal final proposal, there will be another tri-committee meeting to review them.

Committee's comments on MIT project at [51 Vassar Street](#) went to planning board.

[269-301 Vassar Street](#) is scheduled for planning board on Feb 16<sup>th</sup>.

## Public Comment

Michael Brandon on the Alewife Park project: Site for project is contaminated (old "WR Grace" site) and includes contaminated Jerry's Pond, also contaminated. Alewife study group has a zoom meeting, and the developer had a public presentation for the site. Can find out more at [alewife.org](http://alewife.org).

## Subcommittee Work

- Online version of Getting Around Cambridge. There's an opportunity to contribute an article for this one
- City electrician will come to a meeting in the future. Can discuss about street lighting and safety. There was a U Mass student who did analysis on street lighting and crashes, with evidence that in Cambridge areas of lower street lighting had higher numbers of crashes.
- Data Analysts can come and talk about transportation data, and analyst from police department and can come talk about pedestrian crash data
- Subcommittee meeting on concerning intersections
  - Discussed problem locations: Mass Ave and Dover, Raymond and Walden, Porter Square, and a walk light that's broken at Walden St./Mass Ave Dana Benjamin will take a look and get back to subcommittee
- Topics from last year
  - Development Projects & City Infrastructure
    - Good to have members report back on other meetings
  - Limitations on committee work based on COVID-19 safety concerns
  - Continued interest in intersections/signals work, data analysis work
  - Magazine was put on hold last year; do we update last year's articles to add to this year? [*Update: last year's articles will be published on line in some format*]
  - Interest in PARK(ing) Day if it happens; outreach to schools
  - Can suggest placement for rapid flashing crosswalk Beacons to Dana Benjamin
  - How can we address brick sidewalks that need repair?
    - See click fix for small repairs
    - Committee can make recommendations for updates to 5-year sidewalk plan
  - Discussion of walks people have liked; send pictures or write ups to Greg

## Public Comment

- Michael Brandon: Walk signal not working at Walden and Mass Ave. Dana Benjamin had also agreed to look into the timing of the walk signal there. Can the signal be longer to accommodate seniors? Can ped/bike/transit committee conduct a public hearing about the safety?
- Committee did not decide to take up this intersection further (had discussed it at previous meetings) but since there appears to be interest in understanding the crashes at specific intersections, maybe this is something the data subcommittee could focus on.