

Cambridge Pedestrian Committee meeting, September 23, 2021 - draft minutes

Members present: Debby Galef, Jenny Turner-Trauring, Pam Mclemore, Helen Rose, Magda McCormick, Robin Bonner, Sandy Goldberg, Sean Peirce, Wade Smith

Staff present: Cara Seiderman (CDD), Dana Benjamin (TP&T), Brian McLane (DPW)

The July minutes from the joint committee meeting were approved.

Cara expressed appreciation for the work of members who were leaving, as well as for those who will remain on the committee. This was the last meeting for the old committee.

Traffic & Parking updates - Dana:

The mid-Mass. Ave. project from Trowbridge to Inman Streets will have separated bike lanes with flex posts and bumpers. While some parking on Mass. Ave. will be removed, meters will be placed on side streets to partially make up for the deficit. Reflector poles will be placed at bus stops.

North Mass. Ave. from Dudley St to the Arlington border will also receive separated bike lanes as well as some bus infrastructure by way of bus priority lanes.

RRFBs were recently installed at several crosswalks including Concord at Bond and Magazine at Upton.

Ellery St. will have a new bike lane on the right side of the street with the current parking moving over to the left.

South Mass. Ave. project will include an uninterrupted bus lane all the way to the river.

DPW updates - Brian:

The construction season will be ending soon and work is slowing down. Still some ongoing paving projects.

There is a new Tim Toomey park in East Cambridge at Rogers St. Its formal opening will take place in October.

Glacken Field will reopen in November.

The city's new (and first) universal playground on Field St. next to Danehy will open in November. It's spectacular!

Inman Sq. work is plugging along.

Franklin Street should be done this year, Green Street reconstruction to follow soon.

Harvard Sq. kiosk is proceeding apace.

Jenny wondered whether outdoor dining setup is ADA compliant. Somerville has received complaints. Brian said staff will respond to complaints but won't go around checking.

Brian's yearly snow presentation will take place at the October meeting.

MDX Kendall project: members commented that the public open space inadequately publicized - very complicated project
Reconstruction of surrounding streets being paid for by developer.
Galileo Galilei between Broadway and Fulkerson to be reopened in October.

Sandy asked whether developers who come before committee can tailor their presentations to pedestrian issues?

A zoning overview presentation will take place at an upcoming meeting once new members have arrived.

Discussion of visibility of private spaces open to the public. Not all are aware.
Can Planning Board permits require clarity?

There will be hybrid meetings in the future (once meetings are once again allowed to be in person). Technology is currently being installed to make this possible.

The meeting adjourned early.

