

## **Westborough Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee Minutes of December 8, 2015 meeting**

Attending: Ed Beauchemin, Don Burn, Howard Drake, Ellen Gugel, Glenn McCleod, Bruce Tretter

1. Approved meeting minutes of October 6 and November 8 meetings
2. BWALT update

East Main to Lyman Street: no progress to report; Bruce will follow up with DPW/John Walden and Carl Balduf to determine what DPW can do; meanwhile, waiting on Waterman Design for engineering plan and survey. We also need to gather costs. DPW needs to weigh in on what they will do. Flashers alone are estimated at \$11-12K.

Easements: Bruce sent to Jim Robbins the current list of contacts for easements. A couple of changes since we last made contact with land owners:  
Don reported the State Street contact has moved on, so we'll have to start from scratch again there; Randy Waterman contacted one of the warehouses on Sassacus Dr. (Assabet River to Otis St. section) who told him the management company changed there.

Don has expressed concern about getting the easements moving again for some time. He reports a couple of easements "ready to go" if we only get legal support – SVT and Prentice Forest. Ed echoed Don's concern that easement negotiations need to get going again. How do we close easements and get others going? Lack of legal support from the town is an issue. Bruce will discuss with Jim Malloy access to a lawyer.

Don asked, and others voiced support, that Bruce report on the status of the "ready to go easements" e.g. SVT and Prentiss Forest, and that he also create a procedure for moving other easements forward, e.g. Mottla and Longo, plus seven other easements we are in discussions on. Don says: "The procedure is as important as the status, since no work has been done on easements for quite a while, since if we get a landowner to agree we have no way to move it forward."

Discussion: do we go to town meeting in March with another request for funding for easements and/or the East Main to Lyman section?

### 3. MassDOT Road Safety Audit (RSA) on Rotary (November 19)

Discussion about the RSA: Bruce, Ellen and Glenn attended. Jim Robbins, Carl Balduf, Chief Gordon, John Walden, Brian Bush from the Planning Board, among others attended. The consulting firm issued a draft report just after Thanksgiving. Comments are due Wednesday, December 9 on the observations and recommendations. There seemed that a number of things could be done with low cost/planning including signage for motorists, reconfiguring the crosswalk pattern, and sharrows. Other things like wider bump outs to accommodate pedestrians require a bit more planning or resources. Ellen submitted comments.

### 4. Complete Streets

The state legislature has made \$20 million available in FY16 (\$13-15 in FY17?) for towns that adopt Complete Streets for improvements and construction to make roads/streets accommodate bicyclists and pedestrians. There are a number of information sessions that appear to be required attendance to access the funding. The one in Worcester is on Tuesday, January 5 and we would like to see someone from one of the town departments go. Planning or DPW would be best candidates. Bruce said he'd talk to Jim Robbins about going.

### 5. Events

- Spring Fest (1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in May) – helmets for kids are on order with David White
- Mission in Motion – March 19 at the YMCA is planned with bike tune-ups, information table; Galen Mook plans to be involved again

### 6. Other

Flashers at the crosswalk at Chauncy Beach on Lyman Street are being installed

Worcester Main Street is being rebuilt with federal money (\$7 million project) from Lincoln Square to Madison Street). The design includes bike lanes (required by federal law). The public hearing is in Worcester on Wednesday, December 9.

### 7. Next meeting January 12, 6 p.m. (***NOTE EARLIER START TIME***)