

March 6, 2024

Participating: Bryan, Danielle, Lisa Farnham, Jeremey Rosenberger, Hank Jemiola, Vicky Berg, Sharna Borsellino, Trish Sullivan, Vivian Ortiz

Public:

Absent: Jim McGrail; Howard Ostroff

a. Opening & Public Comment (up to 20 minutes)

none

b. Approve meeting minutes (February 2024) (find them [here](#))

approved

c. [Discussion Deck](#): Sidewalk obstruction in Dedham: understanding how, why, where and what to do?

This issue has been an issue for a long time, and there is a lack of clarity regarding what can be done about it. This is an issue in Master Plan 2030, the SelectBoard also has this issue in their goals.

Reviewed presentation by Bryan Plummer:

Master Plan makes suggestions for how to address this issue

Bernie Chirokas: noticed comments on facebook, and looked at streets at issue, noting that they were asphalt sidewalks without a curb, some people parking adjacent to their property occupying full sidewalk. But Parking regulations listed on the town website are hard to navigate, with many amendments.

Important to have very clear regulations on what is okay and what is not.

LF: there is a role within town that does traffic enforcement. Who is that person, what challenges to they have. Once we nail down regulations, is there any signage? Education plan?

Vicky: why are there two different kinds of sidewalks? Curbed vs sloped. Its confusing. Plus some have a narrow strip of grass.

BC: streets that are the worse are the ones that dont have that grassy strip between sidewalk and road.

BP: when and how and where are decisions made about type of sidewalks.

VB: when our street was paved, home owners were asked

Hank Jemiola: introduces to group. As a resident of Dedham, right next to a city, we expect that there is traffic. But overall feels like a free-for-all. There is no signage to indicate. Has concerns about speed cars go. I always park my car on street and not on sidewalk, not on grass strip. My car has been sideswiped but others are more sensitive to scratches. Honestly didn't know the debate on curbed vs not curbed sidewalks. Question around what is and what is not a sidewalk. There is not a lot of communication. Not a lot of enforcement.

JR: finding common ground on this topic is really hard; people are used to parking on the sidewalk and if you take that away from them, voters are not happy.

DD- law is clear that you can not park on sidewalks, what are the roadblocks for the police chief to enforce? What does he need to be able to confidently enforce laws?

BP- we've developed questions. DD- who are we going to ask these questions to?

BP: SelectBoard Will follow up with them in the coming weeks about this topic.

d. Discussion: ATWG Recommendation template (Bridge St example [here](#))

BP walks through draft memo regarding Bridge St corridor plan advisory committee.

-VB: Asked if Bike lanes have been painted a different color? Has seen them painted green and they are very visible, clearly marked by its color.

DD: asked this of Joe Flanagan in the past, his response was that paint makes it slippery and that is why they do not do this.

However, DD notes this is something that could be address

DD agrees this is a good strategy.

e. Update on Local Road Safety Plan work

Next week there is another meeting; there is currently a tool where anyone can report experiences. DD has shared with Dedham Cycle Club

f. Street Mural updates

DD-We have a draft google form created by The Collab- feedback is that shorter is better, and that we should include guidelines on best practices for murals, probably need to remove the question on words to include.

LF: fundraiser for Top Golf would be too expensive to carry out; Danielle also looked into fundraiser through Paint Nite; also would be too expensive. Meeting with selectboard next week to hopefully approve, then we will convene sub committee on mural.

g. Member updates.

Vivian: Safe Routes to School is celebrating our Crossing Guards once again. Wednesday, March 20 is Crossing Guard Appreciation Day and we're taking nominations for Crossing Guard of the Year.

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/safe-routes-to-school-crossing-guard-resources#crossing-guard-appreciation->

Crosswalk of the year is celebrated at the award ceremony. Trish has forwarded to the principals.

h. New/old business

Bryan has met with Needham Transportation Safety committee

We will be presenting to selectboard on bollards on Needham St.