

Minutes of Public Works Committee of the RTM
10/14/14

ATTENDING: Holly Schulz, Dick Poli, Jay Hardison, Katie Keith, David Young, Frank Adelman, Patti Bumgardner, Allison Stolar, Mark Adiletta and Nina Miller.

Mark called the meeting to order at 8:02.

Katie motioned to approve the minutes of September 8th, 2014. Dick approved and all in favor.

The only other business was the Deliberation, Consideration of and Action on the Pedestrian Safety Sub-Committee Report.

The Pedestrian Safety sub-Committee of the Public Works Committee of the RTM, after meeting 4 times between September 8th and October 14th, approved a **resolution** to be put before the Board of Selectman that recommends "a new and independent Pedestrian Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) be created to advise on pedestrian safety issues and related town assets and infrastructure" and that this **resolution** be also put before the Rules Committee of the RTM so that they may "explore establishment of a permanent Public Safety Advisory Commission (comparable to the Sewer Commission or the Police Commission)" that would give the newly formed PSAC staying power.

The suggested mission Statement of the Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) is as follows:
"To ensure safe pedestrian access to critical locations in town and to promote and encourage pedestrian activity that is safe, convenient and attractive."

Original members of the Public Safety sub-Committee that created such **resolution** include David Young, Katie Keith, Holly Schulz, Nina Miller and Frank Adelman, chair. Soon after formation, Holly excused herself and Mark Adiletta replaced her.

Deliberations:

History of sidewalk work as per Town Plan of Conservation and Development (TPCD): Mark Adiletta said that there were only two mentions of Pedestrian Safety in the 2006 TPCD and one refers to a concern from the 1995 TPCD. Frank said that one of the issues from the 2006 TPCD was resolved and that there is now either sidewalk or pavement along Heights Rd. for pedestrian traffic. The first public information session for the 2016 TPCD will be at Town Hall at 7:30 on October 22nd, 2014. Keep any eye out for any changes in date or time.

Jay asked about how getting a new sidewalk, not a replacement sidewalk, is currently accomplished. Holly thinks it is by going through the Police Commission. She also suggested that there are no set avenues but depending on who is the 1st Selectman, there are priorities, sort of a ranking system. The Public Works Department may also be one of those avenues. It was agreed that with the **resolution** we are presenting, a clear path to requesting a sidewalk is provided.

Considerations:

Members of the PWC have names in mind for membership in the PSAC but no one has been contacted so no names were mentioned. The **resolution** states that the PSAC be comprised of 7 members, at least one from Public Health and Safety Committee and one from Public Works Committee. Holly asked if we should reach out for membership recommendations from the RTC, DTC, BoS. Or, what about a good candidate that is not a member of the RTM? For a Commission, does there have to be equal Republican and Democratic representation? No Independents?

Other ideas of people to be considered as one of the other 5 members of the PSAC would be to ask members who belong to a group that has a particular interest in sidewalks such as the BoE and sidewalks to schools and the Chamber of Commerce for sidewalks to town. Can we invite such groups to one of

our meetings or, possibly, get on their agenda and attend one of their meetings to "push the information the other way."?

Patti also suggested getting information of our efforts out through the news. Some of us said we had already been contacted by Megan Spicer of the Darien News.

Finally, this **resolution** calls for an "Annual Report to be delivered to the Selectmen in the final quarter of the calendar year (Oct.-Dec.), in advance of the start of the annual budgeting and planning process."

Action:

After finding out the dates of future BoS meetings, Mark will get us on their agenda to present our **resolution**. Frank or Mark, possibly both will do the presenting. We all need to be there for support!

Motion to approve corrections as amended and approve the resolution was made by Allison, seconded by Katie and approved by all.

Mark motioned for meeting to be adjourned, Nina seconded at 9:21 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Nina Miller