

Meeting of: Public Works Pedestrian Infrastructure Sub-Committee (PISC)
Meeting type: Special Meeting
Date: Tuesday, May 26, 2015
Location: Darien Town Hall Auditorium
Members attending: Frank Adelman (Chair), David Young, Brad Pattelli, Jennifer Hite, Katie Keith
Members absent: None
Others attending: RTM Moderator Sarah Seelye, Selectman Susan Marks
Approx. 7 additional members of the public
Media / public access: The meeting was aired live on TV79. Video of the meeting can be accessed here:
<https://vimeo.com/129118575>

Published Agenda:

- Call to order
- Review recent developments relating to the formation of a Pedestrian Infrastructure Advisory Committee (PIAC) by the Board of Selectmen
- Description of the mandate of the PIAC, explanation of opportunity to serve on PIAC and description of selection process
- Open forum / Q&A on the following topics:
 - PIAC service: requirements, obligations, selection process
 - Infrastructure projects that the PIAC should consider when formed
- Adjournment

Handouts were distributed to all attendees. These included the agenda, the May 4 BoS resolution creating the PIAC, the Dec. 15, 2014 Public Works Committee resolution on this topic, and a brief summary of the matters for discussion this evening. The handout will be available on the Town web site.

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 pm. Frank introduced the members of the sub-committee and reviewed the agenda.

Frank reviewed the history and progress of this issue, including:

- The prior work of this sub-committee
- Related deliberations by the Public Works Committee
- Collaboration between PWC Chair Mark Adiletta and other bodies in town
- Comments provided to the Selectmen and other RTM colleagues
- The Board of Selectmen's May 4 resolution to establish the Pedestrian infrastructure Advisory Committee (PIAC) and the key details of that mandate
- The sub-committee's activities since May 4 and its workplan going forward to staff the PIAC

The floor was opened for public comment.

Mr. Ryan Romanowski spoke. He expressed concern about conditions detracting from pedestrian safety at the intersection of Edgerton Rd. and Heights Rd. He also expressed concern about the condition of sidewalks in the vicinity of Holmes School. Frank indicated that he had referred Mr. Romanowski's concerns to Mr. Ed Gentile, Darien's Director of Public Works. Frank also advised that the public can submit requests of this nature directly to the Public Works department through the Citizen Service Request link on the Department's home page on the Town's web-site.

Ms. Ellen Kirby spoke. She raised questions about the ability of the PIAC to navigate a complex Town environment where multiple entities have jurisdiction over pedestrian infrastructure. She also asked about the sources of funding that the PIAC would utilize to implement recommended projects. Frank indicated:

- the PIAC is intended to serve as a single coordinating body with relationships to multiple Town entities, and so over time should be able to better communicate with Public Works, Planning & Zoning, the Police Dep't, and the several other entities that have influence over pedestrian infrastructure.
- Regarding funding, the PIAC will not spend any money directly, it will help the Board of Selectmen set priorities during the budgeting process by collecting public input and setting pedestrian priorities.

Ms. Kirby asked whether the Police have been or will be involved with the PIAC; Frank indicated that Don Anderson (Darien PD), Jeremy Ginsberg (P&Z) and Ed Gentile were all invited to attend the meeting but were unable to do so due to conflicts. The intention is for the PIAC to communicate and coordinate closely with the Police Department and all relevant Town departments.

Ms. Kirby also noted the poor state of the sidewalks along Tokeneke Road and requested that they be better maintained, and raised the issue of snow removal responsibilities.

Mr. Todd Meck spoke. He asked whether the PIAC would still be formed if not enough people can be found to serve on it. Frank responded yes, we will recommend the best slate we can find. Mr. Meck asked whether the PIAC would be looking at studies outside of Darien; yes, the PIAC has a broad mandate to consider existing studies, potentially including those prepared outside of Darien. Mr. Meck concluded by asking whether someone who wants to make changes would be welcome on the committee; Frank cited the language of the BoS resolution specifying review of "high value" improvements – i.e., large projects are not discouraged – but noting that this pertains to "existing" infrastructure.

Hearing no further questions, the meeting was adjourned at 8:07pm.

Respectfully submitted,
David Young & Frank Adelman
June 1, 2015