

FINAL minutes: Approved Sep. 28, 2023

Meeting of: Pedestrian Infrastructure Sub-Committee of Public Works Committee (PWC) of the Darien Representative Town Meeting
Meeting type: Special Meeting
Date & time: Tuesday, September 19, 2023, 7:30 pm
Location: Darien Library, Harris Writer's Room, 2nd Level
Members attending: Frank Adelman (chair), Vincent Arguimbau, Patrick Keane, Rolf Obin (phone) (4/5)
Members absent: Jeff Crouse (1/5)
Others attending: None
Recording: The meeting was recorded for Darien's TV-79, link here:
<https://darienct.us18.list-manage.com/track/click?u=85004d132c7585bce234dc776&id=ef64fe228c&e=9dad7d91e0>

Published Agenda: http://www.darienct.gov/filestorage/28565/29473/34575/35072/35074/88627/PI_Sub-Comm_Agenda_2023-09-19.pdf

1. Call to Order & Acceptance of Agenda
2. Review of progress made in defining needs in the original PIAC report
3. Review of progress made in collecting additional information
4. Continued discussion of data required to evaluate progress against PIAC-identified needs
5. Continued discussion of format of output for report to Public Works
6. Discussion of other issues relating to pedestrian infrastructure
7. Discuss agenda items for next meeting (Tue. Sep. 26, 2023)
8. Adjournment

Call to order in person at 7:38 pm. Frank serving as clerk.

Review of progress made in defining needs identified in original PIAC report: Rolf made some good progress on this before he was sidelined by health concerns. We reviewed his work-in-progress. Rolf to attempt to complete this summary by next meeting, health permitting. Also to be aided by Jeff Crouse. Rolf's focus areas are crosswalks and bike lanes; Jeff's focus areas are sidewalks and lighting needs.

Review of progress made in collecting additional information: Frank reported on a conversation with Ed Gentile, Director of Public Works. Ed forwarded three documents to Frank:

1. a map of sidewalks in town drawn from the town's GIS database. Minor errors noted; will be corrected.
2. a roster of sidewalks in town (admittedly imperfect but the best database we have)
3. a listing of sidewalk repair, refurbishment and/or extension projects since 2000 (data since 2014 is more complete and reliable; data from 2000-2014 is not vetted for completeness and accuracy)

We discussed the dates of these documents; the map in particular seems to date from about July 2018. Frank to contact Ed to confirm the date of this data and to ask about the possibility of updating it.

Continued discussion of data required to evaluate progress: we should have most of what we need. Pending completion of the PIAC report reviews by Rolf and Jeff, we can append the data provided by Ed gentile to that analysis and develop a metric for completion.

We discussed the impact on sidewalks, & other infrastructure elements arising from the many recent projects in town, including: Corbin District project, Federal Realty project, Palmer's project, Ox Ridge school replacement, and the Hindley-Holmes-Royle school renovation projects.

Patrick Keane affirmed that there were no sidewalks installed on Mansfield Ave. as part of the Ox Ridge project. Patrick will contact the H-H-R building committee to identify the degree to which sidewalks were considered as part of their school plans.

Continued discussion of format of output: We agreed that our report to the Public Works Committee should include the data being prepared by Rolf & Jeff, as well as the information provided by Ed Gentile. However, these data sources should be attachments to the committee report; the actual report to the committee will need to be more summarized and streamlined so that we can complete it and discuss it as part of the next PW Committee meeting (Oct. 5).

Discussion of other elements of pedestrian infrastructure: Vinny reported on certain new projects he offered for consideration, including an area on Old King's Highway South for pedestrian & bike access to the new Corbin district. We also identified opportunities to calm traffic along Post Road and make drivers more aware of pedestrians in the downtown area, in light of the frequency of jaywalking in the downtown business district (between Leroy Ave. and West Ave.). We also discussed needs for additional traffic study in the area of Ox Ridge.

Agenda items for next meeting: To be developed by Frank in continuation of this discussion.

Adjournment: At 8:36 pm.

Next meetings: Our upcoming meetings are scheduled as follows:

- Tue. Sep. 26, 7:30pm at Darien Library, Harris Writer's Room, 2nd floor
- Tue. Oct. 03, 7:30pm at Darien Library, Harris Writer's Room, 2nd floor

All meetings of this Pedestrian Infrastructure sub-committee are open to the public.

Respectfully submitted,
Frank Adelman, Chair and Clerk
September 24, 2023