

Town of Arlington

Transportation Advisory Committee

Minutes of 8/12/09/09, 7:15 pm to 10:00 pm, Town Hall Annex, Second Floor Conf. Room.

Minutes submitted by Laura Wiener.

Members and Associates Present: Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Jean Clark, John Lentz, Jeff Maxtutis, Mike Rademacher, Ed Starr, Laura Wiener

Visitors Present: Carol Kowalski, Rep. Sean Garballey

1. Administration.

New Planning Director Carol Kowalski was introduced, followed by a brief discussion about roles and working together.

Minutes of 7/8/09 were approved unanimously with a minor amendment.

Correspondence and other handouts were reviewed.

2. Westminster Curve. Recommendations include rebuild sidewalk, install granite curb, with a high reveal curb where cars have left the road, bollards to define curve, removal of some chevrons. Mike said that sidewalks and curbs can be done without Selectmen's approval. Most expensive item is rebuilding retaining wall at #40. Elisabeth reported that an on site meeting with neighbors showed support for improvements. She also noted that summer is a better time to make changes because of heavy student pedestrian use of this sidewalk. Unanimous **vote to approve concept with minor changes, and send to Selectmen.**

3. Winchester/Hutchinson. Request for stop signs at this intersection came from Bd. of Selectmen. Ed suggested 2 stop signs, one on each side of Winchester as it crosses Hutchinson, and a third at Morningside eastbound at Hutchinson. **Vote to recommend 3 stop signs to Selectmen was unanimous, exact locations to be determined with DPW on field investigation.**

4. MBTA fare hikes and service cuts. Rep. Garballey distributed a press release about the legislators' opposition to proposed service cuts and fare hikes. He and others at the State House feel that they aren't necessary. Laura plans to attend hearings in Somerville and downtown. Service cuts will be devastating to Arlington, losing more than half of the 11 routes that go through the Town.

5. Parking Restriction at Renfrew/George Streets. Sign now says "No Parking Monday to Friday", abutter has requested a change to "when school is in session". Discussion was tabled until Corey can speak to the enforcement policy.

6. Bump outs for CVS. Mike asked TAC to review drawings for accuracy. Drawing is a schematic. Need to show more detail before can comment. Mike will request an engineered drawing.

7. School Bus Stops on Jason. Difficulties with the stop at Woodland. BoS has asked for a recommendation.

8. Forest Street. Public hearing went well. Twenty parking spaces were added as a result of a petition requesting parking instead of grass. Town is pursuing stimulus funding for this.

9. Winslow Towers. Jean met with roughly 30 tenants. Original request was for crosswalk across Mystic St. but tenants agreed this wasn't a good spot for crossing. List of their concerns included:

Bike/ped. conflicts at bike path and Mystic St. Bikers don't dismount.

Rules not enforced

Holes and cracks in sidewalks

Not in favor of brick sidewalks

Would like to see bus shelters at bus stops

Brush in median strip too high

Crossing time too short at Mass. Ave./Route 60

Improving safety of crosswalk at Library

Jean will draft something for next meeting.

10. Town Day Prep. Sept. 26. Assignments for next month. Possible display of Mass. Ave. drawings showing before and after at intersections, MBTA Maps, "Traffic Rules You May Have Forgotten", Guidelines for 2 Way Stop Signs.
11. Update: Mass. Corridor. Plan will go to Selectmen on August 10, for them to vote on whether or not to submit to Mass. Highway, to begin their review.
12. Schools.
 - a. Dallin. Many improvements in place.
 - b. Brackett. Newest Safe Routes to School location, still need to register with the State for official designation.
 - c. Stratton Path. Mike met with John Bean. Will check with schools about budget for work.
 - d. Bishop. Sidewalk on Stowecroft, Jack Hurd will send a letter regarding painting a sidewalk area.
13. Town Reports. Mike reported on plans to rebuild two culverts on Brattle St. and Mill Lane. Looking for funding from MWRA for some of project. Total bill is expected to be \$900,000, including \$150,000 for water lines. Jeff asked about road work on Washington Street, whether it could incorporate curb extensions on Washington at Overlook. Mike said he thought it could, and would follow up.
14. Meeting adjourned at 10:00 pm.

Handouts:

Ed's Meeting Package: 1) Agenda, 8/12/09; 2) Active/Planned TAC Projects and Working Groups, dated 8/12/09; 3) Project Status, dated 8/12/09; 4) Status of Outstanding Actions, 5/13/09; 5) Report on Request for Stop Sign at Yerxa Road and Hemlock Street; 6) Report on Request for Stop Sign at Winchester Road and Hutchinson Road; 7) "Curb Extension Plan", CVS Development; 8) Memo to Richard Iannelli, Kathleen Bodie, Fredrick Ryan, Edward Starr, from Marie Krepelka, dated July 15, 2009, Jason Street Traffic Concerns; 9) Memo to Board of Selectmen from Rick Iannelli, dated July 20, 2009, Re: Jason St Traffic Concerns; 10) Memo from TAC to Board of Selectmen on Crosswalk at Norfolk and Jason, dated 29 September, 2004, with photos; 11) Memo to Marie Krepelka from Corey Rateau dated August 6, 2009 Re. Jason Street Traffic Concerns; Town Day 2009.

Minutes of 7/8/09

"Legislators to MBTA: Service Cuts and Fare Hikes are Unacceptable"

"Why Parents Drive Children to School", from Journal of American Planning Association, Summer, 2009.

"Westminster Avenue Curve Repairs"