

Town of Arlington

Transportation Advisory Committee

Minutes of 9/9/09, 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, John Lentz, Jeff Maxtutis, Mike Rademacher, Corey Rateau, Scott Smith, Ed Starr, Laura Wiener

Visitors Present: Geoffrey Edgers (15 Park Ave. Ext.) and Steve Berasi (36 Park Ave. Ext.)

1. Public Comment. Mike reported that Jean Leary of Summer Street asked him to mention that she is planning to come to a future meeting to discuss speeding on Summer Street between Park Ave. Extension and the Lexington town line, and between Brattle St. and the ice rink. There are no speed limit signs, and she thinks a crosswalk is needed at McClennen Park.
2. Administration.
 - Minutes of 8/12/09 were approved unanimously.
 - Correspondence and other handouts were reviewed.
3. Jason School Bus Stops. Ed reviewed recommendations to Selectmen. Original request came in 2004, regarding a crosswalk at Norfolk and Jason that was not working well. Ed will discuss with School Director of Transportation before submitting.
4. Modification to School Parking Sign. Sign near Dallin School now says “No Parking Monday to Friday”, Abutter has requested a change to “when school is in session”. Corey said that the Police wouldn’t be likely to give a ticket in summer, but he supports adding the sign to clarify it. Vote to recommend supplemental plaque reading “When school is in session” was unanimous.
5. Town Day Prep. Sept. 26. We will display plans and materials for Mass. Ave. project, and on other traffic issues.
6. Schools.
 - a. Dallin. Many improvements in place.
 - b. Brackett. Jeff and John reported that Brackett has registered with the State for official designation as Safe Routes to School location. Safe Routes coordinator is Mustafa Varoglu Principal is concerned with drop off—wants to create a single drop off location. There is a bus for special needs students that needs accommodation for drop off on Fayette Street.
 - c. Bishop. Ed reviewed recommendations that were approved by Selectmen a year ago. Crosswalks need to be refreshed. Some signs need adjustment.
 - d. Dallin. Jeff reported that everything is ready for the start of school. DPW has trimmed branches, and drop-off volunteers are prepared.
 - e. Stratton. Ready to try the new drop off pattern tomorrow.
7. Downing Square. Elisabeth presented summary of Report to Selectmen, Downing Square Recommendations. Many options were considered, and all have significant negatives. Recommendations are for minor roadway changes, such as tightening up corners, providing better stop lines, crosswalks, bump outs, parallel parking, increased signage, lighting and aesthetic improvements. Steve Berasi noted that walking and biking through the intersection was very difficult. Geoffrey Edgers asked how to assure that the report receives attention. Elisabeth suggested having neighbors stay involved. Mike noted that DPW would pay for the design, but has not yet allocated funding for construction. Geoff said that the neighbors are looking for a bigger solution than what is proposed in this report. They feel the minor changes being proposed will not make much difference.

8. Park Ave. Lane Markings. Recently repaved by DPW. Jeff Roth of Bike Committee has requested fog lines to accommodate cyclists. Scott suggested painting a 7' wide parking lane plus a single, wide travel lane.
9. Thermoplastic Crosswalks. Chestnut Street and Rawson/Warren need attention. Mike will check on status of thermoplastic installations.
10. Crosswalk, Broadway at Lahey. Low pedestrian volume but heavy vehicle traffic. There is no traffic light for a fairly long distance. Crosswalk will not do much to improve safety. Scott will observe further.
11. Crosswalk, Mass and Lowell. Crosswalk sign needs to be placed on pole. Heavily used by Ottoson students. Mike will look at installing sign facing Mass. Ave. traffic.
12. Mass. Ave. Corridor. Laura reported that 25% Design plans will be submitted in the next week. Town staff met with Mass. Highway District 4 to update them on plans and process.
13. Spy Pond Park/Pond Lane. Howard presented recommendations. Install "One Lane Bridge" warning signs, replace existing STOP sign, trim foliage, add STOP bar. Scott asked about improving pedestrian safety. Howard said that people generally drive on the easterly side of the tunnel. A fog line of about 3 feet from the wall could be painted to provide walking area. Additional signage suggested, "Pedestrians Present", "Roadway Narrows to One Lane", or "Yield to Oncoming Traffic". Howard will revise recommendations.
14. Town Reports. Laura talked about parking study for East Arlington, as part of Commercial Revitalization Study for 3 business districts. Recommends metering, although staff would like to see other changes made first, i.e. use of Hardy and Crosby lots on the weekend, and enforcement of existing regulations. Corey noted that the 2 hour parking limit ends at 6 pm, so would not help with evening parking. He will try to quantify costs of increased enforcement. Mike reported on paving program. Schedule is on Town website.
15. Meeting adjourned at 10:00 pm.

Handouts:

Ed's Meeting Package: 1) Agenda, 9/9/09; 2) Members of Arlington Transportation Advisory Committee; 3) Active/Planned TAC Projects and Working Groups, dated 9/9/09; 4) Project Status, dated 9/9/09; 5) Status of Outstanding Actions, 9/9/09; 6) Draft Actions from 8/12 TAC Meeting; 7) Memo to Board of Selectmen Regarding Jason Street School Bus Stops, dated 14 September, 2009; 8) School Area Signs; 9) Town Day, 2009; 10) September 2009 Brackett Safe Routes to School and Safety Committees; 11) Review of Bishop Sign Installations, voted by BoS in Sept 2008; Minutes of 7/8/09 Pond Lane At Spy Pond Park, Traffic Control at One-Lane Underpass, September 9, 2009
Downing Square Recommendations, 8 September 2009.