

Weston Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee

Minutes, Special Meeting, March 30, 2016 12:30

Carole Berg and Ray Rauth (chair) attended; the meeting date had been miscommunicated by the chair therefore other committee members were unable to attend.

The primary purpose of the meeting was to discuss Lyons Plains Road issues. We determined that, in order to propose an improvement to the roadway we would focus on.

- Lane narrowing

- Speed limit

- Available Right of Way

- And presentation.

The presentation should be professional and thoroughly researched. We should comment on evidence that narrowed streets do improve active transportation access and cite studies/examples. Of course, controlling the speed limit will also contribute to sensible traffic speeds. My conjecture is that vehicles in our area will travel ten miles an hour beyond the limit; lower the limit will as a consequence lower speeds proportionally.

Carole also will check with her daughter who lives in Portland, Oregon, one of America's most famously bikeable cities.

What should be of interest to Westonites is property values. There is evidence that a more walkable community is more desirable. (A community with trails is also more a more desirable place to live. If we can find evidence we should present this as well.

Here's a link to one of many web sites about walkability:

http://www.slate.com/articles/life/walking/2012/04/walking_in_america_how_walk_score_puts_a_number_on_walkability.html

Take a look and check out other such sites – is Lyons Plains comfortably walkable?

Carole also suggested that PSAs are a possible source for education of the public on the three-foot law. In another email I documented some readily accessible videos.