Weston Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee

Wednesday, March 7th, 2012 Weston Town Hall Commission Room

Members Present: Alycia Angus, Bernie Park, Ray Rauth (Chairman), Julie Sidhu (Recording) Louise Hastings

Guest: Jan Ledwick

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Rauth at 12:33p.m

Chairman’s remarks: Ray introduced guest Jan Ledwick. Jan is an avid runner and walker. Ray also noted that he has invited town engineer John Conte to a future meeting in order that John get to know us and our goals and that the committee learn how to work with the different town agencies when requesting information or advice. One question that keeps coming up for the group is, how does the town notify the public re PA 09-154 “The Complete Streets Law”. The law is very specific and it is hard for towns to avoid compliance. Ray urged members to read Weston’s Plan of Conservation and Development if we have not already done so. Another question that the group thought might be able to be answered by our town engineer is, how and when is the town notified of future scheduled road work by the state, including sign placement and road painting?

Ray brought up the matter of the crosswalk at Weston town Center that is poorly marked on the road. The group agrees that the location is good as one can see clearly right and left, however it could benefit from additional signage such as those used in Wilton town center and also repainting. (More questions for Town Engineer) Ray plans to schedule a meeting with First Selectman Gayle Weinstein, John Troxell and the Town Engineer, John Conte, regarding the 1996 previously approved plans for the town and how the relatively new (3 years) Complete Streets Law will affect the plans and timelines. (Action Ray)

Ray noted his appearance at the League of women’s Voters Speak Up and an invitation to the April meeting of the Sustainability Committee. Also noted was the interest by Senior Center administrators Wendy Petty and Helen Dekeijzer in developing a series of trails around the school campus. A question as to who would then be responsible for these proposed trails came up and it was thought perhaps Parks and Rec might be the appropriate department.

Jan was briefed on the future goals of the group including specifically, but not limited to bringing safety education awareness regarding pedestrians and cyclists on our town roads to the community, and to support the town in becoming a safer, walkable community.

Jan alerted the committee to proposed work on the narrow bridge scheduled for Godfrey Road just west of Pent Road. All are concerned that widening this bridge will make the area more dangerous as it will enable cars to go faster into a curved, narrow section of Godfrey Road, thus endangering further walkers, runners and cyclists. Again, the question of the town’s responsibility in public notification and opportunities to voice opinions was broached.
Pro Forma Matters:

Approval of Agenda: Moved by Louise Hastings. Seconded by Board Member

Approval of February minutes: Moved by Louise Hastings, seconded by Julie Sidhu.

Old business:

Goals: Accepted as presented by Alycia last month. Ray to make some minor editing and suggestions.

Website: Bio requested from Bernie. Editing is continuing. Julie will let Louise know when site is complete and notify Weston Forum and add link to town website.

Education: A meeting with curriculum director Kim Kus has been arranged for Wednesday 3/14 at 11:30 in the Hurlbutt Elementary Health Classroom to discuss education initiatives and curriculum at all of Weston schools.

Cross Town Bike Routes: Ray explained to Jan the aim of mapping a cross town bike route map according to suitability. Such a map, whilst useful, will take patience and due diligence in order to get a stamp of approval by a recognized authority.

Bisceglie and Old Hyde School Trail: An-mail was sent to Dave Ungar and Gayle Weinstein regarding guided walks, but as yet no response has been received. (Follow up - Julie)

Walkable village loop: Alicia is awaiting a response from Dave Lusberger, the person in charge of the bus garage, with whom she has requested a meeting. Ray noted that the national “Bike to School Day” event was deemed by the PTBs not to be suitable for Weston. However, Ray wondered if perhaps there in fact could be a bus or parental car drop off point for students other than directly in front of the schools and have the students walk the rest of the way to the school buildings, thus ensuring a safer more pedestrian friendly School Road with added fitness benefits.

Julie e-mailed Joe Lametta, Director of Public Works to see if he knew of a timeline for proposed work on the intersection of Norfield Road and State RT 57/53 as was indicated by Chief Troxell at one of our earliest meetings. (Update- Joe notes that to his knowledge, he knows of no work either approved or scheduled)

Ray also turned over the town land map to Louise for safe keeping. The group noted several areas of town owned land that offered possibilities for trails and/or linking roads by walking trails.

Events:

Big Bike Pedi Event: Date for future Big Bike Pedi Event has been approved by Gayle Weinstein. It will take place in late August- August 26th the Sunday before Labor Day.

Other Business: Louise notified the committee that we will be staging a water station at the new “Weston Half Marathon” November 4th.
Move to adjourn Board, Seconded Alycia

Meeting adjourned 2.00p.m

Next Meeting: May 2nd 2012 (There will be no meeting in April due to scheduling conflicts)