

Minutes, Amherst Transportation Advisory Committee

Wednesday, January 9, 2019

Town Room, Town Hall - 5:00 PM

Members Present: Aaron Hayden, Bruce Carson, Kimberly Tremblay, Eve Vogel, Mark Rabinsky

Members Absent:

Staff Present: Guilford Mooring, Christine Brestrup

Others Present:

Meeting started: 5:00 pm.

1. Minutes from last meeting
 - a. Recorder did not work, committee members will compile notes in order to piece meeting together
2. Announcements
 - a. Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan amendments
 - i. Changing the map with the hazardous walking conditions
 1. Had cul de sacs listed as hazardous
 2. Other issues were stated proprietary (speed limit 30 or 35 on a residential street that was stated high hazard), but were changed
 - ii. Rating system of 1-4 needed another level
 1. Their 4's (high risks) were not as bad as worse cases
 - a. PVPC were unwilling to do that due to the rating system being tied into their criteria system
 2. Small street ratings were changed to a lower number
 - iii. Centers and nodes were discussed to not include, but were ultimately decided to be left in
 1. Primarily whether or not UMass should be left in or not.
 - a. UMass was decided not to be a center because it is state controlled
 - b. But as a transportation node it made sense to include it
 - iv. TAC is going to get the data
 - v. For the final version, the TAC will be able to get their own master map put in
 - vi. Committee member Eve planning on getting together informally with bike and pedestrian activists in order to get comments on map draft
 - vii. Citizen makes comment that the map is useless because it is so small it is difficult to get the information off it.
 - viii. Draft is going to be put out for public comment until February 23rd
 1. Changed to February 13th
 - ix. General discussion about bike lanes in Cambridge and how that concept could be applied to Amherst

- x. General discussion about citizen comments about sidewalks in Amherst Woods from last meeting and sidewalks in other parts of Amherst
 - b. Transportation Innovation Conference – MassDOT conference
 - i. April 9th and 10th in Worcester
- 3. Station Road
 - a. Does the committee wish to weigh in on Station Rd's solutions
 - i. Temporary and Permanent solutions
 - 1. To do them or not
 - ii. A Temporary one lane bridge for vehicles is being proposed at this point
 - 1. Design constrained by existing layout (road and wetlands)
 - 2. Allows for vehicle traffic up to large pick ups
 - a. No trash trucks, tractor trailers, etc
 - b. Commuter traffic
 - 3. Proposal is going to go in front of the T.C. on the 28th of January
 - 4. Additional signage can be added along with the stop signs
 - a. Yield to pedestrians and bicyclists
 - iii. Committee members wondering if a study can be done about adding time to commuter time, if there are any advantages to the bridge being closed like pedestrian and bicyclist safety
 - iv. Committee members feel they can comment on a Permanent bridge when the time comes, but for the Temporary bridge, they have things they feel can discuss to make it better, but no recommendation either whether or not there should be a Temporary bridge.
 - 1. Also very concerned about the expenditure of the Temporary bridge when the money can be used elsewhere for permanent projects
- 4. Council and the TAC
 - a. Case for the TAC needs to be presented to the T.C.
 - b. Has not been decided if a Council member will join the TAC, but committee wants to encourage it
 - c. Look at the TAC charge and edit it a bit in order to fit in with the roles of the TAC better
- 5. General discussion about projects to consider and look at
 - a. Planning projects and project based projects
- 6. Next meetings
 - a. February 13th, 27th