

January 8, 2016
Minutes of Traffic Committee Meeting

Attendees

- Beth Ries
- Noah Eckhouse
- Tim Higgins
- Chris Bibbo
- Kevin Kennedy
- Deborah Howe
- Ken Bassett
- Guests: Buzz Constable, Mary Ann Liazos, John Vancor

Please note that some follow-up actions are **noted in Bold**.

1. The minutes of the 30 October 2015 meeting were approved
2. The committee welcomed Deborah Lighthall Howe as our newest committee member.

3. Cross walk at Trapelo Road

Mary Ann Liazos attended the meeting to request consideration of a crosswalk at the Page Road/Winter Street intersection on Trapelo Road. Members of the Committee reviewed the history of crosswalk proposals in Lincoln, including concerns that they can raise a false sense of security for pedestrians. That being said, another observation was a sense of a growing need for accommodating the safe movement of pedestrians given increases in traffic volumes. The Committee agreed that the topic deserves further study and that an initial step would be outreach to neighboring Towns to see what criteria/policies for installing crosswalks exist (if any). Time permitting, **it was suggested that Chris Bibbo and Chief Kennedy could speak with their counterparts in several Towns with similar roadway/walkway settings.**

4. Next Year's Paving Work/Drainage Projects

Chris reviewed DPW's program for roadway paving and drainage projects for 2016, including portions of Old Cambridge Turnpike/North, Old Lexington Road, Wheeler Road, and sections of Todd Pond Road. Chris also discussed his intent to repair deteriorated sections of the roadside path system, noting that in some areas tree roots have created uneven pavement. Concerns were raised as to the extent of root removal and the possible impact on the trees. Another on-going issue is the desire to pave the stone dust path at the corner of Lincoln/Tower Road due to the danger associated with poor drainage and inability to effectively snowplow the path. **Chris with the help of Tim and Noah will continue to pursue the owners for permission assuming there is an actual restriction on record.**

On a related note a suggestion was made to reconsider extension of the Trapelo roadside path to the Old County Road intersection. It was pointed out how difficult negotiations can be with property owners to gain right-of-ways, although in this case the City of Cambridge is the only party to deal with. It was agreed that an initiative to look at roadside path additions would best come from an action by the Selects and a re-empaneled Roadside Path Committee.

5. Guardrail Options

Chris reviewed what appear to be the two guardrail options appropriate for Lincoln given our desire to use Chapter 90 eligible rail designs. One option which uses a steel reinforced wood guardrail design used at Mount Greylock was considered a strong possibility for Lincoln and **Chris was asked to pursue a mock-up of such an approach.** Another option which uses cables supported by steel posts with dark baked enamel finish is similar in character to the system installed as part of the roads project along Trapelo Road. The latter system has some engineering issues associated with clearance for deflection which may complicate its usage. **The topic will be continued to the next meeting at which time we will relook at the options as well as review the map that documents the extent of potential guardrail repair/replacement.**

6. Landscape and Maintenance Vehicle Parking

The committee reviewed its previous meeting recommendation that the **Selects send a letter to Landscape Companies requesting that they not block roadways with vehicles serving resident properties.**

7. Level of Landscaping Maintenance

Chris sought the Committee's input on the level of roadside landscape maintenance which he endeavors to provide given the limits of staff and equipment. The committee offered the following:

- The roadsides are a place for maintaining grass in appropriate areas, but not at the level associated with highly groomed private lawns.
- The aesthetic of Lincoln's roadsides benefits from the maintenance of stone walls, which DPW does periodically either with town forces or private contractors.
- Vegetation management to remove invasive and poor quality trees improves views to adjacent fields in some cases and enhances safety for users of roadside paths.
- The Roadside Manual authored by the Garden Club serves as an added source for policy on roadside maintenance.

In general the Committee believes that Chris strikes an appropriate balance in the Town's approach to roadside maintenance.

8. The next meeting of the Committee will likely occur after Town Meeting. The Committee thanked Noah for his active participation with the Committee should he retire before the next meeting.

Ken Bassett

Principal Emeritus