

Hardwick Planning Commission
Pedestrian and Traffic Safety Task Force
December 10, 2019
Hardwick Memorial Building
DRAFT Minutes

HPC Members Present: Jim Lewis; Ken Davis; and Dave Gross, Chair

Also Present: Kristen Leahy, Hardwick Zoning Administrator (ZA); Elizabeth Dow, Select Board Member; Shari Cornish, Select Board Member; Shaun Fielder, Town Manager; and Doug McClure, Hardwick Gazette Reporter.

Absent: Diane Grenkow and Joyce Mandeville

Chair Dave Gross opened the meeting at 6:30 pm.

The Hardwick Planning Commission did not have a quorum at the commencement of the meeting. As a result, the minutes were not reviewed.

GRACE (Dave & Joyce): Organization has a private parking lot and access to the public lot across the street. Concerns were expressed about the safety with crossing the street. Visibility of the crosswalks is limited – the paint is fading. Vehicles do not always stop for those who are waiting to cross. Cars speed on South Main Street and by the GRACE building. Downtown parking is too close to the crosswalks to allow cars to see pedestrians or pedestrians to see cars. Biking in the downtown is dangerous – drivers occasionally will honk or yell at bikes in the road. GRACE customers are scared to cross the street. A crosswalk by the United Church of Christ would be beneficial for pedestrians. Sidewalks need improvement.

P.O.: (via email) The intersection with the parking area is dangerous due to the location of the parking spot on the main road. There is currently a handicap parking spot in the sight lines. Shaun will discuss this location with the Police chief.

Jeudevine Library (Jim Lewis): Currently has adequate parking. Expansion will add parking spots but might shift usage trends (longer visits to the library). More people may wish to park on West Church after the expansion. Crossing Main Street and Mill Street can be problematic. The Library currently does not have a curb cut which would allow for wheelchair access. In the downtown area, bikes do not have a wide enough shoulder for biking. A bike rack would be beneficial at the Library location. Cars drive very quickly when turning onto Church Street. Pedestrian need more awareness at crosswalks. And a crosswalk to HED from the library and across from the library to the Municipal Building would be beneficial. Sidewalks need improvement.

Possible Short-Term Suggestions: Adjust sight lines near crosswalks (adjust parking spots), remove the handicap parking spot adjacent to the Post Office parking area. Repaint the crosswalks in a high visibility color (yellowish green?). Install flashing crosswalk signs. Add stop signs. Install a speed sign before the village (prior to the Glenside intersection). Install signage to direct cars to alternate parking. Add a street decal that reminds people that bikes can be in the roadway. Educate younger rides about sidewalk safety. Make a 4-way stop at Church /North Main and install crosswalks in all 4 directions (Shaun will request input from department heads on this idea). Install a fence near the Village Diner to prevent people from traveling over the bank and through the intersection. Add a crosswalk to the Cherry Street area. Install bike racks at the library and in the downtown area.

Doug asked why the Montpelier crosswalks stay visible longer and throughout the winter. Kristen will inquire about their techniques.

The next HPC meeting will be on January 14, 2020.

The meeting ended at 7:47 pm.

~ Respectfully submitted, Kristen Leahy, ZA

DRAFT