

Hardwick Planning Commission
(Pedestrian and Traffic Safety Task Force)
October 13, 2020
Via Zoom
Minutes

HPC Members Present: Joyce Mandeville; Ken Davis; Michael Haveson; and Dave Gross, Chair

Also Present: Kristen Leahy, Hardwick Zoning Administrator (ZA); Shari Cornish, Select Board Member.

Absent: Jim Lewis

Chair Dave Gross opened the meeting at 6:34 pm.

Ken Davis moved to approve the agenda as amended. Joyce Mandeville seconded. All members were in favor.

Ken Davis moved to approve the September 15, 2020 meeting minutes as written. Joyce Mandeville seconded. All members were in favor.

Shari Cornish reported that the flashing crosswalk signs were installed in separate locations – on the crosswalk between the Clip Joint and the Laundry (on the Clip Joint side) and on the crosswalk between the Village Diner and Yummy Wok (on the Yummy Wok side). She reported seeing perplexed pedestrians who are seeking the crossing guide on the Village Diner side of the crosswalk. Concern was expressed about the visibility of the sign at the Clip Joint crosswalk. The sign is obscured by the corner and by parked vehicles (especially larger SUVs or Trucks). There was discussion about the change of the sign location from the Coop/Swinging Bridge crosswalk to the Yummy Wok/Village Diner crosswalk. Concern was also expressed regarding the efficacy of the flashing signs when they are separated onto two crosswalks – the design of the signs is based on matching sides of a single crosswalk.

The fence has been installed into the Village Diner/Town of Hardwick parking area. The fence looks functional and appears to be located in an easy to maintain location (for both parking and snow removal). Hopefully, the barrier will prevent pedestrians from crossing through the blinking light intersection.

The handicap parking spot in front of the Rehair shop (next to the Post Office) has been shifted to the beginning of the block. The request to remove the final parking space (next to the telephone pole and the guide wires) has not yet been implemented, but may be accomplished with traffic cones.

The Stop, Look, Wave signs are beginning to fade at a faster rate than the crosswalks. One sign is covered by sediment.

A motion was made to have Chair Dave Gross draft a letter to the Select Board which will detail the discussion and observations of the Planning Commission regarding the Phase I recommendations. (The letter will also include the observation that the 25 mph sign on Slapp Hill is currently missing). Ken Davis moved. Joyce Mandeville seconded. All members were in favor.

The AARP Walk Audit Tool Kit was advertised on Front Porch Forum. Four residents have requested packets (3 in Hardwick and 1 in East Hardwick). The Hardwick Gazette will be reporting on the project in next week's issue.

The Planning Commission will meet on Monday, November 9 at 10:30 am (weather permitting – back-up date to be determined) to complete another Audit. The Commission will focus on either Hardwick or East Hardwick depending on the response from local residents.

The bike corridor concept has been moved to proverbial “back burner” with the onset of winter and the LVRT improvements.

An extended discussion about delivery trucks in the downtown Hardwick area ensued. Ken Davis pointed out that the trucks are necessary and that the timing of the deliveries cannot be controlled as they are dependent on external factors. Ken felt the best approach at this time is the placement of traffic cones in the parking spots (prior to deliveries).

The main problem exists near the co-op. A possible approach would be to create a loading/delivery zone near the Peace Park (with a sidewalk installation in front of Mike's Garage). Another possible approach would be to create an UPS size parking spot – in the Clip Joint parking lot. In the meantime, cone delineation of impending deliveries should be encouraged.

Shari requested the re-consideration of the crosswalk “whack-downs.” Cost, availability, etc. will be examined.

Ken Davis moved to close the meeting at 7:43. Joyce Mandeville seconded. All members were in favor.

The next HPC meeting will be on November 10, 2020 by Zoom.

~ Respectfully submitted, Kristen Leahy, ZA