

Hardwick Planning Commission
Pedestrian and Traffic Safety Task Force
September 16, 2020
Atkins Field Pavilion
Minutes

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

Also Present: Kristen Leahy, Hardwick Zoning Administrator (ZA); Elizabeth Dow and Shari Cornish, Select Board Members.

Absent: Jim Lewis; Shaun Fielder, Town Manager.

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

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

Joyce Mandeville moved to approve the August 11, 2020 meeting minutes as written. Elizabeth Dow seconded. All members were in favor.

Shari Cornish requested information about planning grants and the process for submitting them. The Municipal Planning Grant is written by the department which will be administering the work. For example, a MPG which hires a consultant to write zoning bylaws would be created by the zoning administrator. A MPG which targets the work on the pedestrian bridge would be created by the Town Manager's office.

Shaun Fielder's Town Manager report was reviewed. Shaun specifically addressed the recommendations submitted by the Pedestrian and Traffic Safety Task Force. The town has repainted the cross walks with the white paint but will be pursuing additional colors in the spring of 2021. "Stop, Wait, Wave" signs have been added on the downtown crosswalks (in yellow paint). Two LED crosswalk flashing signs have been ordered and will be installed. The fence should be installed this fall (at the bottom of the parking area). And a bike rack will be installed in the triangular park near the swinging bridge.

Shari reported that there has been conversation about moving the speed bumps in the Village Restaurant parking lot to a residential street (such as Spring Street) to curtail speeding. The discussion returned to the list of recommendations presented to the Select Board. No formal acceptance or denial has been made. Elizabeth Dow felt that this was an oversight. Shari will make a motion to formally accept the proposal at a Select Board meeting.

With the conclusion of this portion of the meeting, Elizabeth made her departure as the task appointed to the Pedestrian and Traffic Safety Task Force was accomplished.

The Planning Commission will continue to focus on the Phase II aspect. The AARP Walk Audit Tool Kit will be utilized for the remaining fall months to gather data on the walkability of Hardwick (downtown and general arteries). The Commission will meet on Monday, September 21 at 10 am at the Memorial Building (weather permitting – back up date will be Tuesday, 9/22). The Commission will focus on West Church Street to "practice" the tool kit model. After a trial run, the commission will reach out to community members (by

Front Porch Forum and other forms of media) and engage residents of various neighborhoods. Collection of data can be accomplished by individuals who are not on the Planning Commission as well as the Planning Commission members.

Joyce Mandeville moved to close the meeting at 7:27. Ken Davis seconded. All members were in favor.

The next HPC meeting will be on October 13, 2020. Time and location (Zoom?) to be determined prior to the meeting date.

~ Respectfully submitted, Kristen Leahy, ZA