

RECEIVED  
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE  
2023 MAY 24 PM 3:53  
TOWN OF WESTBOROUGH

**Master Plan Implementation Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
May 8, 2023  
7:00 PM- 8:00 PM**

**Committee Present:** Chairperson Mark Silverberg, Jack Haagensen, Ding Han, Tom Bleier, Dan Schur, Christina Kelleher, Maria Barney, Catherine Nourse, Hank Rauch,

**Also present:**

**Not present:** Kristi Williams, Stephanie Doyle, Vice Chairperson Wendy Mickel, Patrick Welch, Kris Allen

The meeting of the Westborough Master Plan Implementation Committee was held in the Fire Dept. Training Room on Milk St in Westborough, MA. on Monday, May 8, 2023. The meeting was convened by Mark Silverberg at 7:00 PM.

**Active Transportation & Safety Committee Update**

Ellen Gugel the Chair of the ATSC came to make a presentation. This committee is involved with trails like the BWALT and somewhat involved with Complete Streets, bike racks and signage. They advocate for intermodal transportation like biking to the train. They provide the town support in securing easements for trails, safe routes to schools, bike safety, and inter-town opportunities to connect trails. There are three resident members and they have two open positions. Member positions are appointed. The rest of the committee is made up of planning and select board and staff members. The ATSC is identified as a partner not a lead on any of the Master Plan goals.

**ED-3-1** Rethink the traffic patterns around Bay State to maximize vehicular access, along with walkability and bike ability.

Community Development and Planning are in conversations with owner of Baystate about improving walkability and connectivity. Chairman Silverberg said there may be opportunities to get the easements outside of the Baystate property. CSX owns some lots in this area.

Member Bleier pointed out if there is discussion about rerouting traffic, easements may be required and need to be planned for now.

Goals for the committee that relate to this topic:

- On the committees webpage are suggested routes for cyclists
- Safe Routes to School (SRTS)-DPW has the lead on this. The Town has been awarded a grant for \$1.9 million to do safety improvements. This is 3-5 years timespan
- DPW was awarded a grant for safety signage near Eli Whitney
- Otis Street Corridor Project will build section 1 of BWALT from Rt. 9 to Smith Valve, they are at 25% design
  - Member Rauch pointed out that this trail needs to be included as part of the 25% design. If MassDOT is involved we won't be able to make a design change down the road.
  - Member Gugel gave the opinion that MDM is not an experienced vendor when it comes to standards for multi-use paths.

- Fisher St is getting a rebuild, starting this year, next year at the latest. Will be a pedestrian and cyclist path and will include part of the charm bracelet.
- Committee wants bike lane along Fisher from Otis to Milk.
- Hocomonco Pond Reuse committee is working on easements to create walking trails and connect existing trails. We currently have one easement from Amazon for a certain section of the trail connecting this area with the Target fields.
- Section 2 of BWALT- A MassTrails grant is applied for. This section will connect Otis St to Park St. The Town will learn in June if we are awarded this grant. The trail will connect Otis St over to places like the West Meadow Plaza Shopping area.
- Section 3 of BWALT- most of the easements are secured. This section goes from Lyman to the Milk St. area. The section from Lyman to East Main is pretty much complete.
- Section 4 of BWALT-is proposed but there are some areas along that will be difficult to obtain. This section will be worked on last.

**TC-2-1** Prepare corridor plans for 135 and 30 to identify options for transportation improvements and coordinate future investment.

ATSC has identified this as a high priority for access and safety. They are trying to push for a plan for the rotary and all of the arteries.

Chairman Silverberg mentioned Kristi Williams and Fred Lonardo are applying for a Downtown Master Plan which would address traffic issues in this area.

Ms. Gugel would like, at the very least, to put markings on the road to tell people where they are supposed to be and designate an area for bicyclists.

Member Schur pointed out to improve traffic or bike lanes you need to take away parking.

The issue with parking downtown is the perception. The parking study pointed out there is not a real issue, there is more than enough currently. Chairman Silverberg thinks if the Town would be able to purchase the gas stations in the center this could accommodate an additional 50 or so parking spots.

One idea proposed in the past, was to do reverse angle parking in front of the stores on East Main St. Drivers pulling out would be going forward which would be safer.

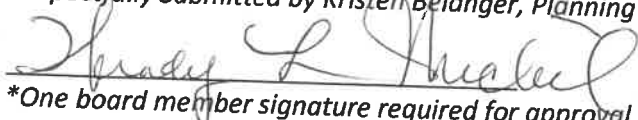
**TC-4-2** Building upon this Master Plan, prepare a sustainable transportation plan that provides next steps for projects, programs, and policies for Westborough's transportation system.

Chairman Silverberg said to watch for the Select Board meeting where they will be reviewing the Senior Needs Assessment.

Ms. Gugel has a few more slides that she was not able to get to because the committee lost quorum. She will provide to the committee for review. The slides discuss the vulnerable road users and the new law that requires a minimum 4' of distance when cars are passing.

**Chairman Silverberg made a motion to adjourn at 8:00 pm. Member Schur seconded.  
Vote: 7-0**

*Respectfully Submitted by Kristen Belanger, Planning Dept. Admin. Assistant*

  
*\*One board member signature required for approval.*