

COMMITTEE ON PEDESTRIAN FRIENDLY STREET LIGHTING

January 6, 2020

7:00 PM

3rd Floor Meeting Room, Town Hall

MINUTES

Members Present:

Frank Caro, Chair

Jean Doherty

Jesse Hefter

Adelaide Ketchum

Jennifer Pieszak

Peter Ditto (Director, Division of Engineering and Transportation, Brookline DPW)

Members Not Present:

Kevin Johnson (Director, Division of Highways and Sanitation, Brookline DPW)

Todd Kirrane (Transportation Administrator, Brookline)

Guest:

Bill Reyelt (Brookline resident)

The meeting began at 7:00 PM.

- 1) Review of December minutes:
 - a. Clarifications were requested about several statements in the minutes; those were discussed and no changes to the minutes were required. The minutes were unanimously approved.
- 2) Cost estimates for new pedestrian-scale street lighting (Peter Ditto):
 - a. Peter shared a document that describes the pricing for deploying street lighting for pedestrians. The estimated cost is \$92K/pair of lights spaced at 75 feet. The committee discussed several options for light fixture types and their impact on the cost.
 - b. Frank requested that Peter assemble the figures for the street lighting project for Harvard St. and share at a future meeting
 - c. Peter explained that funding for lighting needs to come from a mixture of state funds (Chapter 90) – annually about \$1 million and \$2-2.5 million from tax levies in Brookline – the annual total of \$3-3.5 million would cover sidewalk, resurfacing, and lighting.
 - d. Frank requested that Peter find out from the state about financial assistance in the Beacon St corridor since there is history of state support.
- 3) Presentation
 - a. Jennifer Pieszak presented materials on technical considerations for street lighting. One segment dealt with the way one can measure, in advance, the lighting patterns that will exist post-construction. An example was provided for an installation in a park in Cambridge (the Common) where part of the success in implementation was traced to the use of actual lighting mockups prior to full construction. The second segment involved a significant amount of material divided between:
 - i. Modified mounting heights in pathway illumination
 - ii. Luminance in proportion

- iii. The influence of reflective surfaces
 - iv. Applications in urban roadways
 - v. Applications in roundabouts
 - vi. Quality characteristics of illumination
 - vii. Fixture ratings related to light trespass, light pollution, and glare
 - viii. Technical aspects of LED and OLED lighting
 - ix. Applications of photometric information-gathering for proper lighting
 - b. The committee agreed that many, if not all, of the design criteria and information provided in the presentation should be included in future considerations of street lighting proposals to meet guidelines for pedestrian-friendliness.
 - c. A discussion ensued related to the (lack of) pedestrian lighting on Longwood Avenue (between the Riverway and Harvard St). Questions about how to power the proper lighting fixtures (aerial or ground) and the potential influence on housing along the route were discussed. Interestingly, much of the street lighting on Longwood Avenue is on the south side of the road and a significant proportion of the pedestrians travel along the north side of the street.
 - d. Other related lighting projects brought up included:
 - i. Cypress Park related to the MBTA renovation (an alternate walking pathway is being built with new lighting)
 - ii. Washington Street from Brookline Village to the Boston Line (Peter Ditto to follow up on the plan) – this project is a complete roadway upgrade from end-to-end.
- 4) Member reports
- a. Jean Doherty did several field visits in the evenings to collect additional information about pedestrian-friendly lighting. She assesses Boylston St, Newbury St, and Packards Corner (Commonwealth Avenue). For the latter area, the team observed that the lighting for pedestrians is uneven. Jean also provided the Committee with a printout of a presentation developed by the Boston DPW on their street lighting upgrades.
- 5) Frank had a conversation with John Bowman of the Brookline Bicycle Advisory Committee about potential commonality in the needs of pedestrians and bicyclists in terms of street lighting. There is a plan for a meeting in February (date TBD).
- 6) Next steps
- a. Lighting for parks being used as pedestrian routes
 - b. Apply our ideas to a few key areas (sidewalks most heavily used)
 - i. Beacon St
 - ii. Longwood Ave
 - iii. Washington St
 - iv. Winchester St
 - 1. How quickly can we mobilize to assist with re-lighting of the segment between Beacon St and the Senior Center after National Grid completes their work?
 - c. What kind of approaches shall we use, what is our strategy of how to tackle the challenge?
 - d. Meet with Bicycle Advisory Committee (or invite a rep from their team to our meeting)
 - e. Invite Erin Gallentine to our February meeting to discuss park walkways and lighting.
- 7) Next Meeting is scheduled for February 3, 2020 at 7 PM at Town Hall

Meeting concluded at 8:45 PM; minutes prepared by Jesse Hefter