

Extra Information

Woo agenda
10-22-07

#7

John Murray

From: Nancy Tavernier
Sent: Monday, October 22, 2007 2:37 PM
To: Board of Selectmen; Manager Department
Cc: Corrina Roman-Kreuze
Subject: Agenda Item #7, pedestrian improvements

Dear Board members,

In reviewing your agenda for tonight's meeting, I notice an item of great interest to me that I want to opine on. I am delighted to see that there is a possibility of pedestrian improvements at the grade crossing on Central St. near Idlywilde actually happening. When Corrina Roman first told me that someone from the Town had actually contacted the MBTA last spring, I was thrilled. Apparently she had heard complaints about the crossing during her run for Selectman from people in the area. I have had people complain to me too especially if we meet up at the crossing.

This pedestrian crossing is extremely dangerous, I walk over it several times a week, and also observe many other people having the same difficulty as I. The options a pedestrian is faced with are either walking on a section of unstable large sized gravel and then stepping over the tracks which are sticking up at least 8 inches or walking out into the street right into the travel lane in order to avoid bumping into the crossing gate itself. There is no other way to get across. The road at the crossing is unusually narrow at that point so you cannot walk on it if there is a car coming, there is not room for a pedestrian and a car in the same lane. Because it is at the crest of a hill, there is often a car coming the other way that may not see the potential danger of a car coming into their lane to avoid the pedestrian. I have often observed parents with strollers and young children on bikes who are puzzled about how to get across the tracks when for them, the only option is the road.

The sidewalks in West Acton are wonderful town assets, I walk them every day, including in the winter. There is never a time when I do not encounter someone else enjoying them, using them to walk to the West Acton Village services, to the schools, and to Idlywilde. If you walk a loop in West Acton on sidewalks, you have to cross the tracks at that point. The memo from Dore' suggests that the Board might consider committing to what is estimated to be a \$15,000 expense to fix this dangerous situation. The possibility that the MBTA would fund the rest of the cost is a wonderful payback for our years of contributions to the MBTA fund.

I wish to urge you in the strongest way, to move forward on this most generous offer. The people in West Acton will be extremely grateful to you all, and especially to Dore, for keeping this issue alive.

Thank you for listening.

Nancy