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HIGHLIGHT

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The Newsletter of the High Street Hill Association

Spring 2017

Please Join US for Your Neighborhood Association's

Annual Meeting

Monday May 1st, 2017

at the Latvian Lutheran Church - 58 Irving Street

6 pm - Potluck Dinner • 7 pm - Program

HSHA Annual Business Meeting and Board Election* to Follow

Those with last names beginning with A-F please bring a salad, G-M a main dish, and N-Z dessert.

A Conversation with Daniel C. O'Leary, Brookline's Chief of Police

Brookline's Chief O'Leary will be the evening's featured guest. He has been a member of the police department for nearly 40 years and chief of the department for the past two decades. Accompanying him will be several colleagues from the Brookline Police Department. Topics to be discussed include:

*Please come with
your questions and
concerns!*

- Officer training in cultural differences and diversity
- Anti-discrimination and workplace safety polices
- Brookline as a "Sanctuary City"
- Impact of marijuana sales in Brookline



***Presenting the 2016 HSHA Board Candidate Slate**

- Wendy Machmuller, President
- Anthony Flint, Vice President
- John Carpenter, Secretary
- Matt Hyatt, Treasurer
- Elizabeth Childs
- Liz Craig-Olins (new)
- Christopher Gates
- Kim Ozaki
- Diana Post
- Margaret Talcott
- Erik Wurster

Many thanks to Diana Post, who is stepping down as president after four years, and outgoing board member Andy Olins for their service to the neighborhood.

Pill Hill is a great place to live!

If you live in the Pill Hill Local Historic District, the High Street Hill Association is your neighborhood organization. The HSHA is committed to fostering and promoting the common interests of the residents. Please support your neighborhood by joining the HSHA each year. Check out our website at www.highstreethill.org Follow us on Facebook

High Street Hill Association *Membership Application*

New

Renewal

Name(s) _____ Address _____

Email _____

Yes, I'd like to receive the HSHA newsletter and updates by email.

Please note: Membership or donation is suggested but not required

Enclosed is a check for \$25 for a one-year family/ household membership.

I'd like to support the HSHA with a donation of \$_____.

(The HSHA is a 501(c)4 organization and donations are not tax deductible)

Total Enclosed _____

Mail to:
Matt Hyatt, Treasurer
High Street Hill Association
87 Walnut Street
Brookline, MA 02445

***I Spy Butterfly*, a puppet show for children of all ages**

When: Saturday, May 13, at 3 pm

Where: Puppet Showplace Theater, 32 Station Street, Brookline Village (across from the T station)

The High Street Hill Association has purchased 45 tickets to this production so members and their children can attend free of charge. There is a four ticket maximum per household; additional tickets are available at the door for \$10. To reserve tickets, please contact Erik Wurster at erik.wurster@gmail.com An ice cream reception will follow the show.

Show description: *How does a nature-loving explorer kid become a bug's best friend? Find out in I Spy Butterfly, a delightful eco-story about the ways we all grow and change. When Trudy's caterpillar friend Harold suddenly transforms into a chrysalis, she's determined to do the same. Just when she is about to give up hope, she learns that her tiny friend needs her now more than ever. Live music, colorful critters, and oodles of audience interaction make this show a fun ecological romp in the wild!*



HSHA Annual Picnic on the Philbrick Green

Father's Day, Sunday June 18th from 4 - 8 pm

Bring family, friends, and a dish to share or something for the grill • Soft drinks and grills will be provided • Pony Rides (from 4:30 to 5:30 only)



Pill Hill Traffic Report

New York City and Boston have both reduced their default speed limit from 30 m.p.h. to 25 m.p.h. and now it is Brookline's turn to consider this change at Town Meeting. In February, Brookline's Transportation Board submitted a warrant article that will grant it the ability to create a 25 mph statutory speed limit on a designated street or town-wide. For High Street, it means we can bypass the state and create the long-awaited 25 mph speed limit.

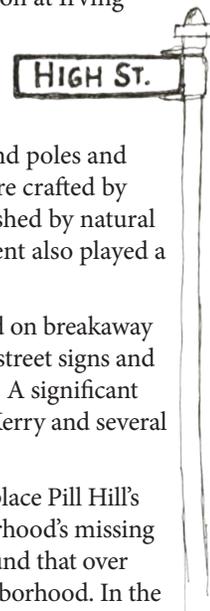
In 2011, nearly 200 Pill Hill residents signed a petition requesting that the town reduce the 30 mph speed limit on High Street to 25 mph. This petition was circulated after it became apparent *The Pond Avenue and High Street Safety Improvement Plan* would not solve all of High Street's traffic issues. As a result of this petition, the Transportation Board began the lengthy process of applying to the MassDOT for a speed limit reduction, the only recourse a town or city had before state law was changed last summer.

Why lower the prevailing speed limit in urban areas from 30 mph to 25 mph?

- At 30 mph, almost half (45%) of pedestrians struck by an automobile are killed; 50% are injured, leaving 5% that escape death or injury.
- Lower speeds encourage yielding to pedestrians, watching for bicyclists, and increase the reaction time for drivers to respond to road conditions.
- Consider: A 10 mph reduction in speed from 30 to 20 mph; Pedestrian-automobile accident fatalities drop from 45% to 5%.

Several other neighborhood traffic requests are also coming to fruition this year. According to Todd Kirrane, Brookline's Transportation Administrator, the solar speed board at Hall Road, which has worked sporadically since its installation five years ago as part of the Pond Avenue and High Street Safety Improvement Plan, is slated to be hardwired. Created in 2014, the five-way stop intersection at Irving Avenue, Upland Street, and Allerton Street will finally have stop lines painted.

A Sign of Things to come: The Return of Pill Hill's Historic Street Signs



Who hasn't noticed how some Pill Hill street signs are made of thick cast aluminum with projecting black letters on round poles and others are flimsy, flat computer-generated ones on perforated square posts? The distinctive black and silver cast signs were crafted by local workers at a town foundry from 1937 through the 1960s. In recent years, however, their numbers have been diminished by natural attrition (e.g. car accidents, tree limbs, and theft) and replaced with mass-produced modern ones. The federal government also played a role in the demise of Brookline's homemade signs, which appear to be unique in the United States.

A 2003 federal guideline stipulated that by 2012 all street signs were required to have six-inch letters, be retro-reflective, and on breakaway poles. In spite of this new regulation, a town warrant article in 2005 sought to maintain in place the existing cast aluminum street signs and restore missing ones. This well-intended article, however, wasn't always respected when replacing the missing historic signs. A significant breakthrough came in 2012 when the High Street Hill Association, the Brookline Preservation Commission, Senator John Kerry and several other Northeast communities successfully lobbied for historic districts to be exempt from federal street sign requirements.

The High Street Hill Association received good news this spring after campaigning for over fifteen years to preserve and replace Pill Hill's historic street signs. It was notified by the town that the specifications and documents required to restore all of the neighborhood's missing historic signs and poles were nearly complete. This is not a small project. A 2015 High Street Hill Association inventory found that over half of them were missing. A date has not been set when the new historic signs and poles will begin appearing in our neighborhood. In the meantime, visit the HSHA website's "Neighborhood History" for photos and a history of Brookline's classic black and silver cast aluminum street signs.