

TOWN OF STOW
COMPLETE STREETS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the June 5, 2023, Complete Streets Committee Meeting

Members present: Barry Evers, Brian Hatch, Ingeborg Hegemann Clark, Karen Kelleher, Kathy Sferra

Members absent: Darren Thraen

Also Present: Valerie Oorthuys

Karen Kelleher called the meeting to order at 1:00PM

Meeting Minutes

Kathy Sferra motioned to approve the minutes of the April 19, 2023, meeting as amended.

Brian Hatch seconded

Roll call vote: Barry Evers **-Yea**; Brian Hatch **-Yea**; Ingeborg Hegemann Clark **-Yea**; Karen Kelleher **-Yea**; Kathy Sferra **-Yea**

Crescent Street Sidewalks – Forum Planning

The Committee discussed the addition of sidewalks along Crescent Street from Hartley Road to Warren Road. Valerie let the committee know that a forum will need to be held. Discussion on when the forum will be held and who will be hosting the forum was held. It was proposed that the meeting will be held the second week of July and cohosted by the Complete Streets Committee and the Planning Board. A Request for Proposals will need to be drafted and released for this project.

Town Center Streetscapes Improvements Request For Proposals & Technical Memo from Boston MPO – Town Center Intersection Improvement Strategies

The Committee discussed the Town Center Streetscapes RFP and the Technical Memo from Boston MPO jointly. Valerie began by telling the Committee that she will need to have the RFP updated. The scope of work for the project has been expanded, extending the study areas east and west of Route 117, south along Route 62, and north to include Crescent Street, Library Hill Road, and Common Road.

The design team for the Randall Library renovation project have proposed to make Common Road a one-way road and to use the former travel lane for parking. The design team had stated to the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee in a meeting that if the road cannot be made into a one-way road, the design of the Library will need to be changed. An answer to this proposal was deemed important to prevent further delays.

The Committee discussed what it would mean if the road had only one way traffic. In the memo, there was language that stated that there would be no changes to the level of service if Common Road was made into a one-way road. The committee did not have a consensus as to what the language was stating, specifically if it was a recommendation to make the road a one-way road or not.

Kathleen (last name not stated), a resident, shared with the Committee her observations about Common Road. She stated that she has seen people using the road as a cut through to avoid the traffic light at the intersection of Route 117 and Route 62, and that there is excessive speeding occurring on the road.

The Committee discussed next steps needed for Common Road. Options were brought up such as creating a separate traffic study for Common Road and removing it from the Town Center Streetscapes RFP.

The discussion returned to discuss the Town Center Streetscapes RFP. Kathy stated she would like to remove the current language about the former Bose site and replace it with language that states that there is a potential for a more intensive use of the site. Valerie had stated that additional comments for the RFP can be sent to her by Friday, June 9.

No further discussion was had on the Technical Memo from Boston MPO.

Open Space and Recreation Plan

The Conservation Department and the Recreation Department have released the Draft Open Space and Recreation Plan for comments. Comments from the Committee are not required. The Committee agreed to review the draft and provide comments, especially regarding sidewalks and bike lanes. Karen requested to discuss the Plan at the next Committee meeting. The members agreed. Kathy reminded the committee that all comments are due by Friday, July 14.

Updates on Ongoing Projects

Track Road Shared Use Path Design

Valerie had updated the Committee on the frustration working with the consultant of the Track Road Project. The project is believed to be overly engineered. Kathy agreed with Valerie about the frustrations of design, pointing out how the design need landfill in the wetlands. A future meeting will be held between Valerie and the consultant.

Marlboro Road Intersection

The Committee members shared updates on the conclusion of the project. The first option for reducing truck traffic was discussed as the ideal solution. It was mentioned that there is additional information needed from the Post Office, trash removal services and truck drivers on their opinions about the options. The committee agreed that there will need to be collaboration with Hudson on this project for a permanent solution

Hudson Road/Route 117 Signalization

The Planning Department submitted a MassWorks grant application for the signalization of the intersection of Route 117 and Hudson Road. The response from MassWorks is expected to be received in the Fall. The current plans for the project are at the 75% design phase.

It was discussed that the project will require easements from properties adjacent to the intersection. Notices of Intent have been sent to the properties. Valerie updated the Committee stating that she has received positive feedback from the owner of the Gulf gasoline station, and concerns from the owner of Buscemi's Liquors of Stow regarding delivery access to the building. She added that attempts to contact the owners of Stow Brook office park were made, but no response has been received. Plans for easements are expected to be ready for a vote at the Special Town Meeting in Fall.

Kane Land Access Path

The Kane Land Access Path project was appropriated \$35,000 from Annual Town Meeting. The project received bids, and a contractor from those bids was selected. However, the selected contractor did not include prevailing wages in the bid; this caused the project to go back out for bidding. The deadline for bids has not approached. Concerns were mentioned that the price of the project may exceed \$50,000; additional funding may need to be requested at Town Meeting in September.

Karen Kelleher motioned to adjourn.

Brian Hatch seconded.

Roll call vote: Barry Evers **-Yea**; Brian Hatch **-Yea**; Ingeborg Hegemann Clark **-Yea**; Karen Kelleher **-Yea**; Kathy Sferra **-Yea**

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Slagle