

TOWN OF STOW
COMPLETE STREETS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the October 29, 2019 Complete Streets Committee Meeting

Members Present: Karen Kelleher, Eve Fischer, Ralph Marino, Jim Salvie, Kathy Sferra

Absent: Joe Landry, Brian Hatch

Discussion of Meeting Minutes

Minutes of October 9, 2019

Kathy Sferra moved to approve the minutes as written.

Jim Salvie seconded.

VOTED: 5-0 in favor (Karen Kelleher, Eve Fischer, Ralph Marino, Jim Salvie, Kathy Sferra- Yea).

Correspondence

The Committee discussed two letters from residents of Gleasondale Village requesting sidewalks and traffic calming measures. The Committee agreed a response should indicate the projects on the approved Complete Streets Prioritization Plan and upcoming construction projects in 2020 on Harvard Road and Old Bolton Road. The Committee agreed the Complete Streets webpage needs to be updated so that residents can more easily understand the priority projects and upcoming construction. Jim Salvie said the Procedures for Speed Zoning brochure from MassDOT could also be posted to the website to clarify resident questions.

Assabet River Rail Trail and Track Road Next Steps

Present:

Rob Albright, Owner of Crow Island and Track Road

Jesse Steadman said the Committee has invited Rob Albright in to discuss opportunities to use Track Road as a shared use path extension of the Assabet River Rail Trail. The Committee has discussed design alternatives for improvements to Track Road as well as funding through the Community Preservation Committee and the State's Complete Streets Program.

Rob Albright discussed the maintenance the road requires, including frequent grading of the east side of Track Road, from Crow Island to White Pond Road, seasonal plowing, and trash clean up. Rob Albright said he would like the road to be paved as maintaining a dirt road is costly.

Rob Albright discussed current traffic on the road, stating that the airport and trapeze business bring about 20- 30 cars per day during summer weekends and 10 or fewer cars per day during summer weekdays. The seasonal nature of the Crow Island businesses means that the road sees only a few cars per day in the winter. The trapeze businesses may

have 3 classes per day, with 10 participants. Each tenant has a key to the gate that blocks vehicle access on Track Road.

Jim Salvie said that the federal Rail Trail Program will not fund improvements to Track Road because there is not enough room to separate cars 5 feet from the pathway. Jim Salvie asked if Rob Albright is open to restricting vehicles to one-way travel on Track Road. Rob Albright said this was done for soccer tournaments, though two-way traffic has worked well with cars stopping to allow pedestrians and cyclists to pass.

Jim Salvie said that there is concern for ensuring that vulnerable populations feel safe using the path, and there should be some method of separating vehicles from pedestrians and cyclists such as plastic bollards. Rob Albright said the design should allow for 18 wheeler trucks to continue to occasionally access Crow Island. If the road is not paved, the 14 foot wide grader would need enough clearance to be used. Rob Albright suggested that a painted white line may be enough of a separation.

Kathy Sferra noted that the potential design would need to incorporate environmental permitting requirements and adequate drainage. The Committee acknowledged that the design needs to meet public safety requirements, such as the ability for the path and Crow Island to be accessed by a fire truck. The Committee agreed it may be helpful to discuss details with Maynard and Hudson to see how they addressed these items.

Jim Salvie said that he would like to discuss the State's Transportation Bond Bill further with Representative Kate Hogan, as she indicated funds could be set aside for a project, though the deadline is coming up at the end of December.

Rob Albright said Track Road is as narrow as 13-14 feet wide in some places, and is 1.8 miles long. A portion of the entrance to Track Road may be in Maynard, which would require easements to construct the path. Rob Albright said he may reach out to paving companies for estimates of the cost of paving the full length of Track Road.

Rob Albright mentioned that a private company may operate Crow Island in the future.

The Committee discussed the idea of installing smart gates at the entrances to Track Road, so that bicycles and pedestrians may continue to access the path, and vehicles would use an app to unlock the gate. Rob Albright said that a smart gate would deter dumping.

The Committee agreed to continue exploring options, with the understanding that the Community Preservation Committee would need to receive a proposal for funding by December 1.

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Valerie Oorthuys