

TOWN OF STOW
COMPLETE STREETS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the December 16, 2019 Complete Streets Committee Meeting

Members Present: Karen Kelleher, Ralph Marino, Jim Salvie, Kathy Sferra, Steve Nadeau

Absent: Joe Landry, Eve Fischer

Discussion of Meeting Minutes

Minutes of December 3, 2019

Kathy Sferra moved to approve the minutes as written.

Ralph Marino seconded.

VOTED: 4-0 in favor (Karen Kelleher, Ralph Marino, Kathy Sferra, Steve Nadeau- Yea; Jim Salvie abstained).

Old Bolton Road and Harvard Road Intersection Improvements

The Committee discussed the 100% design plans for the Old Bolton Road intersection improvements and Harvard Road pedestrian improvements.

Old Bolton Road

Steve Nadeau said that drainage plans are needed and that the proposed drainage does not solve the current problems at the intersection. Steve Nadeau said that he is concerned with the placement of granite curbing and the ability to plow snow at a 90 degree intersection. Steve Nadeau suggested that the loam and seeded island between the bike lane and the travel lane could be depressed. The grade at the intersection should be flattened out so that vehicles stopped on Old Bolton Road have a level area for queuing. The Committee agreed to collect comments from abutters and the Highway Superintendent and to have staff provide the comments to engineers at TEC for clarification or revision.

Kathleen Pavelchek, 102 Old Bolton Road, said she would like the island between travel lanes on Old Bolton Road to remain. Jim Salvie noted correspondence from Kathleen Pavelchek regarding the need for a left hand turn lane from Great Road onto Old Bolton Road. Kathleen Pavelchek said that is not a primary concern and she is more interested in the median remaining.

The Committee discussed the upcoming forum on January 8th, noting that the Highway Superintendent's comments may require further plan revisions. The Committee agreed to request funds from both the Planning Board and Board of Selectmen and that Steve Nadeau should discuss the need for funds with the Town Administrator first, and then the Selectmen.

Bob Mong, 94 Old Bolton Road, asked for the accident rate at the intersection. Karen Kelleher noted that the project supports bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure as well as creates a safer environment for vehicles. The project came from the Complete Streets

Prioritization Plan, which also factored in proximity to key destinations, demand for bicycle and pedestrian services, and resident comments.

Harvard Road

Steve Nadeau noted that the plans propose a wheelchair ramp with no crosswalk. Kathy Sferra said the Committee had previously requested the engineer to place the ramp on the plans as Harvard Road sees a high volume of pedestrians. Steve Nadeau suggested leaving the sidewalk as is to the west of the crosswalk on Great Road and transition to stone dust and provide an unofficial ramp.

Track Road Shared Use Path Update and Planning Approach

Kathy Sferra said she received an estimate from Merrill, Inc. for survey and wetland delineation of Track Road. The Committee agreed that because the estimate is less than the request sent to CPC, a consultant could also be asked to create concept plans.

Approval of FY 2021 Budget

The Complete Streets Committee reviewed the draft FY2021 Budget. The budget reflects a \$28,600 request for funds for installation of signage in 7 different locations across town, taken from the Prioritization Plan. The Committee agreed that the signage is needed and that instead of installing a permanent speed radar sign at the intersection of Gleasondale Road and Boon Road, two temporary speed feedback signs should be purchased for use by the Highway Department. These signs would be in addition to the two pairs of signs already in circulation. The Committee agreed that the Track Road Engineering line item under FY 2022 for the Capital Planning Committee should note that this request would be made only if funding through other means is not possible.

Kathy Sferra moved to approve the FY 2021 Budget as revised.

Jim Salvie seconded.

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

Jim Salvie left the meeting.

CrossTown Connect

Jesse Steadman said the Town Administrator, Jim Salvie, and staff recently met with Representative Kate Hogan to discuss the pilot program with CrossTown Connect. The pilot is moving forward to use the 10-12 parking spaces behind the former Fire Station as parking for a shuttle service through Maynard and Acton to the South Acton Commuter Rail Station. At the meeting, there was interest in creating a simple bus shelter to designate the area. The Committee agreed that prior to committing to construction of a shelter, the pilot should be deemed successful and the Town should solidify plans for the future use of the former Fire Station.

Discussion and Vote of Support, Pavement Management Survey

Steve Nadeau provided the Committee with an article describing Pavement Management Surveys. The survey would provide the Highway Department with a multi-year plan to

clarify which roads need minor maintenance and which need a full overhaul. Steve Nadeau described a regional approach to securing grant funding for road projects, noting that an application would be more competitive if proposed construction would benefit multiple towns.

Kathy Sferra moved in support of a Highway Department article to fund a Pavement Management Survey.

Ralph Marino seconded.

VOTED: 3-0 in favor (Karen Kelleher, Ralph Marino, Kathy Sferra- Yea; Steve Nadeau abstained).

Review of Traffic Data

Valerie Oorthuys provided the Committee with a spreadsheet of data pertaining to traffic accidents on Boxboro Road and Sudbury Road from 2014- October, 2019. This work is done as part of the Committee's continued efforts to better understand the cause of accidents and to communicate with residents and the Board of Selectmen on the timing of improvement projects. The Committee agreed that more roads should be reviewed, including Old Bolton Road, Maple Street, Harvard Road, and South Acton Road.

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Valerie Oorthuys