

TOWN OF STOW
COMPLETE STREETS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the January 23, 2020 Complete Streets Committee Meeting

Members Present: Karen Kelleher, Eve Fischer, Ralph Marino, Steve Nadeau, Kathy Sferra

Absent: Joe Landry, Jim Salvie

Discussion of Meeting Minutes

Minutes of December 16, 2019

Eve Fischer moved to approve the minutes as amended.

Kathy Sferra seconded.

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

Correspondence

The Complete Streets Committee reviewed correspondence from the Gleasondale Village Association, agreeing to put this item on an upcoming agenda to discuss in detail.

The Committee reviewed a letter from Laura Reiner regarding traffic safety on Common Road. The Committee brainstormed solutions, agreeing that items such as decorative flower pots, a 3-D plastic children crossing sign, and a “Children at Play” sign at the east entrance should be installed.

The Committee reviewed an email from Christine Curcio regarding whether a stop sign could be placed at the intersection of Old Bolton Road and Maple Street to improve safety at a school bus stop. The Committee agreed that installing a stop sign requires a traffic study and that the committee’s funds are needed for other priorities in Town. Steve Nadeau said he would consider the placement of a “School Bus Stop Ahead” sign. Chief Marino suggested the resident could call the Police Department to request a radar setup to enforce speeds and right of way.

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 and responses from engineers at TEC, Inc. related to the Committee’s earlier questions about the plans.

Old Bolton Road

Steve Nadeau commented on the stormwater infrastructure included in the plans, saying that the Highway Department does not have the capacity to clean out leaching catch basins, as proposed on the plans. Steve Nadeau noted that existing conditions of the project area include a puddling problem at the west end of the project. The Committee agreed that Steve Nadeau and Sue Carter of Places Associates should meet with TEC, Inc. to confirm stormwater infrastructure.

Steve Nadeau suggested that rumble strips or reflective lane markings are used on Old Bolton Road at the intersection to alleviate concerns around vehicles encroaching onto stopped traffic when making left hand turns onto Old Bolton Road from Great Road. The Committee agreed that reflector strips should be included in the plans.

The Committee discussed concerns for maintenance of the landscaped areas, agreeing that instead of loam and seed, a native wildflower seed mix should be used.

Steve Nadeau moved to accept the 100% design plans, contingent on agreement between the Highway Superintendent and Sue Carter regarding the drainage plans.

Eve Fischer seconded.

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

Design Memo to MassDOT Complete Streets Program

The Committee reviewed a draft letter to the administrator of the Complete Streets Program regarding a design exception request to widen shoulders along Great Road rather than provide bicycle lanes. The request is due to site constraints related to street widening, which was not considered as part of the project cost.

Eve Fischer moved to accept the 100% design plans, contingent on agreement between the Highway Superintendent and Sue Carter regarding the drainage plans.

Steve Nadeau seconded.

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

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Valerie Oorthuys