

TOWN OF STOW
COMPLETE STREETS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the September 2, 2020 Complete Streets Committee Meeting

Members Present: Karen Kelleher, Joe Landry, Steve Nadeau, Mike Sallese, Jim Salvie,
Kathy Sferra

Absent: Eve Fischer

Discussion of Meeting Minutes

Minutes of June 25, 2020

Jim Salvie moved to approve the minutes as written.

Joe Landry seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Eve Fischer- Yea, Steve Nadeau- Yea, Kathy Sferra- Yea; Jim Salvie- Yea.

Wheeler Road Traffic Concerns

The Committee reviewed correspondence from residents on Wheeler Road related to increasing traffic speeds. The Committee agreed to review traffic accident data and speed data from the radar signs at a future meeting.

The Committee reviewed correspondence from Steve Nadeau regarding the use of speed bumps, as requested by Wheeler Road residents. Steve Nadeau said the town's 2001 speed bump policy does not allow installation of speed bumps and provided a whitepaper drafted by RadarSign, a seller of speed signage, which states that speed bumps are not a preferred solution. Karen Kelleher said the Town's policy should be reviewed and modernized as needed.

Vickery Trinkaus-Randall, 56 Wheeler Road, said speeding on Wheeler Road is worse during rush hours and eastbound from Route 117 towards Hudson Road. Vickery Trinkaus-Randall requested that temporary speed bumps are put in place as a pilot and feels there are successful models of speed bumps in other towns such as Sudbury.

Lindsay LaPointe, 43 Wheeler Road, stated that blind driveway signage would also be helpful and noted that she did not feel the radar speed signage deterred speeders.

Mike Sallese suggested that 25mph signage is posted or marked on pavement and added that his department can use Waze to discourage traffic during peak times. Mike Sallese noted that speed enforcement has stopped cars going 45-50mph. Mike Sallese said the road is known as needing enforcement and feels this is a legitimate concern, as with Marlboro Road.

Jesse Steadman suggested another short term action could include contacting the owners of Butternut Golf Club to discuss recent concerns. If concern continues, the ability for vehicles to turn left onto Wheeler Road could be revisited through the golf course's Special Permit through the Planning Board. Other options include hiring a consultant to do traffic counts,

including turning movements or creating a policy to close the road to through traffic during peak hours.

Vickery Trinkaus-Randall asked for feedback on installing temporary speed bumps. The Committee noted it would be considered as part of a review of the existing speed bump policy, which would require clear criteria to indicate which roads are good candidates and at what point would a pilot be warranted. Mike Sallese added that the policy review could include looking to other towns to understand what problem installed speed bumps were intended to solve and whether they are seen as a success.

The Committee brainstormed several potential solutions. Steve Nadeau indicated that reconfiguring the intersection with Route 117 could help, so that cars must slow to make a sharper turn onto Wheeler Road. Jim Salvie noted the road could be restricted to one-way during peak times, though this may worsen traffic at the Hudson Road light. The Committee agreed that a recommendation should be made to the Selectmen, and the topic would be discussed again at a future meeting.

Shared Streets and Spaces Grant Program

The Committee discussed improvements to request through an application to the Shared Streets and Spaces Grant Program. The program is looking to fund simple projects that are able to be implemented quickly during the pandemic to encourage outdoor recreation. The Committee brainstormed several ideas and decided that the grant should be used to fund signage in Town Center, Lower Village, and Gleasondale Village. Signage includes Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons at crosswalks in Town Center and Lower Village and permanent speed feedback signage in Town Center and Gleasondale Village.

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Valerie Oorthuys