

TOWN OF STOW
COMPLETE STREETS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the March 4, 2021 Complete Streets Committee Meeting

Members Present: Karen Kelleher, Eve Fischer, Steve Nadeau, Jim Salvie, Kathy Sferra
Karen Kelleher called the meeting to order at 2:00pm

Kathy Sferra moved to accept the minutes of the December 8, 2020 meeting as written
Jim Salvie seconded

Roll call vote: Karen Kelleher **-Yea**; Eve Fischer **-Yea**; Steve Nadeau **- Yea**; Kathy Sferra – **Yea**; Jim Salvie **-Yea**

2021 Complete Streets Construction Projects

Town Planner Jesse Steadman reported that he and Highway Superintendent Steve Nadeau spoke with a prospective bidder for the Harvard Road and Old Bolton Road project. Steve Nadeau reported that he had checked references for the apparent lowest bidder and is prepared to submit to the Town Administrator upon recommendation from town transportation consultant and is expecting to see work commence on the project this spring.

FY2022 Budget Update

Town Planner Jesse Steadman updated the committee that the Town Transportation Consultant has received maps highlighting town center transportation needs and will be producing conceptual plans for improvements. Kathy Sferra suggested that conceptual plans for pedestrian improvements further south on Gleasondale Rd should be given higher priority. The Committee discussed some specific requests they want to make to consultant for conceptual plans.

Jesse Steadman reported that cost estimates for town center signage improvements have fallen relative to earlier requests, and that spending requests to the Capital Planning Committee will be made soon.

Kathy Sferra asked whether the Highway Department has the authority and resources to close a small sidewalk gap near Pilot Grove apartments. Highway Superintendent Steve Nadeau responded that the Highway Department does not have the equipment to pave sidewalks and that there are obstructions that would prevent 6 ft wide ADA-compliant sidewalks.

Jim Salvie requested clarification about construction rules to determine whether the town can construct a short footpath to close gap that does not follow ADA and MassDOT construction requirements. Steve Nadeau informed the committee that he will consult with other town's departments for examples of walkways that do not adhere to ADA requirements.

Track Road Updates

Town Planner Jesse Steadman reported back from conversation with a Metropolitan Area Planning Commission bike planner about the pitfalls of surfacing this prospective route with stone dust vs. pavement. Jesse Steadman said that current designs for the route anticipate a single lane for two-way traffic with bike lanes on each side. Jim Salvie raised doubts that traffic volumes would remain flat following improvements to Track Road.

Karen Kelleher suggested a joint discussion between the Planning Board and the Complete Streets Committee about the most viable options for improving the route. Committee members expressed doubt that funds for these improvements could come entirely from the Town.

The Committee discussed the merits of different possible traffic patterns on the route. Jesse Steadman suggested that the committee reach out to the property owner about specific needs for the site and include the Highway Department in any such discussion. Topics will include design proposals, construction methods, traffic patterns and lane arrangements, and possible restrictions placed on property in exchange for access improvements made by the town. Kathy Sferra, Jesse Steadman, Jim Salvie, and Steve Nadeau said they will invite the property owner to discuss plans for the route.

Committee Membership

Town Planner Jesse Steadman informed the Committee the all members' terms are expired. All members present expressed that they are willing to serve another term. Jim Salvie said he would consider serving as chair if asked.

Respectfully Submitted,
Malcolm Ragan