

TOWN OF STOW
COMPLETE STREETS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the May 12, 2021 Complete Streets Committee Meeting

Members Present: Karen Kelleher, Eve Fischer, Steve Nadeau, Jim Salvie, Kathy Sferra, Joe Landry

Karen Kelleher called the meeting to order at 2:00pm

Eve Fischer moved to accept the minutes of the March 4, 2021 meeting as written

Michael Sallèse seconded

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

Correspondence

Town Planner Jesse Steadman said he had received a thanks from a resident for the flashing beacon at the intersection of Harvard Rd. Jesse Steadman said he had received comments about speeding vehicles on Wheeler Road, and that the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC) would address the issue at its first meeting. Police Chief Michael Sallèse said that the Police Department would change pathfinding on Google Maps and Waze to make the cut through route less attractive.

Kathy Sferra said that Stow Conservation Trust wants to have a parking area on Red Acre Road. Kathy Sferra asked if that issue should be brought before TSAC or Complete Streets. Karen Kelleher suggested that it would be a better issue for the TSAC. Mike Sallèse said that a parking area would have to be built out, and that on-street parking would not be a safe option. Committee members agreed the issue should be addressed by the TSAC.

Jim Salvie asked if the TSAC had scheduled a meeting yet. Jesse Steadman said that it would be soon. Mike Sallèse said that two residents had already expressed interest.

Mike Sallèse said that a resident had requested a change in the rules for Crescent Street and common road. Jim Salvie said these discussions should be kicked down to a future agenda.

Town Center Planning Warrant Article

Jesse Steadman said that the planning department had reached out to consultant about an estimate to get the data needed to apply for TIP funds. The consultant quoted a range from \$38,000 to \$57,000 for the concept plans. Jesse said that Green International had said to be eligible for TIP the scope would need to be increased. MassDOT requires that intersection over 10,000 vehicles per day study a rotary and buffered bike lane. Jesse Steadman said that this article would not get the Town all the way to engineering for TIP eligibility. Karen Kelleher asked if the warrant would get the Town part of the way there. Jesse Steadman said it was still worth spending the money to get concept plans and traffic analyses.

Jesse Steadman said that the deliverables from the existing warrant could be leveraged for further funds from another source in the future, like a MassWorks grant. If that doesn't work out, the deliverables can still serve as a step for future TIP applications.

Jim Salvie asked what the pricetag for the 100% design would be. Jim Salvie said he is uncomfortable to go to Town meeting not knowing the full cost. Jim Salvie said that Capital Planning and Selectmen needed a clarification about what this funding would accomplish. Jim Salvie said he had informed the BOS and Capital Planning that this funding was going to get to 100% design.

Karen Kelleher said she always believed this would fund a concept plan. Kathy Sferra suggested that Jesse speak with Town Administrator about the exact nature of the work proposed.

Jesse Steadman said that the plan had been to fund a concept plan, meet with TIP representative to decide priority to fund, then fund the 25% design plans at a later stage. Jesse said he would clear the air with Town Administrator about misunderstandings before asking an Engineering firm for a quote for 25% design plans.

Jesse Steadman said that MassWorks would be suitable because it would allow the scope of the project to be reduced if needed.

Construction project update

Jesse Steadman said that construction at Old Bolton Road/Harvard Road was expected to begin on May 24 as scheduled. Highway Superintendent Steve Nadeau said that towns are asking contractors for extra work which could cause delays, and that shortages in construction materials could cause delays. Steve Nadeau said that he was going to be pushing for shop drawings from the contractor by the end of the week for beginning construction on May 24.

Track Road Updates

Jesse Steadman said that he had done some back and forth with Lori Trahan's office following Jim Salvie's connection. Jesse Steadman said that the Planning Department had sent a one page description Rep Trahan's office and that the project had met their criteria. Jesse Steadman said that conversations with Engineering firm Green International, Inc. and Rep Trahan's office produced a construction figure of roughly \$4 million for construction and as high as \$750k for design if MassDOT standards need to be followed.

Jesse Steadman said that Lori Trahan's office had suggested asking for the design funds from the legislature and seek other sources for construction funds at a later time. Jesse said it would be a massive leap forward for the Town to get those design funds.

Jim Salvie said that \$4 million for Track Road seemed extremely high. Kathy Sferra asked if the design funds could be used to design a trail to a lower standard that would cost less than the quoted \$4 million. Jesse Steadman said that the town still does not know if the MassDOT standards will need to be followed. Jim Salvie said that the earmark should be built in such a way to allow flexibility to explore cheaper options, and not have restrictions about the exact designs to be produced. Jesse Steadman said that it was unlikely Lori Trahan's office would have a neat answer about how best to proceed in the face of these costs.

Eve Fischer asked how the bike bridge over 111 and route 2 had been funded, Committee members said that all such projects in the area are funded by the state Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Jesse Steadman said that Kate Hogan had reached out to the Town about a list of ongoing and planned projects, and that there was an apparent belief that the floodgates were opening for a major round of infrastructure spending.

Jim Salvie moved to adjourn
Kathy Sferra seconded

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Malcolm Ragan