

TOWN OF STOW
COMPLETE STREETS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the July 7, 2022 Complete Streets Committee Meeting

Members present: Karen Kelleher, JP Benoit, Kathy Sferra, Daren Thraen

Members absent: Brian Hatch, Ingeborg Hegemann Clark

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

Annual Committee Reorganization

Kathy Sferra nominated Karen Kelleher to serve as Chair of the committee

JP Benoit seconded the nomination

Roll call vote: Karen Kelleher -**Yea**; JP Benoit -**Yea**; Kathy Sferra -**Yea**; Daren Thraen -**Yea**

Correspondence

Karen Kelleher addressed correspondence regarding a request for a sidewalk extension along part of Boxboro Rd. Karen Kelleher said the request should be forwarded to the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC) because a sidewalk in that location is not included in the Complete Streets Prioritization Plan. Karen Kelleher recalled that slopes and adjacent wetlands at the location would make sidewalk construction difficult. JP Benoit said he will bring the request to the TSAC at an upcoming meeting.

Highway Department Paving Plan Review

Highway Superintendent Steve Nadeau said that some roads listed as complete resurfacing projects have been delayed due to asphalt costs and will likely just be crack sealed. Steve Nadeau said that plans to resurface Gleasondale Road from roughly Sudbury Road to the Hudson town line have been delayed due to delays with the bridge replacement. Karen Kelleher asked when purchased speed feedback signs are set to be installed in Gleasondale. Steve Nadeau said the Highway Department prioritized the installation of pedestrian beacons along Great Road to meet grant deadlines, and that additional work needs to be done to locate the speed feedback signs where there will be enough sunlight to power them.

Steve Nadeau clarified that the trench repair work listed for West Acton Road would complete repair work started in the Spring and will not make any changes to the right-of-way cross section, limiting possible interference with a planned sidewalk construction at that location. Town Planner Jesse Steadman noted that squaring up angles at the intersection of West Acton, South Acton, and Boxboro Road was listed in the Prioritization Plan. Steve Nadeau expressed support for that idea.

Kathy Sferra asked if a planned Cape Seal treatment for White Pond Road in 2024 provides an opportunity to enact Complete Streets improvements on that road. Steve Nadeau said there is little space in the right-of-way to adjust the cross section of the road without significant engineering and easements from properties that front White Pond Road. Jesse Steadman said that there have been proposals to install advisory shoulders for cyclists connecting to Track Road, and that the Town of Lincoln has installed some shoulders that Stow can look to as an example.

Jesse Steadman said that any resurfacing of Gleasondale Road after the bridge replacement could be an opportunity to install sidewalks, which is a high priority in the Complete Streets Plan. Jesse Steadman said the Town should be ready to request federal infrastructure funds as they become available to fund

that design and construction. Steve Nadeau said that Gleasondale residents would be anxious to maintain their parking areas on certain parts of the road. Karen Kelleher suggested that Planning staff prepare basic concept plans of sidewalk construction before any serious time or funding is invested in designs. Jesse Steadman recalled that the design plans for the bridge replacement include short lengths of sidewalk that should influence any future sidewalk designs further along Gleasondale Road. Karen Kelleher said the Committee should discuss Gleasondale pedestrian improvements in depth at the following meeting.

Track Road Design Funding

Karen Kelleher recalled previous discussions about setting up a project committee for Track Road. Planning staff reported that engineering firm Green International is under contract to finish concept plans for the mixed-use path begun in 2020, and that a project team will be convened once the project moves on to the next phase.

Jesse Steadman said that Green International is in talks with representatives of MassDOT regarding the unusual cross section, and that average traffic counts for the vehicle access to Crow Island may influence the degree to which MassDOT will allow for some design waivers.

Planning staff reported that Green International is under contract for \$25,040 to complete the concept drawings and a design memo detailing their preferred surfacing option. Staff reported a balance of \$9,183 in the concept plan project account from 2020, leaving a difference of \$15,857 left to be funded.

Kathy Sferra motioned to allocate \$15,857 from the Complete Streets Implementation Fund toward the Contract with Green International to complete concept plans for Track Road
JP Benoit seconded

Roll call vote: Karen Kelleher -**Yea**; JP Benoit -**Yea**; Kathy Sferra -**Yea**; Daren Thraen -**Yea**

Grant Opportunity – Federal Safe Streets and Road for All

Assistant Planner Malcolm Ragan reported that the federal government is making \$5 billion available nationwide for road safety improvements. Malcolm Ragan reported that the funding requires that an Action Plan be in place before implementation funds are available, but that the existing Complete Streets Prioritization plan could be used to meet that requirement. Malcolm Ragan also reported that the Metropolitan Planning Organization is planning to submit an application to fund a regional comprehensive action plan, which could make it easier for municipalities to apply for implementation funds. Malcolm Ragan said he will attend an upcoming MPO meeting on the regional action plan and report back to the Complete Streets Committee.

Kathy Sferra motioned to adjourn

Respectfully submitted,
Malcolm Ragan