

TOWN OF STOW
COMPLETE STREETS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the November 21, 2022 Complete Streets Committee Meeting

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

Members absent: Brian Hatch

Karen Kelleher called the meeting to order at 12:00PM

Previous Meeting Minutes

Kathy Sferra motioned to approve the minutes of the October 27th, 2022 meeting as amended

JP Benoit seconded

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

Crescent Street Sidewalks

Assistant Town Planner Malcolm Ragan said that Planning staff received a cost estimate for sidewalk engineering along the section of Crescent St between Warren Rd and Hartley Rd, and that it was significantly more than available funds. Malcolm Ragan said that Planning staff walked the site with another engineering firm pre-qualified by the town and will receive another price estimate in coming weeks.

JP Benoit asked if the scope of Randall Library renovations is known and said that that project could impact sidewalks on Crescent Street. Planning Director Valerie Oorthuys said that Complete Streets and other transportation improvement projects in Town Center should be coordinated with Library designs once those are closer to completion, and that such coordination will facilitate locating funding. JP Benoit said the Library renovations will likely include some redesign of the intersection of Library Hill Road and Common Road, and could extend further to the intersection of Hartley Road and Crescent Street. JP Benoit said the sidewalk gap on Crescent Street further toward West Acton Road should be prioritized. Kathy Sferra agreed and said that Complete Streets design funds should not be spent on the section closer to Hartley Road and the Library.

The Committee discussed requesting American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to assist with construction to supplement remaining Complete Streets funds. Kathy Sferra asked if construction funding could be sourced from the Safe Routes to School program. Valerie Oorthuys said that the Nashoba School District has not enrolled in the program yet and they would need to conduct some programming with students before the town could be eligible for infrastructure funding. The Committee asked if there is any funding available from deposits into the Planning Board's sidewalk fund. Planning staff said they would review and report back to the committee.

Town Center Transportation Improvements

Valerie Oorthuys recalled that \$60k approved by Town Meeting in 2021 was imagined for use in a full corridor study, but it is clear that those funds will not go quite as far as hoped. Valerie Oorthuys asked if a comprehensive study is necessary or if the broader town center could be broken up into some smaller projects.

Kathy Sferra said that she is in favor of advancing some smaller projects with a unifying vision for transportation improvements in the area. Valerie Oorthuys said that a more unified scope would require

placement on the MassDOT Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP), and that a comprehensive plan for the full Town Center would facilitate that. The Committee discussed getting a benchmark cost estimate for improvements across the full town center, and strategically applying the \$60k allocated by Town Meeting to advance some smaller projects within that scope.

Marlborough Road Temporary Realignment

Valerie Oorthuys said the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC) has recently discussed temporarily limiting traffic on one segment of the triangular intersection of Marlborough Rd and Route 62. Valerie Oorthuys also noted that a similar treatment for that intersection is included in the Complete Streets Prioritization Plan. Valerie Oorthuys said the TSAC has been involved in as yet unsuccessful discussions with the Town of Hudson regarding a truck restriction on Marlborough Road, and that proposal for temporary traffic controls was imagined as a way to discourage large truck traffic. Valerie Oorthuys said that TSAC is interested in beginning a pilot realignment very soon, and will be holding a public forum to discuss the proposal with residents on December 7th. Valerie Oorthuys said that nearby residents will be notified by mail.

Kathy Sferra said that people using the Kane Land for recreation might want to use the area in front of 4 Marlboro for parking, and asked if that could be provided in areas where traffic would be prohibited. Valerie Oorthuys said that the 4 Marlboro property owner is against people parking along that frontage.

Malcolm Ragan said that temporary measures may involve closing one or both lanes of traffic at that segment of the triangular intersection. JP Benoit said he believes people would just go around a traffic barrier that only blocked one lane of traffic. Ingeborg Hegemann Clark said that closing both lanes might redirect too much traffic to a blind corner, and asked if a sidewalk could be maintained on any “reclaimed” area.

JP Benoit said that the Town of Hudson argues against a truck restriction because trucks cannot easily make a right turn from Main Street in Hudson onto Route 62 without encroaching into an opposing lane. Valerie Oorthuys said that Hudson is also concerned about setting a precedent for requesting truck restrictions on other roads.

Meeting Schedule

The committee scheduled the next meeting for Monday Dec 19th at 1 pm, and decided Mondays at 1pm will be the regularly scheduled meeting time going forward.

Other Updates

Valerie Oorthuys said the Hudson Rd/Route 117 signalization design project is moving along, and there will need to be a public meeting to view preliminary alternatives before further design is completed. Kathy Sferra said that the Track Road shared use path project requires further discussions with MassDOT about how to access design funds allocated by the federal government.

JP Benoit motioned to adjourn

Kathy Sferra seconded

Respectfully submitted,

Malcolm Ragan

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Approved 12.19.2022