

TOWN OF STOW
COMPLETE STREETS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the April 19, 2023 Complete Streets Committee Meeting

Members present: Karen Kelleher, Kathy Sferra, Brian Hatch, Darren Thraen

Members absent: Ingeborg Hegemann Clark, JP Benoit

Also Present: Barry Evers

Karen Kelleher called the meeting to order at 10:00AM

Meeting Minutes

Kathy Sferra motioned to approve the minutes of the December 19, 2022 meeting as drafted.

Brian Hatch seconded

Roll call vote: Karen Kelleher -Yea; Kathy Sferra -Yea; Brian Hatch -Yea; Darren Thraen -Yea

Crescent Street Sidewalks – Concept Plans

The Committee reviewed concept plans for the construction of sidewalks along the southwest bound lane of Crescent Street from Hartley Road to Warren Road. The plans include three options- one that provides a landscaped buffer between the roadway and the sidewalk, a second without the buffer, and the third showing a mix of areas with and without the landscaped buffer. The third option avoids as many utility poles as possible and lessens or eliminates impacts to gardens and landscaped areas along the residential properties. The Committee agreed the third option is preferable, even with narrowing of the sidewalk to 3.5' in some locations.

The Committee agreed that the proposed crosswalk providing access via an easement to Town Center Park and the use of granite curbs should remain in the plans to be submitted for the Complete Streets grant and to present to the public for their feedback. Members were interested to hear more from the engineers on whether there should be a dedicated sidewalk along the cemetery, or if the vehicular access path should be widened to accommodate both cars and pedestrians. Members also noted that the concept plans show curbing at the eastern exit of the cemetery driveway that may prohibit cars from exiting.

In response to a question from the engineers, Darren Thraen noted there is currently not much of a speed issue at West Acton Rd and Crescent Street heading southwest to Town Center.

The Committee agreed that the curb cut at the old highway barn should remain as shown on the plans.

Brian Hatch advised that Planning staff should review the Tree Warden's comments on tree protection for the previous project at the intersection of Old Bolton Road and Great Road for inclusion on this project, as there is a 48" caliper tree along Crescent Street which will need protection. Brian Hatch noted that further information on the drop inlet is not yet available and that he has contacted Hudson Light & Power for confirmation of whether pole 13 could be removed as it is not in use.

The Committee agreed that the Library Director should be informed of these concept plans as the expansion of the Randall Library may include sidewalk connections.

The Committee will aim to hold a public forum on the project once the plans are advanced to the 25% design phase. Planning Staff will apply for a Complete Streets grant for partial construction funding for the May 1st grant cycle.

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Approved 06.05.23

Sidewalk Request Policy

Valerie Oorthuys said the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee is interested in the creation of a Sidewalk Request Policy for the Town in order to better streamline requests and set residents' expectations. Valerie Oorthuys said that after Town Meeting, staff could look further into the types of policies held by area Towns. Members acknowledged their role of implementing the Complete Streets Prioritization Plan. Kathy Sferra suggested that the Committee annually review sidewalk requests with members of the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee.

Updates on Ongoing Projects

Track Road Shared Use Design

Green International will continue on with this project to bring alternative concept designs to MassDOT prior to moving forward with design plans on a preferred alternative.

Nashoba Regional Greenway (NRG) Project

As part of MAPC's Landline Project, the NRG is intended to utilize existing roadways, trails, and paths to connect to rail trails and areas of interest in the towns included in the NRG region. At a recent meeting, members of NRG agreed to coordinate over the next year on a multi-town application to Mass Trails in order to hire a graphic designer to create a logo for signage and for the installation of signage around the chosen route. Staff shared a draft map of the route through Stow, including Boxboro and South Acton Road. Members of the Committee noted inaccuracies on the map provided, including nonexistent foot trails. In the lead up to the preparation of the Mass Trails application, members of NRG may wish to meet with the Committee to discuss further.

Marlboro Road Intersection

The pilot project to decrease truck traffic and speeds along Marlboro Road in Gleasondale is proceeding with modest success. The first option piloted, which closed off the portion of Marlboro Road along the frontage of 2 and 4 Marlboro Road, was the most successful. However, this change in the traffic pattern was not acceptable to the Postal Service and the Town heard the school bus company had difficulty navigating the turns. The second option has seen drivers attempting to navigate the wrong way down Marlboro Road, though residents still report an overall improvement over the original condition. With the ongoing construction of the Eversource Transmission Line, data on road usage and speeds will not be representative of a typical roadway condition. Brian Hatch noted that he will move the 'do not enter' sign in the hope of better directing vehicles around the Hello Garden. Brian Hatch said that with the Amazon warehouse in Hudson not moving forward, the Town may be more open to partnering with Stow on a truck restriction.

Hudson Road/ Route 117 Signalization

Consulting engineers did test pits earlier this week to better understand the depth of pavement along the roadway and at the proposed location of the signal.

Kane Land Access Path

Bids were opened last week, and Stow's procurement officer continues to work to confirm the references of the low bidder. Town Meeting will be asked to approve additional funding for the project, however it is expected that the current request of \$35,000 will be reduced.

Kathy Sferra motioned to adjourn.

Brian Hatch seconded.

Roll call vote: Karen Kelleher **-Yea**; Kathy Sferra **-Yea**; Brian Hatch **-Yea**; Darren Thraen **-Yea**

Respectfully submitted,
Valerie Oorthuys