

TOWN OF STOW  
PLANNING BOARD

Minutes of the October 3, 2023, Planning Board attendance at the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee meeting.

Planning Board members present: Nancy Arsenault, John Colonna-Romano, Karen Kelleher,

Planning Board members absent: Lori Clark, Margaret Costello, Debbie Woods (voting associate)

Traffic Safety Advisory Committee members present: Michael Sallese, John Benoit, Valerie Oorthuys

Traffic Safety Advisory Committee members absent: Brian Hatch

John Benoit called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

**Public Forum: Common Road Modification**

Valerie Oorthuys led a presentation to the public. She stated that the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC) has heard safety concerns regarding Common Road. TSAC was asked to hold a public forum to gather public input and create a recommendation for the Select Board to address the safety concerns.

Valerie Oorthuys presented four alternatives:

1. Modification of Common Road into a one-way road with westbound vehicle traffic
2. Modification of Common Road into a one-way road with eastbound vehicle traffic
3. Modification of Common Road into a one-way road with westbound vehicle traffic from westerly parking lot of First Parish Church to Library Hill Road, with the remainder of Common Road to remain as a two-way road.
4. Modification of Common Road into a one-way road with eastbound vehicle traffic from Library Hill Road to the westly parking lot of First Parish Church, and the remainder of Common Road to remain as a two-way road.

Following the description and visualizations of the alternatives, TSAC asked for public input.

Members of the public asked questions about the proposed alternatives, expressed support, and expressed concerns for the different alternatives. Members of the public and Town Staff stated that the road must be a one-way road, as the plans for the renovations to Randall Library are contingent on a one-way scenario.

Karen Kelleher stated that the Planning Board is working with a consultant to develop concept plans for Town Center, including Common Road. She stated that the consultant will be collecting traffic data. She asked if the increase in traffic demand, as a result of the renovations to Randall Library, was considered. She expressed concerns that there will be unintended consequences, like traffic backup, that will result from a one-way scenario. She encouraged that a final decision be made after the traffic data is assessed.

Nancy Arsenault expressed concern about the impacts to other intersections in Town citing her experiences with traffic.

John Colonna-Romano suggested other modifications to Common Road.

Further questions and comments were taken from the public. The discussion began to be centered around the renovations to Randall Library. However, John Benoit reminded the public that the purpose of the forum was to address concerns about safety, and that TSAC will not be making judgement about renovations and site improvements made to Randall Library.

At the conclusion of the Public Forum, the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee voted to recommend a one-way scenario on Common Road. For the specific motion and vote, please refer to the October 3, 2023, minutes of the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Michael Slagle