

COMPLETE STREETS COMMITTEE MINUTES December 18, 2017 3:00 PM

PRESENT: Berta Geller, Rachel Baumrin, Tony Omer, Steven Nierenberg, Tony Higgins

ALSO PRESENT: Richie Olsen, Jesse Oliver, Andrew Jephcote and Jane Rossi

DISCUSSION:

The Committee invited Richie Olsen and Jesse Oliver in for a discussion on road improvements.

Berta informed Richie and Jesse that the goal of the committee was to make our roads safer. She explained that we will apply for a grant in the spring to cover the costs of various things. We want to mostly focus on town roads.

Berta went on to explain that we are in the second phase of creating a prioritization plan that will include five years out. We are focusing on Lambert's Cove Road, Indian Hill Road, Music Street to Panhandle Road and Scotchman's Bridge Lane. Richie asked if the Committee was looking to share the roads or improve them. Tony Omer said that at this point, we are looking to improve roads, sidewalks, pathways, crosswalks and signage. Richie stated that the roads are too narrow for shared use. Berta said the consultants have suggested having single lane traffic or yielding to bike signage on Lambert's Cove Road. Rachel suggested that perhaps next year, the Highway Department could request funding from the Finance Committee for some Complete Streets work.

Andrew Jephcote pointed out various areas around town that needed attention. The sidewalk across from Old Stage Road is often very sandy. Jesse said they had installed a water drain to keep the water from pooling but the large Keene trucks tend to drive over it and prevent the drainage from happening. Berta mentioned that the consultants recommended speed bumps on the roads. Richie said they will get ruined from the snow plows. Sidewalk bump-outs would be damaged as well.

A discussion ensued regarding bike paths on Old County Road. Richie thought that was a great idea; it would allow kids to ride their bikes to school safely. There would be a lot of easements to deal with though. There is a lot of private property along that road. Berta mentioned that Bill Veno didn't seem to think that getting easements granted would be a problem.

Richie said that he and the Highway Department are currently working on filling gullies. Andrew suggested that perhaps Richie could mark where the gullies are located on a map.

Tony Omer stated that the blinking lights in the school zone on Old County Road are poorly places. One is right next to the crosswalk and the other is at the ball field where the speed limit immediately goes up to 40 miles per hour. Richie said that the state sets the speed limit even on town roads.

Berta asked Richie if the state has to approve the traffic calming or the narrowing of roads. Richie said the Selectmen approve those changes. Richie said the town was successful in getting the state to put in the crosswalk at the Charter School. However, the state won't paint that crosswalk. Rachel said the sharrows are repainted every year. Richie said that line painting goes out to bid and the whole island gets painted. Katie pointed out that painted lines catches her eye more than signage. Jesse said that signage is not very popular.

The committee agreed that a police presence would really help to slow people down.

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Letter to Mass DOT:

Berta told the committee she will draft a letter to the state requesting that the Planning Board be included in all correspondence between them and the town.

MINUTES:

November 6, 2017 minutes:

Tony Omer moved and Rachel seconded the motion to approve the minutes as amended. The vote was unanimous

November 13, 2017 minutes:

Steve moved and Tony Omer seconded the motion to approve the minutes as amended. The vote was unanimous with one abstention from Tony Higgins.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:10 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Rossi