

**COMPLETE STREETS COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 9, 2016
MINUTES**

George Barringer called the meeting to order at 8:40 AM at the Town Hall.

Members present: George Barringer, Laurie Bonavita, Peter Cunningham, Tom Delaney, Steven Legge, and Kristen Von Campe

Member absent: Ellen Baxendale, John Llodra

Delaney distributed copies of the "Sidewalk Advisory Committee's Summary Report to the Selectmen" dated June 30, 2000. He explained that most of the repairs identified in this document have been completed although none of the expansions identified on page 3 of the document have been completed. The Committee discussed the status of the projects as follows:

1. A sidewalk along Main Street from Old Ayer Road to the new CVS store: this project is under the jurisdiction of MassHighway, which has completed the design. Timeline for proceeding to construction is unknown.
2. A sidewalk on the north side of Rte. 119 from School Street to the Rail Trail: this project is under the jurisdiction of MassHighway. Status is unknown.
3. A sidewalk along West Main Street from its current termination to the Senior Center: This is a viable project under the jurisdiction of the Town. A large tree poses a challenge.
4. A sidewalk down Long Hill Road from Farmers Row to the Nashua River: This project is complete.
5. A sidewalk from the Rail Trail up Broadmeadow to Main Street and also along Playground Road to the Library: This project isn't feasible due to wetland impacts and width of the ROW.
6. A sidewalk down the south side of Main Street from Sacred Heart to Winthrop Place: This project isn't worth doing as a sidewalk currently exists on the opposite side of the street.
7. A sidewalk from the Extended Care Facility on Hillside to Main St. (via West Street): This project isn't feasible due to ROW issues.
8. A sidewalk along a short segment of Farmers Row from Peabody Street to the Groton School entrance: This project will be completed by Groton School. It has been designed and approved by the Groton BOS. It is anticipated that construction will begin in 2017.
9. Using the abandoned rail bed in West Groton, from H&V mill to Crosswinds Drive as a walking, horse & biking trail with links to Townsend Road: This project is currently known as the Squannacook River Rail Trail and is underway through the efforts of the Squannacook Greenway, Inc. The lease was signed with MBTA, fundraising is ongoing with hopes that Phase I construction will begin in 2017.

Bonavita explained that she compiled a Complete Streets Draft Priority List using the transportation chapter of the 2011 Master Plan, the "Final Report of the Station Avenue Overlay District Parking and Traffic Calming Committee" (2008), and the "Walkability Report" (2012). The Committee discussed the status of projects on the list and whether it makes sense to advance these projects to the Complete Streets Prioritization Plan list. Comments were as follows:

Add Traffic Calming Measures to:

- Main Street- add this to Prioritization Plan. Could be enhanced for safety utilizing bump outs and bike lanes.
- Adams Avenue- This road was just paved. Low volume road. Traffic calming isn't necessary.
- Court Street- Traffic calming isn't necessary. Low volume road.

- Playground Road- add to Prioritization Plan. Potential to add a temporary speed bump during summer months so slow traffic.
- Gay Road- Not a lot of pedestrian activity. Signage and police enforcement of the speed limit could improve the situation.
- School Street- No room for a sidewalk.
- Whitman Road- Minor cut-through. Not worth doing.
- Martins Pond Road- major commuter cut-through.
- Higley and Peabody Streets- potential to make Higley one-way and remove island. Groton School will add sidewalk to Peabody Street and improve Peabody Street intersection with Farmer's Row. The Peabody Street/Old Ayer Road intersection will likely be improved as part of the Indian Hill Music Center project.

Construct Sidewalks or Multi-purpose Trails along:

- Main Street (Route 119) from Groton Center to CVS- MassHighway project (in process- see above). Delaney will interface with MassHighway to determine the status
- Main Street (Route 119) from Champney Street to Nod Road- MassHighway project. Makes more sense to install sidewalk from Mill Run Plaza to Fitch's Bridge.
- West Main Street (Route 225) between easterly end of existing sidewalk and Riverbend Drive- this will be a challenging project.
- Farmers Row (Route 111) between Peabody Street and Culver Road- sidewalk will be constructed by the Groton School as part of their Phase I project.
- Higley Street between Farmers Row and Peabody Street- Delaney thought that this will be constructed as part of the Groton School's project.
- Lowell Road (Route 40) between Main Street and Gay Road- Might make more sense to construct between Main Street and Castle/Shattuck Street.
- Forge Village Road (Route 225)- This road would benefit from signage, widened shoulders. There is the potential to extend the sidewalk to the field on the left side of the road.

Construct the following Multi-Use Trails:

- Phase I of Squannacook River Rail Trail to Bertozzi Wildlife Management Area (approximately 0.9 miles in Groton)
- Phase II of Squannacook River Rail Trail from the Bertozzi Wildlife Management Area to the Town of Ayer line (4.2 miles)
- Fitch's Bridge connection across the Nashua River near the Pepperell Line- this project is complete.
- Red Line Rail Trail (1.0 mile)- grading needed.
- B&M corridor from West Main Street to Fitch's Bridge- this project is complete.
- Lovers Lane from Boston Road (Route 119) to Whitman Road to the Groton Country Club- an on-road multi-use trail could be delineated largely through signage.

Other potential projects identified by the Committee included:

- Install a sidewalk from West Main Street to the current Senior Center.
- Provide links from the rail trail to all public road crossings- i.e. Temple Drive, Whistle Post, Whiting Road, Joy Road, Route 119 (near the lumber company).

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- Designate the parking lot behind the Prescott School as municipal parking.

The Committee agreed to hold the next meeting at 8:30 am on November 30th (1st floor conference room).

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Laurie Bonavita". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and "B".

Laurie Bonavita
Clerk/Land Use Director