

**COMPLETE STREETS COMMITTEE
DECEMBER 22, 2016
MINUTES**

George Barringer called the meeting to order at 8:42 AM at the Town Hall.

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

Member absent: none

The Committee once again reviewed the draft priority project list, last updated at the November 30th meeting, which includes cost estimates and project limits as determined by Barringer, Bonavita and Delaney during an informal meeting held on December 19th 2016. The Committee identified the following priority projects:

1. Construct a sidewalk along West Main Street from its current termination to the Senior Center.
Project Limits: 85 West Main Street – 163 West Main Street (approximately 1,500 l.f.)
Estimated Construction Cost: \$20,000
Delaney suggested that the tree issue could be resolved by gradually shifting the road over to avoid the tree. This would avoid the cost of constructing retaining walls. In response to a question from Bonavita, Delaney suggested installing a grass strip between the road and the sidewalk where the right-of-way width is sufficient and installing the sidewalk immediately adjacent to the road (with berm in between) where the right-of-way width is insufficient. He suggested a sharrow denoting "share the road" along the Senior Center driveway since the volume of traffic along the drive is low- insufficient to warrant a separate walkway. Delaney said that this project could be accomplished in-house.
2. Construct a sidewalk down Long Hill Road from Riverbend to Groton Place.
Project Limits: Approximately 700 l.f. when utilizing abandoned road bed
Estimated Construction Cost: \$12,000 (includes 2 ADA ramps and crosswalk)
Llodra suggested minimizing costs associated with this project by installing signs alerting the public about an existing trail that parallels Long Hill Road. Barringer pointed out that the trail is on private property and some may feel uncomfortable using it. The major benefit of the sidewalk, according to Barringer, is that it will appeal to those who don't want to use the trail, it will be ADA-accessible and Town-maintained. Delaney said this project could be accomplished in-house.
3. Add traffic calming measures to Main Street.
Project Limits: Intersection of Main/Elm Streets and Intersection of Old Ayer Road/Boston Road/Main Street
Estimated Construction Cost: \$90,000 (includes 6 decorative crosswalks with flashing lights & signage, 32 ADA-ramps with rumble strips, and some bump outs)
The Committee decided to eliminate bump outs from this project because their installation would eliminate on-street parking spaces. After a brief discussion about incorporating sharrows/a dedicated bicycle lane along this stretch of Main Street, the Committee decided not to pursue because the right-of-way is of an insufficient width to accommodate a 6-8' bike lane.
4. Construct a sidewalk on Forge Village Road (Route 225) from Four Corners to the field.
Project Limits: approximately 2,300 l.f.
Estimated Construction Cost: \$45,000
Delaney said that this project cannot be accomplished in-house in the near future. He suggests putting it out to bid.
5. Construct a multi-use trail on Lovers Lane from Boston Road (Route 119) to Whitman Road to the Groton Country Club.

Project Limits: approximately 1,900 l.f.

Estimated Construction Cost: \$50,000 (likely includes wetland mitigation)

Delaney suggested increasing the estimated construction cost to \$62,000 because the project description should include a crosswalk, flashing light and 2 ADA-accessible ramps. This project should be put out to bid.

6. Provide links from the rail trail to all public road crossings- i.e. Whistle Post, Whiting Road, Route 119 (near the lumber company).

Estimated Construction Costs: Whistle Post (\$5,000), Whiting Road (\$10,000), Route 119 (\$40,000)

The Committee discussed formalizing the link to the rail trail off of Temple Drive (\$5,000) and in the vicinity of Seven Hills Extended Care. Delaney thought that Seven Hills may be willing to construct access at their cost since direct access to the rail trail would benefit them. The Committee will approach them about this in the future if it is determined to be a priority.

The Committee determined that the following projects are not priorities and therefore should be removed from the draft prioritization plan:

- Construct a sidewalk down the south side of Main Street from Sacred Heart to Winthrop Place. *The Committee agreed that this project is too pricy to be worthwhile at this time.*
- Add traffic calming measures to Playground Road. *The Committee agreed that the DPW can address this in-house at minimal cost.*
- Construct a sidewalk on Lowell Road (Route 40) between Main Street and Shattuck Street. *The Committee agreed that this project is complicated due to wetlands impacts, steep slopes and a constrained right-of-way. A trail exists, but it is on private property. The Committee discussed approaching Lawrence Academy about constructing the sidewalk on their land. The Committee also discussed the possibility of shortening the sidewalk so that it ends at Gibbet Hill Grill. Ultimately, the Committee agreed that this project is not worth pursuing at this time.*
- Construct Phase I of Squannacook River Rail Trail to Bertozzi Wildlife Management Area (approximately 0.9 miles in Groton). *Since the right-of-way is not owned by the municipality, this project is not eligible for funding under this program.*
- Construct a sidewalk from the Rail Trail up Broadmeadow to Main Street and also along Playground Road to the Library. *The Committee agreed that this is not a priority because a sidewalk currently exists along Broadmeadow Road, except in the vicinity of the swamp where the narrow right-of-way width and wetland impacts make a dedicated sidewalk infeasible. Delaney suggested on-road painting and signage to denote pedestrian accessibility at the minimal cost of approximately \$1,000.*
- Add traffic calming measures on Martins Pond Road. *The Committee determined that this project is constrained by narrow right-of-way widths.*
- Construct a sidewalk on Higley Street between Farmers Row and Peabody Street: The Committee was unsure if this will be constructed by the Groton School as part of their planned improvements. *Despite the fact that this is not included within Groton School's sidewalk extension project, the Committee determined that it was not a high priority because it is a low volume roadway.*
- Designate the parking behind the Prescott School as municipal parking. *The Committee agreed that this project hinges on the future, currently undefined re-use of the property and therefore should not be pursued at this time.*

Llodra asked if the Committee thought that are any roadways that would benefit from share-the-road painting/signage. Delaney suggested including a generic \$50,000 line item for incorporating share-the-road/bike lanes on various public roadways such as Sandy Pond Road and Old Ayer Road.

Llodra asked if the Committee thought installation of a sidewalk along Chicopee Row, from Blossom Lane past the cemetery to Williams Barn (160 Chicopee Row), is a priority worthy of the Prioritization Plan. The Committee identified a number of issues including limited right-of-way width, an embankment issue, the need for a retaining wall, and two wetland crossings along the ½ mile stretch. The Committee decided that the physical limitations meant that it was not a priority.

Bonavita suggested including construction of a sidewalk along Sandy Pond Road between where it currently ends near the Shaws Plaza and at the intersection with Robin Hill Drive. Bonavita explained that this was originally part of the Town's MassWorks Grant application for the four corners sewer project, but funding for the sidewalk construction was eliminated from the grant award. Delaney estimated the project cost at \$10,000 and said that it could be accomplished in-house. The Committee agreed to include it within the draft Prioritization Plan.

Delaney suggested that the Planning Board revise the Subdivision Regulations so that sidewalks are required to be 5' wide instead of a 4' wide. He explained that the DPW's sidewalk plow is 5' wide. When the DPW plows 4' wide sidewalks with it, the plow damages the adjacent landscaping and sprinkler heads.

Delaney requested \$40,000 to purchase equipment for laying shoulders, if the purchase of equipment is an eligible expense under the Complete Streets program.

The Committee discussed whether any projects pertaining to horse trails should be included within the Prioritization Plan. Llodra responded that enhancement of equestrian trails may not be an eligible expense and certainly equestrian awareness is not a priority. The Committee agreed that the Town Forest is well-known and oft used by equestrians.

The Committee agreed to hold the next meeting at 8:30 am on January 12th and the public meeting at 7 pm on February 2nd (2nd Floor Conference Room). The Committee agreed that members should take pictures of the draft priority projects for the public meeting and bring them to the January 12th meeting.

Legge identified issues with the November 30th minutes as follows:

- The proposed project to construct a sidewalk down Long Hill Road should be from Riverbend (not Farmers Row) to Groton Place.
- The proposed project to construct a sidewalk on Lowell Road should be from Main Street to Shattuck Street (not Gay Road).


Bonavita agreed to make those changes.

Cunningham made a motion to accept the minutes of the November 30th meeting, as amended. Von Campe seconded the motion. The vote was five in favor with two abstentions (Delaney and Llodra).

Bonavita made a motion to adjourn. Von Campe seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 AM.

Respectfully submitted,



Laurie Bonavita
Clerk/Land Use Director