

**COMPLETE STREETS COMMITTEE  
FEBRUARY 23, 2017  
MINUTES**

Von Campe called the meeting to order at 8:40 AM at the Town Hall. Barringer joined the meeting a few minutes later.

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

Member absent: Tom Delaney, John Llodra

Bonavita began reviewing the results of the Public Information Session and written feedback received to date. She asked members to identify those projects that they wanted to include in the Complete Streets Prioritization Plan. Members identified the following projects for inclusion:

Rail Trail Linkage Project

West Main Street Sidewalk Project

Main Street Traffic Calming Project

Lovers Lane Multi-use Trail Project

Forge Village Road Sidewalk Project

Lowell Road Sidewalk Project

Long Hill Road Sidewalk Project

Sandy Pond Road Sidewalk Project

Roadway Striping & Signage Project – The Committee agreed to add Broadmeadow Road to the list of projects and ask Tom Delaney for other roadways to be identified.

The Committee decided to remove the following projects from the list for the reasons identified:

Speed Limit Signage Project – Since the Committee wasn't passionate about this project and it only received one vote, they agreed that it was not a priority at this time.

Chicopee Row Sidewalk Project – The anticipated cost, physical constraints, and apparent lack of public interest mean that this project is not a priority at this time. Legge suggested that it may be worth the political investment to work with the Cemetery Commission on providing an upper connection through the cemetery. He suggested that two people from the Committee may want to investigate an appropriate alternative route.

Bike Facilities Project - Since the Committee wasn't passionate about this project and it didn't receive any votes, they agreed that it is not a priority at this time. They did identify installing one repair station on Station Ave as a priority, however.

The Committee vetted the various suggested projects from the public as follows:

- Install markers/street signs where the rail trail crosses roadways – The Committee agreed that this is within the jurisdiction of MA Department of Conservation and Recreation, not the Town.
- Install stop signs for motor vehicles where the rail trail crosses roadways – The Committee agreed that trimming vegetation may improve sight lines, but it isn't appropriate to give a 30 pound bicycle the right-of-way over a 1,000+ pound automobile.
- Install wayfinding signs to direct bicyclists to alternate routes – The Committee discussed the fact that volunteers currently stripe the roadways to identify bike route locations. They thought that signage would be redundant.

- Install garbage/recycling cans at each main rail trail parking lot – The Committee agreed that this would be a maintenance problem for the DPW.
- Install a sidewalk on Broadmeadow Road from the rail trail to Main Street – The Committee previously discussed this project and determined that a sidewalk isn't feasible due to the prevalence of wetlands on both sides of Broadmeadow Road.
- Install a bike lane on Broadmeadow Road from the rail trail to Ballfield Road – The Committee previously discussed this project and determined that this could be accomplished through on-road striping and signage. The Committee decided to add Broadmeadow Road to the Roadway Striping & Signage Project.
- Install a crosswalk at the intersection of Main Street and Broadmeadow Road/Lowell Road – The Committee agreed that installing a midblock crossing at this location would be dangerous.
- Install a sidewalk on West Street and/or access to the bike path – The Committee agreed to add the West Street connection to the Rail Trail Linkage Project.
- Make a connection from the rail trail to Gibbett Hill – The Committee agreed that the distance from the rail trail from Gibbett Hill made this project not a priority. If made to choose, they felt that providing safe pedestrian accommodation to Gibbett Hill as part of the Lowell Road Sidewalk Project was a higher priority than providing for bicyclists.
- Make a connection from the rail trail to Arlington Street – The Committee agreed that this was equivalent to the Route 119 connection currently included within the Rail Trail Linkage Project.
- Add "no parking" striping in the vicinity of crosswalks in accordance with ADA requirements – The Committee discussed the merits of this for some time, especially for the crosswalks along Main Street. Ultimately, they agreed that it could be included within the Roadway Striping & Signage Project.
- Install benches in appropriate locations – The Committee agreed that this is a good idea that could be accomplished by Eagle Scouts. Cunningham mentioned that he thought the State has some extra granite benches that they may be willing to give to the Town for free.
- Install water bottle filling stations – The Committee agreed that this is a good project, but not for the Complete Streets Program.
- Install a sidewalk on Pepperell Road between Bixby Hill Road and Kemp Street – The Committee agreed that this is a very difficult/expensive project due to grade issues.
- Repair the sidewalk on Townsend Road between Cutler Field and Kemp Street – The Committee agreed to forward this recommendation to Tom Delaney.
- Extend the proposed West Main Street sidewalk from the Senior Center to the Town Forest or Riverbend – The Committee agreed that although extending the sidewalk an additional  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile would be great, it isn't as much of a priority as the other projects on the list.
- Extend the proposed Chicopee Row sidewalk from Williams Barn to the Groton-Dunstable Regional High School – The Committee agreed that because the Chicopee Row Sidewalk Project was dropped from the Prioritization Plan due to cost and physical constraints, this project isn't a priority either.
- Extend the proposed Boston Road sidewalk beyond CVS to the new medical building at 120 Boston Road – The Committee agreed that this project is under MassDOT jurisdiction.
- Mark lanes on Pepperell Road near the West Groton Post Office – The Committee agreed that the existing conditions are optimal given right-of-way limitations.
- Install traffic calming measures on Old Dunstable Road – The Committee agreed that this is a police enforcement issue.

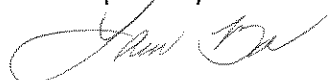
- Improve pedestrian and cyclist safety on Gay Road, Whiley Road, Pine Trail, and Lost Lake Drive- The Committee agreed that this is a police enforcement issue.
- Remove sign clutter from Route 119 to ensure that sign directing traffic to Route 111 South and Route 225 West is clearly visible – The Committee agreed that this is within the jurisdiction of MassDOT.
- Mark trenches across the road when resurfacing and adopt a 1 meter safe passing rule when cars pass a cyclist – The Committee determined that this issue is beyond the purview of the Complete Streets Program.
- Adopt a 25 MPH speed limit on Main Street from Old Ayer Road to a convenient location at the west end of Main Street and install large speed limit signs at each end – The Committee agreed to refer this item to Delaney for his feedback.

Cunningham made a motion that the Complete Streets Committee send a letter to the Board of Selectmen advocating for the construction of the Boston Road sidewalk as the Town's single most important Complete Streets project and suggesting that they obtain assistance from Groton's State representatives for its timely completion. Legge seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Bonavita agreed to write the letter.

The Committee decided to hold its next meeting on Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 am.

Cunningham made a motion to adjourn. Legge seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,



Laurie Bonavita  
Clerk/Land Use Director