MEETING MINUTES

**Complete Streets Committee**

June 18, 2024 at 8:00 AM – virtual meeting conducted on Zoom

Members Present: Kristen Von Campe, Steve Legge, Tom Delaney, Gordon Row, Takashi Tada

Members Absent: George Barringer, Peter Cunningham

Also Present: Deanna DeVito Kass, Michelle Collette, Paul Funch

The virtual meeting of the Complete Streets Committee was called to order at approximately 8:00 AM.

Candidate Interview – Deanna Kass

Deanna Kass, 35 Boston Road, introduced herself and described her interest in becoming a member of the committee. Ms. Kass said she and her husband moved to Groton in 2021 and they live in the Town Center next to Lawrence Academy. She enjoys volunteering and has become involved in the Groton Historical Society and Groton Women’s Club. She would like to join the Complete Streets Committee as an advocate for safer, more accessible streets in the broader community, not just in the Town Center.

Mr. Tada mentioned that Ms. Kass participated in the recent kickoff session for the Walkability Study that is now underway by the Montachusett Regional Planning Commission and she provided thoughtful questions and input.

Mr. Row said there appeared to be a good match between the committee’s mission and Ms. Kass’s interests.

Ms. Collette said Ms. Kass has been a very valuable volunteer at the Groton Historical Society with her energy and creativity. Ms. Collette was happy to endorse Ms. Kass for the committee vacancy.

Ms. Von Campe asked about Ms. Kass’s experiences as an active walker in the community. Ms. Kass said there were three areas in town that she would prioritize for improvements:

* Four Corners
* Intersection of Main Street / Lowell Road / Broadmeadow Road
* West Groton Village

Ms. Kass also mentioned the importance of improving non-vehicular access to hiking trails and recreational amenities such as the Nashoba Paddler.

Mr. Tada pointed out that the desire for more infrastructure to improve safety and access for pedestrians and other modes of mobility has been reinforced as a top priority during the Planning Board’s public outreach and survey efforts for the Master Plan Update.

Ms. Von Campe made a motion to recommend the appointment of Deanna Kass to the Complete Streets Committee by the Select Board. Mr. Legge seconded to motion. The motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote (5 in favor).

Sidewalk Projects Update

Mr. Delaney reported that the DPW/Highway Department is currently focused on roadway paving in various parts of town. Once the roadway paving work is done, they will be able to start the prep work for the sidewalk projects on Lowell Road and West Main Street. He estimated about two weeks to complete the roadway paving.

General Discussion

Mr. Legge asked a general question about whether a sidewalk needs to be paved, or if an alternative surface such as a gravel path could be considered a sidewalk.

Ms. Collette responded that a gravel path would not be considered ADA-compliant. A stone-dust path could be considered accessible if done properly. But creating a universally accessible sidewalk usually requires paving.

Mr. Row said he was interested to learn more about the rules and regulations governing accessibility with respect to sidewalks, crosswalks, etc.

Ms. Collette said she would provide a link to the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board regulations for pedestrian access, which includes sidewalks, crosswalks, and walkways in and around buildings.

Mr. Legge asked another question about which roads in Groton are considered state roads.

Mr. Delaney outlined the basic roadway classifications:

* Local roads – smaller roads controlled by the Town
* State roads under local control – Numbered roads controlled by the Town, such as Route 40, Route 111/225, and Route 119 (Main Street in Town Center)
* State roads under state control – Route 119 outside of Town Center

Ms. Von Campe asked if it is possible to petition the state to expand the Town’s control over Route 119 beyond the Town Center.

Mr. Delaney said it was unlikely that MassDOT would hand over control of just a small portion of Route 119. It would probably be all or nothing, as is the case in the Town of Dunstable where they own all of Route 113.

Meeting Minutes

The committee reviewed the draft meeting minutes from November 6, 2023. A motion was made by Ms. Von Campe to approve the meeting minutes as presented; Mr. Row seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote (5 in favor).

Mr. Tada suggested the committee members review the remaining projects on the Complete Streets Prioritization Plan to begin planning for the next grant application.

Mr. Delaney reminded the committee that the Town would need to pay for the engineering design for the grant application; therefore, a request for funding should be submitted.

Mr. Tada said he would consult with the Town Manager about requesting engineering funds in the Fall Town Meeting Warrant.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. Von Campe and seconded by Mr. Row.

The motion was approved unanimously by a roll call vote (5 in favor). The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:42 AM.

*Approved 12/12/2024*