MEETING MINUTES

**Complete Streets Committee**

March 18, 2025 at 8:30 AM – virtual meeting conducted on Zoom

Members Present: George Barringer, Deanna Kass, Tom Delaney, Gordon Row, Takashi Tada, Peter Cunningham, Kristen Von Campe

Members Absent: Steve Legge

Also Present: Michelle Collette, Matthew Soltys (Nitsch Engineering)

The virtual meeting of the Complete Streets Committee was called to order at approximately 8:00 AM by the Chair, George Barringer.

Update On Sidewalk Construction Projects

Mr. Delaney reported that the sidewalk projects on Lowell Road and West Main Street have been substantially completed and the Town has submitted to MassDOT for reimbursement. He said there is a little bit of final landscaping work to be done, and the flashing lights for the crosswalks need to be installed by GELD. As far as MassDOT is concerned, the projects are complete and the Town is eligible to submit the next grant application.

Mr. Barringer said the feedback on the West Main Street sidewalk has been very positive, especially the stretch through the wooded area at the Senior Center that was completed by the DPW.

Next Grant Application

Mr. Tada said the FY26 Round 1 application for Complete Streets Construction Funding (Tier 3) has been announced by MassDOT, with an application deadline of May 1st. The committee reviewed the prioritization list and agreed upon three projects to apply for this time: Lovers Lane Multi-Use Path, Sandy Pond Road Sidewalk, and Temple Drive – Rail Trail Connection.

Regarding the Temple Drive – Rail Trail Connection project, Mr. Row mentioned he had previously contacted the property owners, who were amenable to improvements.

The members agreed to have Matthew Soltys of Nitsch Engineering scope out the three projects and prepare cost estimates for the grant application.

The Forge Village Road Sidewalk project was not selected due to the complexity of the work involved, and the associated cost. Mr. Delaney said it would require widening Forge Village Road to accommodate a new sidewalk from the Four Corners intersection to Woitowicz Field. The cost of this project would likely exceed the maximum grant amount of $500,000.

The committee also considered the possibilities of removing the costly West Street Bridge project from the current prioritization list, and of putting together a new list with different projects. Mr. Barringer emphasized the need to work through the existing list before adding new projects, while also considering the return on investment for each proposal.

Mr. Tada said he would get more information from MassDOT about the Town’s current funding eligibility status and the possibility of modifying the project prioritization list.

Pepperell Road Safety Concerns

Mr. Barringer brought up safety concerns on Pepperell Road in West Groton, particularly near a school bus stop and other areas with limited visibility. He said residents have reported speeding issues and dangerous conditions for pedestrians and cyclists. The committee discussed potential solutions, including increased police enforcement, signage, and traffic calming measures.

Mr. Delaney said the placement of the 25 MPH speed limit sign could be adjusted to be more visible. But there were challenges associated with options like guardrails and raised crosswalks due to space limitations and maintenance requirements. The committee members agreed to explore further options to improve safety in the area with the Police Dept.

Destination Groton Committee Focus Group and General Discussion

Mr. Cunninghan informed the group about a focus group meeting on Friday to explore ways to improve bike lanes and calm traffic in the Town Center.

General Discussion

The committee discussed other topics related to roadway infrastructure and safety.

Mr. Delaney mentioned the DPW would be performing maintenance on the sidewalk in front of Citizens Bank to fix the cracks.

Meeting Minutes

The committee reviewed and approved the draft meeting minutes from December 12, 2024, by unanimous roll call vote.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:30 AM.

*Approved 8/27/2025*