MEETING MINUTES

**Complete Streets Committee**

August 27, 2025 at 8:30 AM – virtual meeting conducted on Zoom

Members Present: George Barringer (Chair), Tom Delaney, Gordon Row, Takashi Tada, Peter Cunningham, Kristen Von Campe, Steve Legge

Members Absent: Deanna Kass

Also Present: Michelle Collette

The virtual meeting of the Complete Streets Committee was called to order at approximately 8:30 AM by the Chair, George Barringer.

Committee Interest Form – Elizabeth Callender

Elizabeth Callender introduced herself to the committee members. She lives on Boston Road with her husband and 2.5-year-old daughter. They moved to Groton about three years ago. They participated in the Walkability Study with the MRPC last year. They also have a dog, and they like to walk around town. She has an interest in improving pedestrian safety in and around the center of town.

Mr. Barringer said there are currently eight official committee members. Adding a ninth member would keep the overall number at a manageable level, while providing additional resident input and flexibility with respect to meeting quorums.

A motion was made by Mr. Cunningham, seconded by Ms. Von Campe, to appoint Elizabeth Callender as a member of the Complete Streets Committee. The motion was approved unanimously by roll call vote.

Update on FY26 Complete Streets Grant Application

Mr. Tada said MassDOT is still reviewing the application that was submitted in FY26 Round 1, back in May. Mr. Delaney confirmed that there were no updates on the Grant Central website yesterday. MassDOT announced the opening of Round 2, which created some confusion about the status of Round 1 applications.

The projects included in the FY26 Round 1 application are: Lovers Lane Multi-Use Path from Boston Road to the Country Club, Sandy Pond Road Sidewalk extension to Robin Hill Road, and Temple Drive – Rail Trail Connection. Mr. Tada reported that the Temple Drive – Rail Trail Connection project is ineligible for funding because the Town does not own the land (private property). The land is also located within the 100-year floodplain according to the newly updated FEMA maps.

Mr. Row asked if the committee could seek out other potential resources to implement the Temple Drive – Rail Trail project. Committee members agreed that it was within their purview to advocate for such projects through whatever means are available. Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Delaney said the Town could make some relatively simple and inexpensive improvements to the existing dirt path connecting Temple Drive to the Rail Trail.

General Discussion – Member Updates

Mr. Cunninghan mentioned the Montachusett Regional Planning Commission (MRPC) prepared a PowerPoint presentation about various grant opportunities available for municipalities. Mr. Tada said he would send the presentation to the committee members via email.

Mr. Cunningham also said the Select Board will include the goal of improving roadway safety for pedestrians and bicyclists, among its goals for the coming year. This could include formalizing the parking spaces along Main Street and adding a designated bike lane, among other potential options. He would like the Town to continue to look into off-street parking options in the Town Center, such as the area behind Prescott School and the Rail Trail parking area.

Mr. Barringer reminded the group that the Town previously looked into connecting the parking lots behind the two banks on Main Street, but it requires the cooperation of the private landowners.

Ms. Callender mentioned a recent visit to the Town of Hopkinton where the bike lanes were separated from the vehicular travel lanes by curbs or other barriers, which created a safer and more enjoyable experience.

Mr. Row said he appreciated the Select Board’s holistic focus on traffic safety and parking.

Mr. Delaney said he had previously reached out to Dillis & Roy Civil Design Group to provide a cost estimate for doing a formal parking study/design on Main Street.

Mr. Callahan said he was working with the MRPC on their Regional Traffic Safety Plan, which will identify specific improvement projects in Groton.

Mr. Row asked if there are other resources for Complete Streets members to become more educated about the committee’s mission, and the rules and regulations that they need to navigate.

Mr. Delaney provided a brief synopsis of the process for getting approval from MassDOT to make improvements on the state road. Mr. Tada said the recommended process for getting projects onto the state’s Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is to work through the MRPC.

Mr. Cunningham reported that the next potential expansion of the Squannacook Rail Trail in Groton is from Bertozzi Conservation Area to the Squannacook River “Picnic Area” adjacent to Townsend Road.

Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Cunningham, seconded by Ms. Von Campe, to approve the meeting minutes from March 18, 2025. The motion was approved by majority roll call vote (Mr. Legge abstained).

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:15 AM.

*Approved 10/7/2025*