

Public Ways Safety Committee Minutes  
Bolton, Massachusetts  
February 28, 2024

**Members present:** Mary Ciummo, Michael Keller, Shandy Carpenter, Kathleen Andrews

The meeting was held online via Zoom and called to order at 5:30 p.m.

The January 10 and 24, 2024 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved.

**Pam Harding, Town Planner** was unable to attend the meeting.

Mary reviewed the surrounding towns to see if they have committees comparable to Public Ways: Harvard, Stow, Berlin and Boxborough all do. All towns reviewed have the Planning Board or Town Planner involved in all committees.

- Harvard: one member each Select board planning board, Council on Aging, school committee, 3 residents, one at large Bicycle trail specialist, somebody from the business community and then three residents. The Police Chief is not a member
- Stow: Police Chief, Superintendent of streets (DPW) and Fire Chief, Town Planner, if needed: Consultants, ADA coordinator, Conservation, School facility Director, Complete Streets Committee.
- Berlin: Police Chief, Fire EMS chief, DPW and Planning Board
- Boxborough: Police Chief, Fire Chief, Town Planner, DPW, 5 residents

Interested to see what Pam or planning board's involvement will be on this committee.

**Green Road pedestrian accident & letter of concern**

The committee reviewed all points on the Chief's letter pertaining to the Green Rd pedestrian accident.

Mary will send an email to Chief Nelson and Don Lowe that the committee discussed the letter and recommend the following:

- The pedestrians did what they were supposed to do and it was the fault of the driver;
- Education is the key for people to be aware and defensive when they walk on Bolton roads; and
- The Safe Routes to school program would be helpful to educate students.

The committee reviewed the Green Road letter of concern line by line. Mary will put together the committee's recommendations and comments.

1. The intersection of Nourse Road and Green Road had been previously handled with other residents. The resolution had been to install an intersection warning sign that adheres to MUTCD.
2. Point number 1 and 3 go together about approaching the hill on the approach to Nourse Road. This was also previously resolved.
3. It's not clear what is referenced as the intersection of Green Road and Vaughn Hill entrance, car backing up into Green Road, and pedestrians crossing and walking on the road with poor visibility was also previously handled
4. The committee recommends that students take an alternative route rather than using Green Road for track practice.
5. Frequent use of the area by pedestrians, hikers and dog walkers.
6. Horses: The committee already reviewed with another resident. It's not clear where on Green Road and more information is needed.
7. The committee believes this is by the Vaughn Hill conservation area. A recommendation could be no parking signs on Green Rd to deter parking on the street; however need to verify with Chief Nelson.
8. Rerouted heavy traffic- Can't control this. That's Waze.
9. Recently recognized blind spot, 2 properties West of Vaughn Hill. Responsibility of driver to be aware of pedestrians in the road.

Dangerous Intersection sign is not allowed and had been removed elsewhere in Bolton. There are warning flashing light at the high school.

### **114 Oak Trail guardrail removal**

Shandy drove by the site and observed a wood guardrail.

The contractor wants to remove and put fill in the space where there is a considerable drop off, as well as boulders set back.

Request to remove came in after the plans had been registered.

The committee hasn't had an opportunity to look at the site. Mary's recommendation is to check out the site to provide an opinion on the handling.

### **Town-wide thickly settled district enforcement**

Mary suggest that each of the committee member reach out by email to different towns Police Chief to understand the enforcement of the Thickly Settled Town wide speed limit specifically pulling drivers over or issuing citations.

- Shandy will contact Ayer
- Kathleen will contact Stow; and also ask if they opted in town wide, as Stow not listed on the MA DOT?
- Mary will contact Boxborough
- Mike will contact Acton

Mary will work on re scheduling with the Town Planner.

The meeting adjourned at 6:51p.m. Minutes submitted Kathleen Andrews.