

**Minutes**  
**Public Ways Safety Committee**  
**Bolton, Massachusetts**  
**October 25, 2023**

**Members present:** Mary Ciummo, Shandy Carpenter, Mike Keller, Christopher Strus, and Kathleen Andrews.

**Invited guest:** Don Lowe, Town Administrator.

The minutes of the October 11, 2023, meeting were reviewed and approved.

The meeting began with the Committee thanking Don for working with us through the years and wishing him good luck on his retirement. Kathleen Andrews and Chris Strus were introduced and welcomed as new Committee members.

**Townwide 25mph signs for thickly settled areas:** the Committee brought Don up to date on our progress in investigating installing these signs in Bolton, using Stow as an example. Further research needs to be done to determine the methodology for identifying and measuring thickly settled areas. Shandy will contact Amesbury and Concord for information. Don mentioned that he wanted to do this when M.G.L. Chapter 90, Section 17C was passed at the 2018 Town Meeting. He has filled out the necessary forms to MassDOT and has also sent emails and made phone calls. He has been told by MassDOT that if the town can come up with a reasonable methodology for identifying thickly settled areas, then we can go forward with this. Don will contact Randy to start the process.

**Sign requests:** the Committee brought Don up to date on the recent sign requests. Mary commented that presently only she has access to the sign request forms and would like to have access for all Committee members. Don thinks that the Viewpoint account may be specific to a function and recommended talking to Jenny about it.

**Current and future road projects:** Don brought the Committee up to date on the following:

- MassWorks project at Main, Green, and Forbush will soon be taken off hold. The vision is to wrap up the design and get bids out in the winter to start construction in early spring.
- Culverts: Kate Hogan has secured for the Town \$400,000 for repair of two culverts on Forbush Mill Road; and \$400,000 for engineering work for future repairs to Pond Park culvert including a new sidewalk and railing.

- Second egress out of Florence Sawyer School: Kate Hogan has also secured \$100,000 for the Town to approach an engineering firm for a cost estimate and to write a grant.
- Proposed warehouse and townhouse project on the Kane property behind the Country Cupboard. The developer has approached the Town to file a joint application for a MassWorks grant in a public, private partnership. Don is not in favor of this; he feels that there is no benefit to the Town, and the Town would lose a grant cycle to apply for a grant. He is also concerned about losing favor with MassDOT. The developer still has a lot of Board approvals to go through.

**Main Street traffic issues:** according to Police chief Nelson, approximately 50% of all traffic accidents occur on Main Street; 75% are due to distracted drivers. A comprehensive corridor study is needed; in the short term possibly making Manor one way.

**Potential impact on department budgets due to tax increase for new high school:** we may see some tax revenue from the marijuana dispensary opening at the Country Cupboard and the 500 Main Street apartment complex.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Mary Ciummo.