

Public Ways Safety Committee
Minutes
Bolton, Massachusetts
February 24, 2021

Members present: Mary Ciummo, Holly Lauer, Michael Keller, Leslie Breeze

Invited guest: Town Administrator Don Lowe

The meeting was held online via Zoom and called to order at 11:07 a.m.

New DPW Director: A committee like Public Ways Safety is new to Randy Heglin. He was still getting his feet under him in the new DPW position when we met with him. Randy had asked the committee about the use of reflective strips on sign posts. Mike reported on researching the 30 inch reflective strips. There are a few red strips on some stop signs at Manor, Sampson, and Hudson Roads. However, it is unclear that they are, or ever were, reflective. The committee is planning to start with the purchase of 6 strips at \$16.

We also discussed the sign pollution at Sampson Road and the committee's plan to consolidate some of the signage.

Mass Works Projects: Don shared with the committee some of the findings of the Mass Works debriefing, giving insight into why it was not funded.

- We could have used more letters of support from the neighboring towns (Lancaster, Stow)
- a letter of support from the high school is needed. It was asked for but not acknowledged.
- It is helpful if the town invests some level of engineering money, 10% for example. We could use chapter 90 money for such a purpose. (These points led to a discussion of chapter 90 moneys and best uses for it. Town will be looking to use \$240K for a DPW truck.)

This Mass Works application was for the intersection of Main/ Forbush/ Green roads. Since the original application there has been a proposal for a new development of 38 units and a coffee shop drive-thru which would impact that intersection. It is uncertain that this development could come to fruition given the town's current by-laws prohibiting food drive-thru. The town will try for Mass Works funding again during the next funding window this summer.

Complete Streets: Where we are- Bolton had applied for tier 3 funding and did not get it. Bolton has a new town planner, Valerie Orrthuys. She is familiar with Complete Streets. Grants management is big job. With green communities and Mass Works is it important to administer grants well and get the job done in a timely manner.

Truck Best Routes signs: The town has 2 signs indicating best truck routes to be put up. There are two big truck destinations: Adams St and Reisner Intermodal Center. Town will be looking at truck safety. The police department has the ability to do inspections if needed.

Status of Committee: This committee started with 7 members, then to 5. We are down to 4 now. Some members have been on the committee for a very long time and would like to move

on. The committee needs fresh people. There are currently 10 openings for various town committees. Don suggested making an announcement during a Select Board meeting. The committee has looked at Stow's new safety committee which has members from various departments and relies on an on-line request form. We feel such a form of committee might not work for us as many people do not currently fill out the form our police currently offer despite being advised to do so. It was suggested that town committees that need people could do interviews with the paper explaining what they do and expressing their need for volunteers.

Minutes submitted Holly Lauer.