

Public Ways Safety Committee
Minutes
Bolton, Massachusetts
February 7, 2017

Members present: Mary Ciummo, Leslie Breeze, Holly Lauer.

Invited guests: Town Administrator Don Lowe.

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m.

The Committee met with the Town Administrator and discussed the following:

- Pedestrian Blinker crosswalk signs status and sidewalks: the Committee informed Don that we will not be moving forward with a warrant article for May's Town Meeting for crosswalk lights because we need to further investigate how these lights will operate if there is not enough sunlight to power solar cells. We are investigating other companies that make these lights, as well as contacting the towns of Acton and Groton for information and feedback as to their effectiveness. We emphasized that this is a priority issue and do not want to wait for grant funding. Don commented that the Complete Street grant of \$400,00 may take up to two years to get; he doesn't believe that there will be a problem getting the Town to approve an approximately \$6,000 request for the lights. Don discussed the Community Compact grant that the Town just received. The priorities that will be implemented are Complete Streets, ADA compliance transition and Regional MAGIC goals for storm water. Don feels that Complete Streets and ADA compliance go hand-in-hand. It was mentioned that at some point grant money will run out and the Town will be responsible for improvements and maintenance for such things as sidewalks. Don asked what sidewalk would need the most work; Coventry Woods Road was mentioned. The Committee compiled an inventory list of Town sidewalks and their conditions for Don last year; Mary will re-send it to him. Don mentioned that the Police Chief is budgeting for 4 radar speed limit signs and asked the Committee for recommendations on where to place them.
- High School Traffic calming techniques implementation at the HS: at the second meeting with stakeholders, the Committee found MassDOT representatives to be more willing to work with the Town to implement safety measures. Don explained that DPW's \$40,000 warrant article for an engineering study will be using the MassDOT approved firm: CEI Engineering Associates, Inc. This study will not only look at traffic calming to lower speeds but also will address the big picture. MassDOT thought that it

might cost as little as \$400,00 to improve the Green/Forbush/Main intersection. We stressed that it is important to implement all the recommendations from the engineering study to achieve the objective of lowering speeds. Don agreed and stated that he would like to see the Town use the most effective, even if most expensive, materials for safety.

- 25mph in Town Center: it was brought to Don's attention that the Town should consider lowering the speed limit in the Town center from 30mph to 25mph. As a thickly settled area, the center would qualify for this speed reduction under Section 193 of Chapter 218 of the Acts of 2016. Don didn't see a downside to this, but would have to clear it with MassDOT, Town counsel, Harold Brown and Chief Nelson.
- West Berlin Rd. traffic calming: the Committee brought Don up-to-date with fog line painting on this road to encourage lower speeds.
- Complete Streets adoption: Don informed the Committee that the Town was awarded a \$19,000 Complete Streets Assistance grant with the Metropolitan Area Planning Council for technical support. He also mentioned the Green Community grant for \$141,000 that the Town recently won.
- 117 Committee formation: the Committee asked if there would be a 117 corridor committee; it was unclear from the Jan. Selectmen meeting if a vote was taken to create this committee. Don said that it would be a combination of the work done by the 117 implementation committee and PWSC with the high school project being the basis for moving forward for a TIP grant.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m. Minutes submitted Mary Ciummo.