

## Public Ways Safety Committee

Bolton, MA 01740

September 24, 2019

The meeting began at 10:22am in the Bolton Town Hall office of Town Administrator Don Lowe. Also present were Mary Ciummo, Leslie Breeze, and Holly Lauer. Mike Keller arrived four minutes later.

Committee activities overview- Committee has made an Action Items List to identify and prioritize problems or projects that need to be addressed. We would like to update the sign inventory.

Speed signs data- speed sign data has been consistent. It was noted that it did not decrease over the summer months as one might expect.

Reducing speeds in town center –We shared with Don an article about the towns of Fairhaven and Mattapoisett. Fairhaven changed all unposted roads to 25 mph, placing signs on major roads entering the town to indicate the unposted speed limit. Mattapoisett is looking to implement the same changes. The committee would like to reduce the speed in the town center from 30 to 25 mph. It was noted that 50% of accidents in Bolton happen on Main Street and 75% of those are due to distracted driving. There was discussion about warning signs for the change in speed ahead on the approach from 495. Don supports the change in speed limit for that area. We will need an email from the Public Ways Safety Committee to the Board of Selectmen with a request for the change. The committee will seek the approvals of Chief Nelson and Joe Lynch before soliciting the Selectmen's approval.

Truck exclusion on Wattaquaddock- Committee supports the pursuit of a truck exclusion for Wattaquaddock Road. Don has plans to reach out to neighboring towns (Berlin, Clinton, and Lancaster) as they would potentially be affected by a truck exclusion on Wattaquaddock Road. If the town is successful, ideally it would be implemented in coordination with the completion of changes being made at the Wattaquaddock/Main Street intersection.

Pedestrian and Bicycling education through Safe Routes to School program – the committee relayed information to Don about the Safe Routes to School program offered by the State. The October 2<sup>nd</sup> Walk to School Day that Florence Sawyer has planned is part of that initiative. There are other aspects that the town could explore like a bike rodeo to educate students on bike safety. The committee feels that with the town's embracement of Complete Streets and the future addition of bike sharrows on Main Street, it would be wise to explore bike education opportunities provided by the State.

PWSC attendance at 2019 Moving Together Conference- This year's conference is happening on October 24<sup>th</sup>. Don has agreed to sponsor Mike Keller to attend for Bolton.

Any new funding programs on the horizon- The town is pursuing Green Communities which offers support to towns to reduce energy costs and find clean energy solutions. The town will also submit for Complete Streets funding. The Mass Works project is underway on Wattaquaddock and Main.

Suggestions/recommendations for the Committee – Audit where the committee believes there should be a sign but one is missing.

Meeting with Don ended at 10:56am. Committee signed minutes for August 14<sup>th</sup> and September 11<sup>th</sup>.

Minutes prepared by Holly Lauer.

*M. Ciummo* *Leslie Breeze* *Holly M. Lauer*  
*Mike Keller*