

TOWN OF STOW
PEDESTRIAN WALKWAY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

DATE: 22 SEPTEMBER 2009

TIME: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM

LOCATION: Town Building

ATTENDEES: Victoria (Tory) Fletcher, Lori Clark, Tom Ruggerio, Daisy Dearborn

Tom Ruggerio introduced himself as the Selectmen's appointee. He indicated that it seemed logical to the Selectmen to have him be a part of the group since he was currently the liaison with the town's Public Safety personnel

Review Information prepared by Planning Board office:

- Maps – several maps were prepared both in small version (8 ½ x 11) and large format. The maps broke the town into several sections for use in our inventory. The large maps will be stored for us in the Planning Board office.
- Additionally, we reviewed the sidewalk map marked up by a prior work group. We reviewed their criteria and noted that the characteristics we discussed in the prior meeting seem to encompass their criteria. Also noted that they had several destinations indicated on their map.
- We received copies of the Sudbury sidewalk committee work for our review
- Tory handed out copies of work the Acton sidewalk committee had done for us to review

Review and Align on Work Plan:

The members reviewed the steps of the work plan to bring Tom Ruggerio up-to-speed since he missed the initial meeting.

- The group discussed the types of destinations that may rally support for walkways such as Villages of Stow to the new Recreation Facility and the portion of Gleasondale Road close to the intersection with Great Road that seem to be dangerous.
- Tory Fletcher suggested that we add a condition to our discussed criteria of whether or not the location is still passable. For example,
- The group agreed that in order to have success as a committee we needed to start with a narrow scope. A suggestion to first focus even our inventory efforts on the major roads and destinations. The group agreed to give their input to define the major roads and destinations to discuss at the next meeting.

Member updates

- Daisy mentioned our discussion of potential safe school programs/grants to Selectman Ellen Sturgis and encouraged us to contact her in the future due to her interest with schools
- We had an open question about grant approval from the last meeting. Tom Ruggerio indicated that the Committee would need Planning Board approval to pursue any grants, but it would also be a good idea to have Bill Wrigley, in addition to the Planning Board, review any submissions prior to being sent. Also, if appropriate, Bill could indicate if there should be legal review.
- Tory Fletcher spoke with Bruce Fletcher regarding estimated cost per linear foot to be about \$46?, however, this information was about five years old and may have included utilization of the Highway Department.
- Tom Ruggerio indicated that many of the existing sidewalks on Great Road were built as the result of the "Centennial" fund, and that we should find out if there was any balance still remaining in that account

Citizen Concern over adding Sidewalks

The group discussed several indications that Stow residents may not be in favor of sidewalks.

- Daisy attended the Men's breakfast last week and indicated there was concern over sidewalks making Stow seem more urban
- Tom Ruggerio indicated several attendees of the recent Stow Walkway workshop came to learn about what the town was potentially proposing and expressed some fear of land being taken or trees cut down.

Mike does have a small sidewalk clearing machine

Maintenance discussion – concerns over clearing requirements

Could be main streets only and/or major destinations

The group decided to hold off until next week on finalizing the brochure to allow the greater group to discuss as a whole

Action items:

- Lori Clark would try to get an electronic version of the brochure as well as magic markers (colors) to mark of the maps for next time as well
- Group to send brochure feedback to be aggregated prior to the meeting, if possible
- Group to send feedback on their initial thoughts on major roads and destinations to be aggregated prior to the meeting

Adjournment:

Motion: Tory Fletcher made a motion to Adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Tom Ruggiero – 2nd

Vote was unanimous