

## **TOWN OF STOW**

### **Lower Village Sub-Committee**

Minutes of the October 27, 2010, Lower Village Sub-Committee (LVC) Meeting.

Present: Members: Don McPherson, Phil Moseley, Barbara Sipler,  
Brian Martinson, Lori Clark and Karen Kelleher

Absent: Russ Willis

Also Present: Linda Hathaway

#### **Minutes**

September 29, 2010 – ***Phil Moseley moved to approve minutes of the September 29, 2010 meeting, as amended. The motion was seconded by Barbara Sipler and carried by a unanimous vote of 6 members present (Don McPherson, Phil Moseley, Barbara Sipler, Brian Martinson, Lori Clark and Karen Kelleher)***

#### **Memo to Highway Department**

Members reviewed and approved a draft memo to the Highway Department requesting feedback on installation of permanent traffic islands, stone dust path connecting Red Acre Road and Pompositticut Street; and locating street bounds in front of the “Hudson” property on the south side of Route 117.

#### **Workshop on Roundabouts**

Karen Kelleher and Linda Hathaway updated the Committee on a workshop on roundabouts they attended in Northampton, held by the American Society of Civil Engineers – Western Mass Branch.

The first part of the workshop was observation of a roundabout that was recently installed at the intersection of Route 9 (North Main Street) and Bridge Road and the vehicular entrance to Look Park. They observed vehicular, pedestrian and bicycle traffic during peak traffic hours and never saw more than 3 cars backed up for a very short period of time. Truck traffic could navigate with ease. There was a lot of pedestrian traffic (A school is just down the street; Look Park vehicular access is off the roundabout and two rail trails go through the intersection).

Before installation, Bridge Road had a stop sign and Route 9 had a right of way. During commuter times, south bound Route 9 traffic was backed up waiting to turn left onto Bridge Road and Bridge Road traffic was backed up bumper-to-bumper.

A survey of those in support of a roundabout in this location was 3 to 2 against before installation and 4-1 in favor after installation.

The roundabout is very aesthetically pleasing.

Speakers at the meeting were: William G. Paille, P.E. of Weston & Sampson Engineers, Inc. who designed the Northampton roundabout) and Richard Schell, P.E. of Traffic Design Solutions & NYSDOT who is head of Roundabout Design for the NYSDOT but not representing the State.

The speakers showed many visuals from the State of New York, who is working with Massachusetts with roundabout designs. The presenter from the New York Department of

Transportation provided many visuals and noted positive stats in terms of reduction in traffic incidents and injuries. Although the traffic speeds are slower (15mph), stats on a roundabout in NY indicated traffic moving through a signalized intersection took 6+ minutes and was reduced to less than 2 minutes with the roundabout.

Representatives from the Connecticut Department of Transportation were present at the Northampton meeting and agreed to provide photos, literature and flyers. The New York Department of Transportation and the City of Northampton agreed to do the same.

### **Streetscape Design**

Members reviewed the revised draft streetscape specifications, and agreed to the following changes:

#### Wooden Rails

- Correct typo in third bullet
- Move first three bullets to "Fence"

#### Signs

- Change second bullet: "All signs **posts** shall be located ....."
- Remove third bullet
- Change fourth bullet: "In the event that a sign will overhang the fence, the front edge of the sign shall be no closer than one foot (1ft.) ~~to the back line of~~ **from** the sidewalk and the bottom of the sign shall have a clearance of no less than ~~nine (9 ft)~~ **seven (7 ft)** to the surface of the sidewalk.

#### Fence

- Change first bullet: "Fence location shall be ten feet (10 ft) from the **edge of** berm OR, **if no berm eleven feet (11 ft) from** edge of ~~property line~~ **pavement** whichever is greater.

#### Fence Installation

- Remove entire section

### **Fence installation on the South Side of Great Road.**

Phil Moseley will contact Bill Roop and Harry Blackey for remaining funds owed from the Faxon Farm Development (\$1,200.00) to purchase granite posts for the south side of Great Road.

### **Next Meeting**

Members agreed to finalize the streetscape document and work on the final report topic outline on November 10<sup>th</sup>.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Kelleher  
Member