

Public Ways Safety Committee Minutes
Bolton, Massachusetts
January 24, 2024

Members present: Mary Ciummo, Michael Keller, Sandy Carpenter, Kathleen Andrews, Chris Strus.

Guest: DPW Director Randy Heglin.

The meeting was held online via Zoom and called to order at 7:05 p.m. The January 10, 2024, meeting minutes will be reviewed at the February 28 meeting. The Committee did not meet on December 27, 2023, due to the Christmas holiday.

The Committee met with Randy Heglin and discussed the following items:

- Townwide 25mph speed signs for thickly settled areas. We reviewed the email sent from Kathleen to James Danila, State Traffic Engineer at MassDOT concerning the implementation of MGL c.90, sec. 17C. The email asked if opting in on a town wide basis to MGL c. 90 § 17C means that all roads previously governed by a statutory speed limit in Bolton, except roads with existing special speed regulation, are now 25 mph, and does Bolton have to identify thickly settled roads and only those roads deemed thickly settled would have a 25-mile speed limit? Danila's response was "adoption of 90-17C affects only streets that do not have an existing Special Speed Regulation (SSR). For those with an SSR, the SSR will continue to govern. The Town does not necessarily have to identify all of the roads or sections of roads where the thickly settled/business district designation applies, but the Police Department should be aware since they will have to enforce appropriate statutory speed limit." Randy will forward this information to Don Lowe for Town Counsel's review before going to the Selectboard. Randy has been working with the Conservation Agent, Rebecca Bucciaglia on GIS mapping structures by using a filtering function which draws a radius around structures to help determine distance between each.
- Current projects status:
 - Main/Green/Forbush MassWorks project: if the project goes over cost there are other potential sources of funding that could include revenue from the State's millionaire's tax (4% surcharge), or Chapter 90 money.
 - Forbush Mill Road culverts replacement. Culvert #1 Design is in process, will require a bridge. Culvert #2 will use FEMA mitigation funding grant, with 10% match by the town (money may come from Chapter 90)

- Main Street culvert at Pond Park. There are indications that it is beginning to fail. RFQ for engineering has been posted. Kate Hogan has placed an earmark for this project.
- Safe passage for bicycles signs grant: 15 signs have been received from MassDOT. The signs read "MOTORISTS GIVE 4 FT TO PASS." They will go up at roads entering Bolton. They can be placed on posts with existing signs.
- Randy pointed out that the MassDOT District 3 FoRRwD study by Green Engineering for Wattaquaddock Hill Road recommends readjusting existing special speed reductions.
- Traffic roadway issues. Mary mentioned that the 20mph speed sign that was recently replaced on Sugar Road approaching Golden Run Road has disappeared.
- Meeting with Town Planner. Scheduled for February 28th at an earlier start time of 5:30. There will be no meeting on February 14.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m. Minutes submitted Mary Ciummo.