

Town of Guilford
Safe Streets Task Force
Committee Meeting
Regular Meeting, April 13, 2020
7:00 pm via Zoom Teleconference

Members present: *Sam Gerritz; Holly Clune; Mary-Jo Kestner; Bill Eggers; Tim Sperry; Jim Bussmann; Bob Yaro*

Others present: *Police Commissioner Mike Mikolay; Town Planner George Kral; Kristin Jones, Recording Secretary*

Meeting was called to order by Sam Gerritz at 7:06 pm.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Approval of February 13, 2020 Minutes

Motion: *Holly Clune made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 13 meeting as written, seconded by Bob Yaro and approved.*

In favor: *Sam Gerritz; Holly Clune; Mary-Jo Kestner; Bill Eggers; Tim Sperry; Jim Bussmann; Bob Yaro*

Abstain: *none*

Oppose: *none*

2. Update on Complete Streets Policy Resolution

Sam Gerritz explained that the resolution passed by the Board of Selectman which is an important step towards moving forward with bigger business that the Safe Street Task force has.

NEW BUSINESS:

3. Update from Town Engineer Janice Plaziak

Sam Gerritz explained that Janice could not be here tonight but she gave an update on the sidewalks that were looking at being repaired this year. They are going to fix the handicapped ramps at Whitfield, make a proper handicapped ramp at Concept Park at Village walk on Route One and replace the asphalt sidewalk on Boston Terrace with a concrete sidewalk. Sam asked George about the Church Street Extension project. George responded the last he heard was the state was balking at the idea of having a signal at the end of the ramp which would be required to have a crossway there and the state was arguing one wasn't warranted there.

4. Update from Police Commissioner Mike Mikolay

Mike Mikolay shared the March track traffic report crash statistics in which there was 15 reportable crashes in March with 67% being on state maintained roads and 33% on town maintained roads. 11 crashes involved property damage only and only 4 crashes reported injuries with no fatalities. Mike said the contributing factor was typically the failure to grant right of way and everything else spread out to failure to maintain own lane, failure to obeying signals and stop signs, following too closely and inspection stuff. Mike Mikolay also noted that they have seen a marked reduction in overall traffic

accidents because less people are driving but they are still happening for those that are venturing out so people need to slow down and be safe.

5. Update from Town Planner George Kral

George Kral stated that the Planning and Zoning meeting coming up on the 15th will deal with one project that will have some implications for sidewalks. This is the affordable housing development on State Street just north of I95 on the west side of the former McKenzie property which will include eight single family dwellings units that will be for sale at affordable prices. It will include a sidewalk interior coming out to State Street but the project does not include sidewalks to extend from the entrance of the project southward to connect to existing sidewalk system on the south side of the overpass because that project can't really afford it and maintain affordability. There is a desire to bring public water to the site which is about the same distance but is an extremely expensive proposition. George Kral said there is a possibility of securing grant funds to extend the water to the project which would be a separate grant the town might be able to secure and that could also be extended to include sidewalks. George Kral said it might be a good idea that someone from the Safe Street Task Force weigh in on this project on the 15th. Holly Clune, Jim Bussmann, Mary-Jo Kestner and Sam Gerritz will help to write an email addressed to the Planning and Zoning about a sidewalk extension.

7:31 Bill Eggers Left

6. Public Comment

None

7. Hiring a Consultant: scope of work and next steps

Bob Yaro went over the nine tasks that would be a good jumping off from. The nine tasks include:

1. Community engagement and process
2. Survey data and collections
3. Prepare design Standards
4. Neighborhood traffic calming
5. Plan for town wide footpath network
6. Prototype designs
7. Education Signage
8. Speeding enforcement strategies
9. Noise Enforcement Strategies

George Kral asked if there is an example of a local government scaled plan that would be considered to be a potential model or another town that has done something like we want to do. Bob Yaro responded they tend to be bigger places like New Haven. Mary-Jo Kestner said she talked to someone from Madison Safe Street Committee and they don't have a plan but she thinks that New Haven is a good model for us. She also suggested that they should look at Education more broadly. Mike Mikolay suggested their outline should match their charge that the Board of Selectman has approved. Sam Gerritz added Deliverables to outline to include: Updated Transportation Plan, update Plan of Conservation and Development and Educational Outreach Plan. George Kral said that if they know what all their deliverables are and exactly what kind of steps they want the consultant to go through, they could skip the RF-Q phase and if they are uncertain about all of that and are willing to go through a lot more work, they could go through the request for qualification and interview firms and learn from them what the Safe Street Task Force should be doing and then go to RFP as a second phase.

Mike Mikolay left at 8:14.

8. State law HB5324:Safe Street implications and next steps

Tim Sperry said the biggest questions was when the legislature is going to reconvene. They are constitutionally required to end their session on May 6 and they are talking about reconvening on April 23. This particular piece of legislation has gone no further that a public hearing so it hasn't been voted on. Tim Sperry said he is not very optimistic that we will see this happen this year. Tim Sperry said it was a reasonably tame bill that would give the town rights to lower speed limits but have a long way to go before addressing a comprehensive plan. Sam Gerritz agreed with Tim Sperry's insights that Safe Street Task Force would work with other towns and other communities who are encountering the same problems the state might start to listen more. Tim Sperry stated he will contact Sarah Bronan who is at UConn law working in Hartford on Safe Streets to see if she has a list of communities that are actually working on this.

9. Adjournment

Motion: *Mary-Jo Kestner made a motion to adjourn at 8:29 pm, seconded by Bob Yaro and unanimously approved.*

In favor: *Sam Gerritz; Holly Clune; Mary-Jo Kestner; Tim Sperry; Jim Bussmann; Bob Yaro*

Abstain: *none*

Oppose: *none*

Respectively Submitted:

Kristin M. Jones

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Recording Secretary