



Williamsburg Planning Board

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Minutes
for public hearing on
June 19, 2017
Approved

Members:	present	not present		present	not present
Robert Barker	x		Chris Flory	x	
Steve Snow	x		Mimi Kaplan	x	
Steve Smith		x	Jean O'Neil	x	
Charles Dudek		x			
Others present:					

Public Hearing

Complete Streets Policy for Williamsburg

The public hearing was called to order at 7:05 pm by chair Bob Barker. Other planning board members in attendance were Steve Snow, Chris Flory, Jean O'Neil and Mimi Kaplan.

Members of the public present included: Sarah Bankert (Healthy Hampshire – Northampton), Francis Gallo (3 Petticoat Hill Rd. Williamsburg), Nick Dines (9 North St. Williamsburg), Bill Turner (Williamsburg Highway Dept.), Bill Sayre (Williamsburg Select Board Member), Charlene Nardi (Williamsburg Town Administrator), Dillon Sussman (PVPC Representative), John Hoogstraten (105 Petticoat Hill Rd. Williamsburg).

Charlene Nardi gave a summary of the Complete Streets policy, and explained that after the public hearing, the Planning Board will vote on the policy, send it to the Select Board, and if the Select Board approves it, then it goes to the state for final approval.

Steve Snow asked who wrote the draft policy, and Charlene Nardi stated that she and Bill Turner wrote the draft, and presented it to Bob Barker, who made some final edits. Bob Barker added that much of the language of the draft was taken from similar documents from other towns, in a form that the state would accept.

The floor was then opened up for comments from town residents in attendance. Fran Gallo asked if the Complete Streets policy would interfere with regular repair and maintenance of the town roads. Bill Turner responded that it wouldn't interfere with regular repair and maintenance, but that the extra \$400,000 from the state would give the town the opportunity to incorporate more into projects, and add extras such as sidewalks. Nick Dines added that this was a great opportunity for the town to do projects and make improvements that the town needs. It is also a tool to get additional funds in addition to Chapter 90 money.

Fran Gallo asked if this would affect the possibility of reconstructing Petticoat Hill road and if the drop in the culverts could be made safer.

Charlene Nardi stated that would not be part of this policy.

Nick Dines stated that he was in favor of Complete Streets, and that it would be able to pay for work that Chapter 90 funds can't pay for, such as bridge work, handicap access, lighting, bike access etc. In addition, Chapter 90 funds can be used for the South Main part of the Greenway.

John Hoogstraten said that he was in favor of Complete Streets and that it will make the town more livable.

Sarah Bankert, with Healthy Hampshire, said that she was also in favor of Complete Streets. Also stated that Healthy Hampshire can support Williamsburg in getting grants. Dillon Sussman from PVPC stated that he fully supported Williamsburg adopting this policy. He suggested under best practices to add:

- NACTO Urban Street Design Guide, 2
- ALTA Planning & Design; Small Town and Rural Multimodal Networks Guide
- National Assoc. of City Transportation Officials (NACTO); Urban Street Design Guide
- Williamsburg Healthy Aging and Community Design Report

Jean O'Neil asked what the timing is for getting Healthy Hampshire grants.

Sarah Bankert said 4 or 5 years of funds were available, and the sooner we apply the better.

With no further comments from the public or questions from the Planning Board, Bob Barker moved to close the hearing, which was seconded and approved unanimously.