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NORTHBRIDGE SAFETY COMMITTEE

James Shuris, P.E., MBA - Chairman/Director of Public Works
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June 05, 2019

Northbridge Board of Selectmen
Northbridge Memorial Town Hall
7 Main Street, Whitinsville MA 01588

COMPLETE STREETS PROGRAM -PRIORITIZATION PLAN

Casey Uy & Steven Tyler, Howard Stein Hudson

Dear Board of Selectmen:

The Northbridge Safety Committee met **TUESDAY, JUNE 05, 2019** in the Police Station Conference Room (1 Hope Street). The following members were present: Chairman James Shuris, George Murray, Peter Bedigian, R. Gary Bechtholdt II, and Jamie Luchini (Alternate). Fire Chief David White, Chief of Police Walter Warchol, Richard Maglione and James Sheehan (Alternate) were absent.

The following members of the public were in attendance: Rainer Forst (Planning Board member), Jonathan Smith (Chair, Disability Commission) and Casey Uy & Steven Tyler from Howard Stein Hudson.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chairman Shuris called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

I. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Upon motion duly made (P. Bedigian) and seconded (G. Murray) the Safety Committee voted (4-0-1 [G. Bechtholdt abstained]) to ACCEPT the meeting minutes of April 23, 2019.

II. CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Shuris noted receipt of correspondence for 56 Hill Street which was an enforcement issue and not within the purview of the Safety Committee.

III. COMPLETE STREETS PROGRAM -PRIORITIZATION PLAN

Casey Uy & Steven Tyler, Howard Stein Hudson

James Shuris, Chair explained the Safety Committee meeting includes a public hearing for the town's participation in the state's Complete Streets Program, specifically the preparation of a Prioritization Plan. Mr. Shuris introduced Casey Uy and Steven Tyler from Howard Stein Hudson, consultants assisting the town (DPW) in the Complete Streets Program.

Casey Uy, Project Manager reviewed with the Committee and public in attendance a series of slides (attached) prepared for the public hearing. Ms. Uy provided an introduction to the Complete Streets Program, reviewed existing conditions (w/in town) and then sought public input and comment for the preparation of a Prioritization Plan.

Ms. Uy reviewed what a Complete Streets is; benefits of Complete Streets (safety, accessibility, equity, health, economic -for users of all ages and abilities). Ms. Uy discussed the history of the program and framework for funding (Tier 1, Tier 2 & Tier 3). Ms. Uy reviewed slides that illustrated bicycle and pedestrian crash data (2012-18), bicycle level of comfort, pedestrian networks and latent demands specific to an initial analysis prepared for Northbridge, as well as breakdown of persons w/disabilities (% of population) within locus areas in town.

Ms. Uy reviewed the process of gathering information and input from the public as part of the prioritization plan process; a Wikimap, mapping tool was created online to solicit comment and identifying areas in town of concern and opportunities to address through the Complete Streets Program.

Ms. Uy shared existing comments provided on the Wikimap platform, which is linked from the town's homepage. After some general questions about funding opportunities, example of potential projects and the process to apply, attendees broke-out into groups to identify on a town map projects for inclusion in the Prioritization Plan.

Peter Bedigian identified Linwood Avenue as a strong candidate for project submission, others agreed. Mr. Shuris suggested sidewalk improvements within the village (A, B, C & D streets) within densely populated areas of town. George Murray and Jonathan Smith recommended fixing existing sidewalks for ADA compliance. Gary Bechtholdt inquired about introducing a bike lane along Linwood Avenue from the Middle School to the Linwood Mill and adding sidewalk and a bike lane along Main Street; Rainer Forst agreed.

Howard Stein Hudson (consultant) will compile all recommendations and comments and will present at a follow-up meeting with the Board of Selectmen in July/August 2019. Steven Tyler sat in and participated at each breakout table to review identified projects. Ms. Uy thanked Safety Committee members and the public for participating and then briefly reviewed next steps.

IX. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Shuris noted that the Traffic Study report for Moon Hill Estates was provided by the Applicant/Engineer and forwarded to Committee members. Mr. Shuris also noted no additional information has been received for the Balmer School. Mr. Shuris indicated both projects could be added to a future agenda.

X. Status of Action: April 25, 2019 Safety Committee

James Shuris updated the Committee on items discussed at the April 25, 2019 meeting, noting the complaint regarding Johnston Avenue was addressed by Chief Warchol.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Having no additional business, the Safety Committee adjourned its meeting of Tuesday, June 05, 2019 at or about 11:45 AM.

Respectfully yours,



James Shuris, P.E., MBA - Director of Public Works
CHAIRMAN, NORTHBRIDGE SAFETY COMMITTEE

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Cc: Northbridge Town Clerk
Howard Stein Hudson

Northbridge Town Manager
/File

Lt. Timothy Labrie