

Town of Newington, NH  
Safety Lane Committee Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, July 23rd, 2020 Town Hall

**Present:** Safety Lane Committee Members; Katie Hood, Bill Wright, Laura Stone, Mike Mazeau, Derrick Willson, Bruce Johnson, Ted Karabinas, Selectman Mike Marconi,

**Also present:** Police Chief, Mike Bilodeau, Fire Chief, EJ Hoyt, Newington School Principal, Peter Latchaw, Selectman Ken Latchaw, Town Engineer, Eric Weinrieb, Assistant Fire Chief, Pat Moynihan, Planning Board member , Chris Cross and Martha Roy.

M. Marconi introduced K. Latchaw as the new Rockingham Planning Commission Transportation Alternatives Committee TAC member. M. Marconi also spoke to the Town of New Castle about how they were successful with their grant application.

E. Weinrieb reported that Mark West had come to Newington and reconfirmed the wetlands along the proposed safety lane location. M. West had to confirm the wetlands because it had been longer than 5 years since the last time this was completed.

Dave Hislop completed a survey of the safety land corridor and then Altus Engineering developed a plan using these coordinates. It is a pathway by the Library. In other areas it is a 11-foot travel lane and a 2-foot safety lane for walking and biking.

Eric Weinrieb reviewed the plans and discussed:

- Pinch Points where the lane will be close to the edge of the ROW
- A slope easement may be needed.
- Preliminary signage ideas were included on the plans.
- Two options by Fox Point Road and Nimble Hill Road for crossing were listed
- Proposed fence by school to separate the lane from the school grounds

M. Mazeau thought that Old Post Road to Little Bay Road might be better with 3-foot lanes. He is in favor of 6-foot lanes by the cemetery.

L. Stone agreed and asked that the area by the school be identified.

The committee broke into groups to review the plans.

E. Weinrieb discussed the close ROW distance to the Adams Homestead barn.

M. Mazeau mentioned that the Frink property is under a conservation easement and this will need to be explored.

B. Johnson asked about extending the lane past Old Post Road. T. Karabinas mentioned the tight turn and dangerous intersection at Old Post Road.

L. Stone stated that Newington is a rural area and a living wall is a better idea instead of a chain link fence by the school.

P. Latchaw pointed out that the rest of the school grounds were open. He would like to see something esthetically pleasing. The committee should try for a more welcoming fence, maybe lower boxwood.

M. Roy updated the committee on the grant application. M. Roy shared the email from Jerry Coogan about the process:

The current preliminary estimated cost for the safety lane is \$700,000. The Town intends to submit a Transportation Alternates Program (TAP) application to the NH DOT for assistance when and if the 2020 TAP grant round is announced. If successful, a federal grant would provide 80% of the project cost and 20% will come from the town.

The US Congress needs to pass the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) act first and then authorize funding before the NH DOT will entertain 2020 TAP applications. The FAST ACT could be part of the second Covid-19 relief bill. Submission of a Rockingham Planning Commission (RPC) project form will give the Town's safety lane project a point or two in the TAP scoring process.

Discussion ensued about a speed table at the intersection of Fox Point Road and Nimble Hill Road. P. Moynihan stated boat traffic swings across the intersection and if a speed table was located there it might cause a loss of revenue for Great Bay Marine. B. Wright asked if the speed limit could be lowered if a speed table isn't possible there. M. Bilodeau mentioned that the current speed limit is 30 mph now and the town has to follow the state standards. L. Stone didn't think a lower speed limit would reduce the speeders. B. Wright thought that giving out tickets would change the speeders.

L. Stone asked how soon the Town could get the money. M. Roy will contact J. Coogan and ask about a timeline. E. Weinrieb pointed out that it was important for the town to be ready if and when the grant process begins. He applauded the Committee's effort of being so proactive.

The next step would be to talk to the property owners along the safety lane.

B. Wright would like the draft plans to be posted on the website.

Respectfully submitted,  
Martha S. Roy  
Town Administrator