

Town of Canterbury
Selectmen's Meeting
August 22, 2016

Selectmen Present: Cheryl Gordon
George Glines
Art Hudson

Town Administrator: Ken Folsom

Moderator: Ken Jordan

NH DOT: Alan Hanscom

Ken Jordan opened the public hearing at 6:00 PM and explained the purposed of this meeting was to discuss a crosswalk/sidewalk at Kimball Pond Road and Center Road.

Ken Folsom went over the time line of events beginning back to October 2015 when Rob Reilly was walking his son to school and had a close call with a vehicle while crossing Kimball Pond Road. Since then, Ken F. has been in contact with Bill Lambert from the Department of Transportation several times. Ken F. was looking for information on crosswalk construction and the use of Pedestrian signs in the road during school hours. Bill explained that signs could only put up at a legal crosswalk. The Selectmen met on site with Bill, Rob Reilly and Rick Crockford. The State recommended that the crosswalk be perpendicular to the roads.

Ken F. received a follow up letter from Bill Lambert stating the requirements of a cross walk.

Ken F. explained that Jim Sawicki had filed an excavation permit in May, no response has been received as of this date. Because of this the Selectmen decided at their July 11 meeting that construction was not likely to happen this year and that it would be better to pursue other safety measures like crossing guards and having the PD continue the enforcement methods as they did this past spring.

Alan Hanscom for the State of NH Department of Transportation attended the meeting. He explained that he was not familiar with the excavation permit that was filed, but that the turnaround time is generally fairly quick. He will check on the permit application.

Alan stated that the excavating permit should not be a show stopper and should be able to get the project completed even at this late date. Two lines on the pavement is not going to solve the problem but it will bring attention to drivers.

Ken F. explained that Jim Sawicki did some research and found that if the side walk is installed within 25' of the Cemetery, the State of NH Archaeological committee must approve the project also.

Ken F. also talked to Principal Mary Morrison and the School District. Mary said that they have a volunteer group that she could talk to about a crossing guard, but it may be best to hire someone for the position. Mary will check into this. Ken F. spoke with Chief Labrecque, he will

check into any training that may be needed. The Police will also increase enforcement during peak hours.

Laura Crockford questioned if you need a crosswalk to have a crossing guard. Alan stated that it would help, it's an odd intersection having no centerline or stop lines.

Laura submitted a petition signed by residents that are supporting the crosswalk, along with a letter of support from Lois Scribner.

Cindi Lilly Bailey mentioned that there is a bus that comes down and delivers kids to the center. Laura explained that her interest is not to restrict kids to go on the bus because the intersection is not safe.

Genella MacDonald expressed concerns and suggested the possibility of a 4 way stop at the intersection. Alan explained that if you google pedestrian deaths in crosswalks. There is quite a history of accidents and doesn't want to promote people thinking they are safe because of 2 lines on the road.

Lisa Carlson suggested that crossing guards could be a project for the PTO, get a sign up list and solve this issue the Canterbury way.

Laura stated that she witnessed a driver yelling at a pedestrian because they were in the road. She would hate if someone got hit or died, a crosswalk is better than the existing situation.

Anne Berry stated that she is having a hard time understanding why we need a crosswalk. She understands having a stop line on Kimball Pond Road. She often walks to the center with her grandsons and has never had a problem. Her grandsons use proper sidewalk etiquette by stopping and looking both ways before crossing.

Bill Taylor commented that the stop bar on Kimball Pond Road has not been maintained in years and asked Alan when he thought it would be re-painted. Alan replied possibly when the road is paved. Alan further stated that it's a matter of money and resources.

Ken F. proposed to DOT to install additional signage and potentially lowering the speed limit from 30 mph to 25 mph. Ken was told that a traffic and speed study would need to be done prior to petitioning the State.

Kevin Bragg explained that when the Building Needs Committee was in existence, they looked at the layout of the center. Having a crosswalk ending into the green would create more of a hazard by having the pedestrian still having to cross the parking lot, a better solution would be to have the crosswalk go to the church property.

Joe Halla stated that he does not see this as a major problem. The easiest solution would be to pick either using the police or crossing guard. We are only talking about a 15-30 minute window in the afternoon.

Theresa Wyman stated she would like to use the least expensive way that would be effective and to teach the children to take care while crossing the road and to use common sense.

Laura stated that she respects everyone's opinion but thinks that in this situation while having the Police present has been great, they cannot always be there. The near miss that she witnessed was not the wrong doing of the pedestrian.

Art stated that coming down Baptist Road in the winter can be challenging, especially if the emergency vehicles are responding, he's not sure if they could stop in time if someone walked out into the road at the bottom of the hill on Baptist Rd. In some cases, cars can't make it up the hill and have to back down and get a running start. Art doesn't want to give the pedestrian a false sense of security by having the crosswalk.

Rick Crockford suggested having an informal speech to the kids once the crosswalk is in place. He doesn't believe it will be that expensive and won't distract from the historical center.

Nancy Roy stated that putting a crosswalk at the bottom of the hill is asking for a disaster. Kevin stated that it would be best to bring the crosswalk farther down Center Road. Kevin questioned if there is a legal responsibility in putting in a sidewalk and not having a crosswalk. Ken F. will check into this.

Art explained that in the meantime, the Police will continue to cover.

Genella stated that street safety should be taught at an early age, but having a crosswalk provides the pedestrians guidelines. She feels that adding structure is a positive thing.

Kevin mentioned that there are plenty of times where folks park in the center and walk up to the school.

Rick thanked the Board of Selectmen for holding the public hearing.

Ken F. will contact Mary Morrison to see if a formal education can be given to the students. Rick suggested that the new Police Chief have that conversation with the students.

Ken J. closed the public hearing at 7:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Stout
Administrative Assistant