

City council holds off on Complete Streets ordinance

By Gary Pullano
MyZeeland contributor

Complete Streets is a concept with merit that should be supported in theory, but not necessarily with a new city ordinance, according to the Zeeland City Council.

The council curbed the idea Monday, Oct. 17, of developing an ordinance, instead favoring the possible adoption of a policy.

Kathryn Gray, public policy specialist for Disability Network/Lakeshore, recently approached the city to support the Complete Streets initiative.

The Ottawa County Health Department received a \$4,000 state grant to work with Zeeland to develop a Complete Streets ordinance and is using the Disability

Network to facilitate the project.

Zeeland council members directed City Manager Tim Klunder to work with the city's planning commission to develop a policy that would determine how the city could use Complete Streets as a reference point as it continues to enhance Zeeland's status as a livable and walkable community.

Gray said Complete Streets are achieved when local organizations and agencies routinely plan, design, construct, re-construct, operate and maintain the transportation network to improve travel conditions for bicyclists, pedestrians and people with disabilities.

It's a process that

Zeeland already has in place, works effectively and should not require an ordinance to legitimize, several city council members said.

Zeeland Chief of Police William Olney told the council there has not been a significant number of accidents involving bicyclists or pedestrians.

The city always has followed a Complete Streets approach, said Mayor Pro Tem Sally Gruppen.

"My angst is not with the project but with how monies are being allocated (by

the state) to do this, especially since we do this already," she said. "We do put safety first, and Zeeland has done a yeoman's job making things safe. It's already taken care of in this city, and I would like us to get some credit for that. They could have used the money in a different way. Zeeland is certainly ahead of the curve."

Although the state approved Complete Streets legislation in 2010, there is no funding specifically related to the implementation of the concept

other than the possibility communities with Complete Streets policies/ordinances will receive bonus points on enhancement grant applications.

"I'm having a hard time with this," said Councilman Kevin Klynstra. "I ride a bike a lot and find the streets of Zeeland to be very safe."

Gray said she would continue to communicate with the city and work with the Zeeland Walkability and Liveability Coali-

tion that formed to educate Zeeland on Complete Streets.

"We know Zeeland is already committed to a walkable community, but we want them to do more," Gray said. "An ordinance would really show an accountability to the community. We need them to take the time to look at their city, the opportunities they have there to see what a motorized and non-motorized traffic network should look like."

ditto
upscale resale
Fall Apparel Sale
October 26 & 27 ONLY!
\$1 PER ITEM
(including boutique clothing • excluding outerwear)
All Books 1/2 off
October 24 -29
M-F 10a.m.-7p.m. | SAT 10a.m.-6p.m.
(616) 396.8870 | 571 E 8th St. | Holland
Visit www.dittosale.com

DIVORCE
\$350*
Covers Children, etc.
Only One Signature
Required!
Locally Owned!
*Excludes gov't fees.
Call
1-800-522-6000 ext. 201
Baylor & Assocs
Established 1973

1st Reformed Church ~ Zeeland
5th Annual
Harvest Arts & Craft Show
Saturday, October 29 - 9am to 2pm
Featuring:
A large variety of over 75
Arts & Craft Booths
Homemade Baked Goods
Pies, Pigs & Lunch
(A variety of whole frozen pies
& pigs-by-the-dozen for sale too!)
Location: 148 E Central Ave., Zeeland
(Corner of Central Ave. & Church St.)
Contact for additional information:
Sally at (616) 772-2862

A-1 MOBILE ROOF-OVER SYSTEM
• White enameled aluminum stops any and all leaks for the full life of your mobile - GUARANTEED!
• Thick layer of foam insulation drastically reduces winter heating by 35% or more - GUARANTEED!
• Overhang at eaves eliminates stains and streaking. No more coating and caulking.
Made in Good Old U.S.A.
START TO FINISH
We MANUFACTURE Your Roof - We INSTALL Your Roof
12x60 **\$2,980 INSTALLED** 14x70 **\$3,980**
GET YOUR FREE ESTIMATE TODAY! BANK FINANCING AVAILABLE!
1-800-872-2089
\$200 OFF REGULAR PRICE
EXPIRES OCTOBER 31ST, 2011 - 4PM

Free Checking

- No monthly fee
- No minimum balance
- Free online & mobile banking
- Debit Card w/ no monthly fee
- Over 30,000 free ATMs nationwide
- Free account alerts

\$50 Get up to \$50 with a new Free & Easy Checking*

aac
credit union
612 E. Main - Zeeland
616.772.3820
12390 Riley St - Holland
616.994.6300
OPEN SATURDAY
Branches in Spring Lake and Grand Rapids too
everyday people helping people everyday
www.aacreditunion.org

Limited time offer. *\$50 offer requires Free & Easy Checking, debit card, direct deposit of \$100+ and e-service enrollment. Must be 18 years and older. All services must be activated within 30 days to receive bonus. Requires approval. NCUA insured to at least \$250,000. One per person.

NOW OPEN! **Fun Pumpkins**
Over 4000 pumpkins