

**TOWN OF CHARLESTOWN
SELECTBOARD WORKSHOP
MAY 29, 2019**

Selectboard Present: Steve Neill, Chair; Albert St. Pierre, Jeffrey Lessels
Staff Present: Jessica Dennis, Keith Weed, Chief Patrick Connors
Others Present: Jon Kallfelz and Frank Linnenbringer of NH DOT

Meeting was called to order at 8:02 AM.

Mr. Kallfelz and Mr. Linnenbringer. from NH DOT District 4 were asked to come and speak with the Selectboard about some up coming projects in Charlestown, which may have impact on the State roads in Town.

The first project discussed was the potential large trucking operation that may be built on Fling Road. The Town has not received confirmation that the company is coming, but the potential impact on Route 12 traffic could be substantial. Mr. Kallfelz noted that Route 12 is a limited access right-of-way, so property owners are only allowed one driveway per property. The State would recommend a traffic study so the impact on Route 12 might be better determined. Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission (UVLSRPC) could do this for the Town. A road safety audit could also be done. The Town itself could add an additional turn lane from Route 12 onto Fling Road; this could be done fairly easily with a Driveway Permit from the State. Mr. Kallfelz suggested perhaps a fourth leg to Route 12 by adding a lane at the old jug handle across from Springfield Road. In this situation the Town would requesting the access, but as it is a controlled access right-of-way highway, the Fling Road intersection would be discontinued.

There was a discussion about the Jiffy Mart, Old Claremont Road, and Dollar General intersection. There have been accidents there and many near misses. The Selectboard was under the impression the intersection would be re-visited by the State at some point after the Jiffy Mart had been open so that traffic impact could be better understood. Mr. Kallfelz will go back and review the file, but again suggested a traffic study.

A traffic study was done several years ago at the Route 12 and Lover's Lane Road intersection, the Selectboard was under the impression a rotary was going to be constructed there. Mr. Kallfelz stated he was not aware that a rotary was going to be installed and that because State's funding was down for roads, it probably wasn't going to happen. Rotaries are expensive to construct and maintain.

Ms. Dennis sent a letter to the Office in Concord and copied the Swanzey office on a request to have a guardrail installed on Route 12A, not far from Fall Mountain High School. There is no shoulder to speak of and it drops off into the brook. Mr. Kallfelz stated that guardrails are expensive to install and maintain. The State already has a difficult time maintaining the existing guard rails throughout the State. There is little to no shoulder to install the guard rail there either. Again it was suggested a review of accidents at that location be done for further justification.

The Selectboard inquired about the Route 12 project by the Charlestown/Walpole Town line, the Town of Charlestown has received no updates on this project. Mr. Linnenbringer stated that the Railroad did not like the shoring on the proposed drainage and put a hold on the work. Work is expected to resume mid-summer. If there are specific questions, the Selectboard can reach out to the construction bureau, either Ron Guyette or Shawn Flynn.

Mr. St. Pierre inquired about Healy Hill on Route 12A in North Charlestown. He has spoken with District 4 about the culvert, they have been out to flush it but there is still water flowing down the full length of the road. There is heavy truck traffic on this road; Rhymes, Airgas, Jewell and others are using this Route instead of Grissom Lane in Claremont. Mr. Kallfelz stated they will look at the culvert again; perhaps it needs to be replaced. If the culvert has already been flushed by the District 4 crew, the culvert may have bigger concern.

A discussion occurred regarding the Water Line Interconnection project down Route 12. Mr. Linnenbringer reiterated that Route 12 is a controlled access right-of-way so the Town would need to get permits to run the utility lines. They will likely request the line be run 100 to 150 feet outside the right-of-way. The lines will have to be run outside the pavement and the Town will likely only be allowed to cut into the pavement if they can justify the need. All those attending the meeting understand there are some valley that may make this requirement challenging. The State is not going to want to the Town running lines under Route 12 or in its right-of-way unless it's extremely necessary. It is recommended the Town try to work with property owners to run the lines through private property as much as possible, which is already the Town's intent.

Chief Connors entered the meeting. The group spoke about the Jiffy Mart, Old Claremont Road and Dollar General intersection again. Chief Connors stated that vehicle passing on the right at the intersection are the biggest causes of "near misses" at that intersection, Chief Connors is concerned a pedestrian may be stuck there. Mr. Kallfelz again suggested a traffic study and perhaps something as simple as "bump-outs" around that location would help prevent accidents. Mr. Lessels stated that MANY years ago there was a traffic study done on the Town of Charlestown and at that time the State had recommended "bump-outs" or rotaries at each end of Town. Mr. Kallfelz was not aware of that study and stated that the State did not start recommending rotaries until the mid 1990's. Mr. Kallfelz looked at an aerial view of the intersection and suggested that the Town could take out a driveway permit, eliminate the island and simply make it a T-intersection. He would be happy to look at the intersection with Mr. Weed if he would like.

Mr. Kallfelz, Mr. Linnenbringer and Mr. Weed left the meeting.

Mr. St. Pierre stated that the guardrail on Route 12A was mentioned at the school board meeting, and requested the Ms. Dennis send a copy of the letter and all supporting documents to Ms. Misty Bushee at the School Administrative offices.

The updated/proposed Town Personnel Policy was reviewed. Recommendations/suggestions from the Town's attorney were all discussed on an individual basis.

Mr. Neill asked Ms. Dennis to begin researching the steps the Town needs to take in order to sell the properties they took in 2018 by Tax Collector’s Deed.

A brief discussion occurred on the recent joint meeting with the Selectboard members from surrounding Town’s and Fall Mountain Regional School District’s School Board.

Mr. Neill signed paperwork for the leasing company to make the final payment on the new roll-off truck for the Transfer station.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Neill moved to adjourn this meeting. Mr. St. Pierre seconded the motion. With all in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 4:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jessica Dennis

Approved,

Steven A. Neill

Albert St. Pierre

Jeffrey Lessels

(**Note:** These are unapproved Minutes. Corrections, if necessary, will be found in the Minutes of the June 19, 2019, Selectboard meeting.)