

Town of Dunstable
Joint Meeting of the Selectboard & Roads Commission
August 12, 2015
Town Hall, Dunstable, MA 01827

Convened: 5:10 pm

Present: Kenneth J. Leva, Daniel F. Devlin, Walter F. Alterisio, members; Tracey Hutton, Town Administrator; Michael L. Martin, Roads Commission; Leah Basbanes, Alan Chaney, Conservation Commission; Brian Rich, Fire Chief; Carol Bacon, Historical Commission; Eric Carlson, Janine White, BSC Group; Carl Davis, Ellen Davis, James Simons, Concerned Residents/Abutters

Route 113 / Main Street Project

Mr. Martin called the meeting to order as chair of the Roads Commission. The Board of Selectmen exchanged greetings with the Roads Commission and began by introducing the representatives, Eric Carlson and Janine White, from BSC Group the engineering firm behind the project. Mr. Carlson started off by explaining some of the work that has been done so far which is required by MassDOT. Surveying of the entire project area has been completed as well as traffic studies. Mr. Carlson noted that the road was designed for a maximum speed of approximately 35 mph and experiences roughly 14,000 cars a day. As part of this process crash reports are being compiled as is required by MassDOT which has designed the project area as “urban.”

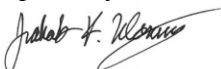
BSC has put together three design layouts that take into account various requirements from the Commonwealth as well as the conditions and limits of the actual area. Layout “A” is essentially the perfect world scenario with 12 foot lanes in each direction, 5 foot of shoulders in each direction, and 4 foot sidewalks on both sides. Layout “B” would be 11 foot lanes in each direction, 4 foot shoulders in each direction with sidewalk on the south side only. Layout “C” would be 11 foot lanes in each direction, 4 foot shoulders in each direction and no sidewalks. Discussion then turned to the desire to modify the road to make it safer, including how the existing road curves and meets Westford Street. In order to make these modifications there will be some give and take with property owners. There will also need to be some waivers concerning sight distances and curve radiuses from MassDOT.

The stone wall on Mr. Simons property will need to be moved due to necessary angle modifications which will ultimately provide relief to the Davis’s property by putting more land between the front of their home and the street. This will also help improve sight distance for the Central Cemetery and most importantly the Westford Street intersection. There was some discussion as to how far to move the wall, but to accommodate the landowners concerns it was agreed that the wall would not be moved more than 2 to 5 feet with the expectation of probably 3 feet. These sight changes aren’t enough to meet MassDOT’s standards, but they are the maximum improvements that can be reached in regards to this area, so Mr. Carlson felt confident that it will support the case for waivers.

Mr. Carlson then turned to the issue of culvert repairs, which is the primary objective of this project. He did not foresee any major problems with the necessary repairs or stormwater related drainage. The drainage will be designed to meet the maximum extent that is practical under the circumstances and the grade of the road will be approximately 5 inches. That should make the grade steep enough that it will drain but otherwise leave the road pretty flat. The culverts will be strategically placed with some of them flush with the stone walls that run along or near the road. Mr. Carlson finished by noting that the parties should talk to MassDOT’s District 3 office to drum up support for the waivers.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 pm

Respectfully submitted by



Admin. Assistant to the Selectboard & Town Administrator

Approved and adopted on 9/2/15