



BOARD OF ROAD COMMISSIONERS
TOWN OF DUNSTABLE
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MINUTES
April 14, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. It attended were Commissioners Mike Martin and Peter Gove. Also in attendance were Town Administrator, Tracey Hutton, Project Engineer, Eric Carlson, various project abutters and town residents.

Mr. Carlson gave an overview of the project and public meeting that have occurred to this point. The current condition is a dry laid stone wall that is failing and being supported by abutting trees. If the wall or culvert fail, it become an emergency problem and the detour is long and winding, which could create problems for some modes of transportation.

There was discussion of the water main in the area, and that we must bear this in mind as the project goes forward. It would be more efficient and practical to combine the water main work with the road construction.

The current conditions on this section of Rt. 113 are "scary" for pedestrians and bicyclists and not safe. Exiting from Westford Street can be challenging due to the lack of site distance. There are approximately 2,000 cars a day on Westford Street and 14,000 cars a day on Rt. 113. There are currently no pedestrian or bicycle accommodations, travelers are forced into the roadway.

This is part of the gateway to Dunstable, but it is not currently listed on the register, but is eligible, this would trigger Section 106 review.

The goal of the meeting is to understand the issues and move forward, working to address the problems and develop a project that first considers the character of the community while proving a safe roadway. This balance makes the project challenging and costly, the McGovern Wall cost approximately \$700,000, this project is estimated at \$2,000,000 - \$3,000,000.

Under the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) system this section of roadway is an "urban arterial." The state can fund 110% of the construction costs, the design and permitting cost is the obligation of the Town. The MassDOT Project Review Committee (PRC) only meets four times a year. Both a project need and project notification must be submitted to the PRC. The hope is to submit this project in May for the June meeting.

The hope is to have agreement between the Boards and Commissions, knowing there will need to be trade-offs and compromise. At the time MassDOT has the public hearing, they like to have the details ironed out; at which time the project will proceed to design and construction.

In 2014, MassDOT began requiring that all projects incorporate pedestrian and bicycle considerations. All waivers must be defensible or they will be rejected. Mr. Carlson and Ms. Hutton will meet with the Complete Streets Manager at MassDOT, Lou Rabito, to see what waivers will meet the straight-face test.

All sidewalks must meet MassDOT and ADA standards; this is recommended at 5 feet in width, 3 feet to get around obstacles such as utility poles. Revised Plan "D" shows a grass strip between much of the sidewalk and roadway. There is approximately 1500 square feet of wetlands impact for the culvert, a permissible project.

The Committees present agreed to go back to their membership and think about their compromise points.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracey Hutton
Town Administrator

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