

MILTON HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Regular and Public Meeting on
August 11, 2016

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. at the Milton Public Hall.

Attendees: Chairman Mark Heilshorn, Malcolm Forbes, Carol Metro, Chad Mitchell and Mitchell Samal.

Presenter: Raz Alexe, Director of Public Works and Town Engineer

Guests: Bill Dunn, Frank Jansky, Carol Bramley, Trevor Deering, Michael Eanes and Ingely Forbes.

Mark Heilshorn welcomed the guests and thanked them for coming to the Milton Historic District Commission (MDHC). The Chair said that Cardinal Engineering Associates (CAP) has revised the plan for replacing the Milton bridge based on the considerable information gathered at the Special Open and Public Meeting on August 4, 2016. He noted the major changes: the width of the bridge is reduced to 22' from 24', the approach guard rails leading up to the bridge are shortened, the hand rails in the middle will blend in with the bridge (can be painted if desired) and the stone used for the bridge footings will match/blend with the existing stone. He stressed the importance of monitoring the implementation of the plan assuming that it will be approved tonight. Likewise, if approved, the timetable for starting work on the bridge replacement will be 2018 rather than 2017. He then asked Raz to respond to any questions or comments from the audience.

Deering agrees that the bridge needs to be replaced based on his own observation over the years. However, he wants it to be done right. Jansky questioned whether the job could be completed in 3 months. During that time traffic will have to be diverted and consideration given to accommodating larger and heavier vehicles on the surrounding roads, some of which are dirt. He urged the Town to ensure the company doing the job is reputable and willing to carefully execute the plan as approved.

Raz explained that he is unable to guarantee the length of time it will take to do the job because of the many other entities involved such as electrical and telephone/internet services. Jansky asked again about the historic granite stones currently part of the bridge support. Will they be cut, matched or removed? He would rather see the old stones kept and new stone veneer matched to them on the pre-cast footings. Raj feels we now have enough time to get a mock up of what it will look like before it is implemented. Bramley made the point that the Commission has the right to stipulate certain things as part of the approval. If these stipulations are not adhered to, or other parts of the plan not fulfilled, the Commission has the legal responsibility to seek an injunction against the contractor for the bridge construction to "CEASE AND DESIST" until such time as the contractor agrees to complete the plan as approved by the MHDC.

Chairman Heilshorn asked if anyone had any more questions or comments. There being none, he said that the public meeting is adjourned at 7:38pm and guests were excused. The MDHC reconvened at 7:46pm to consider the following application.

Application #301

Replacement of the bridge in the center of Milton spanning the Marshepaug River (MAP 137, between BLK 542 – 543) by the Town of Litchfield. Contractor Cardinal Engineering Associates, c/o Joe Cermola III, P.E., 3 Colony Street, Meridan, CT 06451. Extensive architectural renderings, engineering design and details were provided to the Commission and several times revised in accordance with the suggestions by the Milton community. The Commission noted that the Town and Cardinal Engineering have been very forthcoming and cooperative in providing all the information necessary to make a decision on the proposal. The new bridge has been designed to look very similar to the existing bridge, but with the strength to last many years. After a brief discussion Mitchell made a motion, seconded by Metro, to approve the application with the following stipulations:

1. The current slabs of cut granite stone that make up the base and structure of the current bridge must be kept and put aside for the explicit use of the Milton Public Hall Association.
2. The design of the new concrete abutments and the facia must resemble the current foundation of the bridge in pattern, shape and rock design.
3. The contractor needs to provide a mock up section of the bridge stone walls to the Milton Historic District Commission before proceeding with the project.
4. If the mock up is deemed unacceptable, the contractor will adjust accordingly without fail.

The motion was approved unanimously.

There being no more business to be brought before the Commission, Chairman Heilshorn adjourned the meeting at 7:56pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Malcolm Forbes, Secretary