

Board of Selectmen
Town Office Building
Meeting Minutes
12/11/17

Attending: David Pierce, Scott Bergeron, Town Fydenkevez, Sherry Patch
Others: John Morgan, CHA Engineering, Kevin Thatcher, CHA Engineering, Lorin Starr, Liz Sillin, Will Sillin, Tom Zimnowski, Peter Gagrin, Steve Benjamin, Peter Lacy, Doug Fulton, Natalie Blais, Gary Briere, Linda Lopatka, Helen Clark, Jim Williams, Pat Williams, Dan Murphy, Al Richards
Behind the Camera: Chris Collins/FCAT

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 6:39 PM.

North Main Street Reconstruction TIP Project Update

John Morgan of CHA Engineering met with the board to provide an update on the North Main Street Reconstruction (TIP) Project. Mr. Morgan gave an overview of the project, which includes reconstruction of North Main Street from Rt. 116 continuing north to Claybrook Road. The project is state and federally funded, therefore MassDOT will be responsible for bidding and construction oversight of the project. The project goal is rehabilitation and complete streets improvements for all modes of transportation. The project is currently at the 25% design phase which began in 2015. Several public meetings have been held to hear public comment. The design selected includes reconstruction of the road to 26 ft. and installation of a shared use bike path on the west side of the road. The path would be 8ft. wide beginning north of the parking area and end at Claybrook. The sidewalk on the east side will be reconstructed and widened to 5ft which is DOT standard. The existing sidewalk is 4ft. wide. Safety improvements including flashing beacon and removal of the triangular island on North Silver lane to a standard T intersection. Drainage improvements (old clay pipe), new catch basins, sign and line improvements. Also, trying limit impact to trees on the scenic roadway. As proposed, only two trees would need to be removed. MassDOT key comments include widening the shared use path from 8ft to 10 ft. 8ft is proposed, which is the minimum with justification. If the path were to be widened 12-20 trees would need to be removed, which is a good justification for not widening the path. Other comments include providing handicapped parking. A 5ft. a buffer is proposed (west side) between the shared use path and the roadway. MassDOT has recommended a swale for drainage. However, it is not wide enough for swale suggests moving path further from the road which would impact more trees. Further discussion with DOT regarding this matter is necessary. DOT has also recommended increasing the amount of pavement from 1" to 2". This is will benefit the project and the cost of the increase will be paid by the state.

Liz Sillin stated that many here tonight did not realize that the roadway improvements would entail a major change to the look of North Main Street. Ms. Sillin stated that she would like to go back to the original proposal, which is far less intrusive. North and South Main Street should be viewed together. The solution proposed is not appropriate for South Main Street and disruptive to North Main Street due to the linear street green. There is much concern regarding this plan. Ms. Sillin feels that we are trying to solve problems that we don't have. What we

have is one of the best pedestrian experiences. The problems that we have are speeding traffic, no accommodation for through traffic cyclists and sidewalks that need repair. The shared use path does not solve those problems appropriately.

Mr. Bergeron asked about the standard design requirements and exceptions that have already been requested.

Mr. Morgan stated that the original design asked for road widening, with 5 ft. shoulders, 11 ft. travel lanes, for total pavement width of 32 ft. This would result in an increase of road width by 6ft. Reconstruction of sidewalks on both sides of the road was also proposed.

Lorin Starr stated that they have found several submissions DOT (District 1) that have been approved with design exceptions for bicycle lane width and sidewalk width. Ms. Starr stated that we need a solution that really works and then push for exceptions. Ms. Starr stated that her priorities are North and South Main Street are considered as one design, retention of historic linear green, accommodation of bicycle and pedestrian traffic away from the road, preserve trees, calm traffic, and improve safety for road cyclists. Ms. Starr stated that she would like to propose going back to the CHA alternate 1 design, as this proposal makes the most sense. This proposal provides 5ft shoulders for bicycle use and would increase total road width to 32ft. Ms. Starr would also like to propose further design exceptions to lane width of 10 ft. and 5ft. shoulders to 3 or 4 and sidewalks to 4.5 ft., with a marked bike lane on the road for road cyclists.

Mr. Fydenkevez stated that we need to come up with a safe road width for bikes so that we can share the road. The main goal is safe use for all.

Mr. Morgan advised that MassDOT minimum for this type of road is 11ft anything below that will require a design exception.

Mr. Fydenkevez stated that the most important thing to the board has been traffic calming.

Ms. Starr stated that if the road cyclists are going to stay on the road, and we don't accommodate them and create a shared use path that even tri-cyclists aren't going to like because it is too close to the road, who exactly did we build it for?

Mr. Pierce stated that there has been distinct opposition to increasing the road width. We need to figure out how to balance that.

Attendees thanked the board for their responsiveness to their concerns.

The consensus of those in attendance is a 30-32ft road, 30ft. with exceptions if approved by MassDOT.

John Morgan discussed next steps. Mr. Morgan stated that hopefully, DOT will not require a new 25% submittal. CHA will revise price quote and contact DOT for discussion. A full meeting with DOT will be scheduled in the future. Mr. Morgan stated that it may be worth scheduling a meeting with DOT for discussion prior to the Public Hearing.

Approve Minutes

Motion: Mr. Fydenkevez to approve the minutes of the meeting dated 11/27/17. Second: Mr. Bergeron. Voted: 3-0.

Updates

Mr. Bergeron provided an update on the Municipal Buildings Needs Assessment and Space Study. The Capital Planning Committee has interviewed Roy S. Brown Architects and is recommending that the contract be awarded to Roy S. Brown Architects. Funding for the study (\$30,000) was appropriated at the Annual Town Meeting under the Capital budget.

Motion: Mr. Bergeron that Sunderland enter into a contract for services based on the RFQ that was sent out, with Roy S. Brown Architects for a Building Assessment and Capital Needs Space Study. Second: Mr. Fydenkevez. Voted: 3-0.

Mr. Pierce advised that the Personnel Advisory Committee is currently reviewing positions and information compiled from comp towns including, job descriptions, salaries, and insurance contributions. The Committee will be looking at the total compensation package.

FRCOG: Shared Human Resource Program Opportunity

Ms. Patch advised that the FRCOG has a proposal for a shared Human Resource Program. Future considerations for inclusion may include the school and the FRCOG, who is also in need of HR services and support.

Public Comment

Peter Gagrin asked how soon minutes are posted online. Mr. Gagrin noted that the last minutes posted online are from October. Ms. Patch will look into this. Additionally, Mr. Gagrin commented on the poor condition of North Mountain Road due to a logging operation. Ms. Patch will contact the Highway Superintendent and Conservation Commission to ensure that all permits are in place and that the road conditions are acceptable.

Representative Frontier Regional Repair Subcommittee

Mr. Bergeron volunteered to serve as the town's representative.

Winter Road Maintenance

Motion: Mr. Fydenkevez to approve the road closing as submitted by Highway Superintendent, George Emery. Second: Mr. Bergeron. Voted: 3-0. Mr. Fydenkevez reminded residents that there is no on-street parking from November 1st to April 1st.

Note: Copy of Road Closing Memo dated 12/6/17 incorporated in these minutes.

Adjournment:

Motion: Mr. Fydenkevez to adjourn. Second: Mr. Bergeron. Voted: 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,


Sherry Patch, Town Administrator

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT



TOWN OF SUNDERLAND

Town Offices: 111 River Road, Sunderland, MA 01375

PHONE: 413-665-1460 FAX: 413-665-1453

Email: highway@townofsunderland.us

To: Board of Selectmen
From: George Emery, Highway Superintendent
Date: December 6, 2017
Re: Winter Road Maintenance (plowing & sanding)

Please be advised that the following roads or portions of the following roads are not maintained in the winter. This list does not reflect a change from last year's recommendations.

- Hubbard Hill Rd from house #2 easterly to the Leverett line
- Gunn Cross Rd from Rt47 westerly to Falls Rd
- Whitmore Cross Rd from Rt 47 westerly to Falls Rd
- Reservation Rd from house #40 easterly to Rt 63
- Cemetery Rd from the Segala's driveway to Riverside Cemetery
- Middle Mountain Rd from house #10 to Mt Toby
- Reservoir Rd from the reservoir easterly to Mt Toby
- Clark Mountain Rd from House #42 easterly to Mt Toby
- Gunn Mountain Rd from house #23 easterly to North Mtn Rd
- Cross Mountain Rd from house #28 northerly to Middle Mtn Rd
- Ferry Rd westerly to the Connecticut River
- Ferry Rd at William's property from Rt47 westerly to the Connecticut River
- North Mountain Rd from the intersection of Claybrook Rd northerly to Mt Toby
- Mt Toby Tower Rd from Reservation Rd to the Fire Tower
- Reservoir Rd from the reservoir easterly to point of termination

Respectfully submitted,

George Emery

