

# WAYLAND BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

Wayland Town Building

October 22, 2014

7:00 PM

## MEETING MINUTES

M. Lowery (Chair), C. Brown, B. Goldsmith (left at 7:30), J. Mishara, M. Wegerbauer, S. Kadlik (Director)

Meeting opened at 7:00 PM

(Lowery announced that the meeting is being videotaped and broadcast live)

Lowery opened the meeting with a review of the agenda.

### **Review the FY2016 Operating Budget**

Lowery discussed a recent Finance Committee meeting attended by him and Kadlik where the DPW budget was reviewed.

Kadlik discussed the current status and long-term planning of Water Division Capital Projects.

Kadlik discussed the status and long-term planning of road resurfacing projects.

The Board discussed the level of capital funding necessary to keep up with infrastructure maintenance.

Goldsmith discussed the status of the DPW operating budget with the Board and distributed a list of questions for their review.

Goldsmith expressed his concern that the Water Division's undesignated fund balance does not get depleted further.

Sarkis Sarkisian, Town Planner, addressed the Board about the status of the installation of a sidewalk on part of Old Sudbury Road, and asked if it could be presented as a capital item by either the Planning Board or the Board of Public Works.

Lowery expressed his desire for the Planning Board to place the item in their budget.

Sarkisian noted that the Planning Board does not currently have a capital budget.

### **Joint Meeting with Planning Board for Public Tree Hearing for Scenic Roads**

Members of the Planning Board appeared before the Board of Public Works at 7:30 PM to open the joint meeting for the public tree hearing for scenic roads.

Mike Lindeman, Parks Division Superintendent, and Joe Doucette, DPW Senior Foreman, appeared before the Board to discuss the trees in question and present photos via computer.

**Tree 1471 – 219 West Plain Street**

Doucette and Lindeman described the tree and the results of the inspection that was conducted.

It was the recommendation of Lindeman to remove the tree and grind the stump, as its root system has created an unsafe condition on the sidewalk.

Colleen Sheehan, Planning Board Chair, noted that it is the opinion of the Planning Board that the tree has an even, full canopy.

Sheehan noted that their assessment did not focus on the sidewalk, and asked if it could be repaired without killing the tree.

Lindeman noted that it could be repaired, but it would have an adverse effect on the tree.

Lowery noted that if the only issue the tree poses is the damage to the sidewalk, he would oppose its removal.

Mishara asked if there is any other public safety threat posed by the tree.

Lindeman replied that there is not.

Lowery made a motion asking the members of the Board of Public Works if the tree should be removed.

Brown in favor. Mishara and Lowery opposed to the removal of the tree.

Planning Board Vote – opposed 4-0 to the removal of the tree.

Lowery noted that if the homeowner objects, the next step is to appeal it to the Board of Selectmen.

Lowery asked if there were any other objections to trees on the list.

Sheehan discussed the trees slated for removal on Training Field, and expressed her concern that replanting programs be explored for areas in town similar to the Training Field heater piece.

**Tree 1009 – 69 Glezen Lane**

Sarkisian noted that this is the third time the tree has been addressed. He suggested that the location is ideal for replanting, as the tree's location does not impeded utilities.

**Tree 1049 – 156 Pelham Island Road**

Lowery discussed the condition of the tree, noting that only one side of it looks bad.

Lindeman noted the tree shows a significant amount of decay, hindering the tree's ability to remain standing.

Lowery noted that there is another tree in poor condition in the immediate vicinity of Tree 1049.

Kadlik noted that the tree questioned by Lowery is on private property.

Lowery asked the Board of Public Works if there were any comments on any other trees on scenic roads.

The members of the Board replied that they had no further comments.

Lowery asked the Planning Board if there were any comments on any other trees on scenic roads.

The members of the Board replied that they had no further comments.

Brown made a motion to remove all the remaining trees on scenic list, excepting Tree 1471.

Wegerbauer 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor.

Sheehan made a motion that, with the exception of Tree 1471, the Planning Board votes that all other trees on the scenic list be removed.

Planning Board all in favor.

Lindeman suggested that a letter be drafted to home owners on streets scheduled for replanting asking if they would like a tree planted on their property free of charge.

Lindeman expressed his concern with planting trees in the area between the street and sidewalk, citing the damage the root system may cause to the sidewalk, the obstruction of signs, and the hazard to motorists.

Sheehan requested that input from the Planning Board be sought when considering where trees would be replanted along scenic roads.

Lowery asked Lindeman what funds are available in the Parks Division's tree budget.

Lindeman replied that there is \$50,000 under Contractual Services for tree removal and \$10,000 under Tree Replacement.

Sheehan noted that the Planning Board will compile a list of locations for potential tree plantings.

Lowery suggested that the Planning Board highlight on a map the portions of the scenic roads where they feel planting would be warranted.

### **Topics not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair 48 Hours Prior to Posting**

The Board discussed the status of the proposed sidewalk installation on part of Route 27.

Sarkisian noted that project is nearly fully permitted, and that \$75,000 in funding was provided by a private developer towards its construction.

Sarkisian noted that the estimates to construct the sidewalk have come in higher than anticipated, and as such seeks funding of an additional \$75,000 to allow for the completion of the project.

Lowery noted that in his opinion, funding should be sought through a town meeting article co-presented by the Board of Public Works and the Planning Board.

Sheehan suggested that the Board of Public Works present the article with support from the Planning Board.

Mishara added that in his opinion, he feels this would not be a controversial issue and does not have a problem including this as an article.

Lowery noted that it is the sense of the Board that this should be presented as an article at Town Meeting, created by the Board of Public Works and co-sponsored by the Planning Board.

### **Public Tree Hearing for Shade Trees**

#### **Tree 1463 and Tree 1464 – 30 Stonebridge Road**

Fran Kistner, of 30 Stonebridge, appeared before the Board to discuss her concerns over Trees 1463 and 1464. She noted that the trees block sightlines, creating a danger when exiting her driveway.

Kistner distributed photos for the Board's review.

Doucette noted that he and Lindeman inspected the trees, and they felt the trees did not significantly impede the view.

Brown noted that the road is narrow, and the trees may pose an issue when backing out of the driveway.

Lowery noted the limitations of the tree removal budget and expressed his desire to focus on the removal of the worst trees.

Wegerbauer noted that in the past, home owners were granted permission to remove trees at their expense.

Lindeman added that he recommends that dead and dangerous trees be taken down at the Town's expense, while a healthy tree that is being reviewed could be voted to be removed at the home owner's expense.

Mishara asked Kistner if she would be willing to absorb the cost of the removal.

Kistner replied that she would prefer to not pay for the removal.

Mishara noted he would vote to approve the removal at the HO's expense.

Mishara made a motion to approve the removal of Trees 1463 and 1464 at the home owner's expense.

Lowery 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Wegerbauer noted that he was unsure if the Board should approve the removal of the trees unless the homeowner committed to paying for their removal.

Brown asked if there is any precedence to taking down a healthy tree at town cost due to sightline issues.

Lindeman replied there is no precedent for the removal at the Town's expense.

Wegerbauer suggested that the motion be amended to note that the current home owners can take down Trees 1463 and 1464 at their own expense with the approval of the tree warden.

All in favor.

### **Tree 1473 – 9 Timber Lane**

Jeffrey Bergeron of 9 Timber Lane appeared before the Board to discuss his concerns for safety hazards posed by Tree 1473.

Lindeman noted the tree has lost several large branches and is endangering.

Brown made motion to take down Tree 1473.

Mishara 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor.

### **Tree 1465 – 63 Stonebridge Road**

Molly Foresman, of 63 Stonebridge Road, appeared before the Board to discuss the status of Tree 1465. She noted that large dead branches regularly fall on the sidewalk and is concerned they may strike a pedestrian.

Lindeman noted the tree is healthy, but does have deadwood that needs to be pruned out.

Doucette noted that the tree's root system is doing severe damage to the sidewalk.

Wegerbauer asked if there are funds in the budget to prune the deadwood out.

Lindeman confirms that funds are available.

Brown noted that he is concerned with the amount of damage to the sidewalk and expressed his concern for pedestrian safety.

Lowery noted that the records show this tree as a maple, when it is in fact a pine.

Brown made a motion to remove Tree 1465.

Mishara 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Mishara and Brown in favor, Wegerbauer and Lowery opposed – tie vote (motion failed)

Wegerbauer requested that the deadwood be cleared from the tree by the DPW.

Lindeman noted that the deadwood will be cleared out.

Foresman asked if her offer to pay for the tree's removal would affect the Board's vote.

Wegerbauer and Lowery noted that it would not influence their decision.

Foresman noted an adjacent tree she is also concerned about.

Lowery replied that the Board can only comment on trees they have been designated and reviewed.

Lindeman noted that he will inspect the adjacent tree in question.

### **Tree 1474 – 10 Charles Street**

Lindeman noted that the tree is healthy, but the home owner requested it be removed to provide more sunlight on his property.

Raymond Bertrand, of 6 Charles Street, appeared before the Board to object to the removal of Tree 1474, and noted that the tree is healthy.

Brown made a motion the Tree 1474 not be taken down.

Wegerbauer 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor.

Bertrand requested that if possible, he be notified via email at [ray@prescotts.net](mailto:ray@prescotts.net) if the Board's decision on Tree 1474 is appealed to the Board of Selectmen.

**Tree 1439 – 12 Graybirch Lane**

Lindeman and Doucette noted that the recommendation to remove the tree is due to its close proximity to utility lines, and any pruning by NSTAR would likely cause irreparable damage to the tree.

Lowery noted the tree looks healthy and, except for its proximity to utility lines, sees no reason to take the tree down at the Town's expense.

Lowery made a motion that Tree 1439 not be taken down.

Mishara 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor.

**Tree 1468 – 14 Cottage Road**

Doucette noted that a limb had fallen and taken down wires to an adjacent home, and the resident has expressed concern that it may happen again.

Lowery noted that although the tree is located in close proximity to utility wires, the tree looks healthy.

Brown made a motion that Tree 1468 not be taken down.

Mishara 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor.

**Tree 1496 – 9 Harrison Street**

Wegerbauer made a motion that Tree 1496 not be taken down.

Lindeman noted that the tree is in a state of decline, but is not in immediate need of removal.

Brown 2<sup>nd</sup>. Mishara, Brown, and Wegerbauer in favor; Lowery opposed.

**Tree 1483 – 1 Old Sudbury Road**

Lindeman noted that the tree has been pruned multiple times, and large branches have fallen on the home owner's house several times.

Lowery made a motion to remove Tree 1483, as well as all remaining trees the Board has not previously voted to keep.

Wegerbauer 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor.

Lowery declared that the Public Hearing for Shade Trees is adjourned at 9:00 PM.

## **Public Comment**

Fran Kistner, of 30 Stonebridge, asked where the liability lies concerning trees that were not taken down.

## **Board Members' Reports, Concerns, and Updates**

Lowery described the Board's response to a letter from Peter Gossels regarding the status of Oxbow Meadows, and noted that the DPW needs to mow the field by the end of the year.

The Board discussed how the article seeking funding for the Route 27 sidewalk construction will be drafted and presented.

Lowery noted that the Board will prepare a draft article for review and final vote by the Board of Public Works and the Planning Board prior to submission to the Board of Selectmen.

The Board discussed with Kadlik the status of the temporary changes to the School Street / East Plain Street / Route 30 intersection and potential adjustments that may occur.

Lowery discussed the status of the Library drainage project.

Kadlik noted the project has been placed under his purview and described the current status of the project.

The Board discussed scheduling upcoming Board of Public Works Meetings.

The Board determined that the next meeting will occur on Thursday 11/13/2014, followed by a traffic calming hearing on Wednesday, 11/19/2014.

## **Review and Approve Minutes**

Wegerbauer noted a typographical correction to page 7.

Lowery noted typographical corrections on page 6.

Brown provided an addition to the discussion of speed bumps on page 3.

Brown – P.3 Brown noted addition of speed bumps.

Mishara made motion to accept the minutes of the 10/15/2014 Board of Public Works Meeting as amended.

Wegerbauer 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor.

Mishara made a motion to adjourn.

Brown 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor.



Meeting adjourned at 9:17 PM.