

Public Works Committee Minutes

March 17, 2016 7:10 P.M.

Town Room, Town Hall.

Attendance:

PWC: Christine Gray-Mullen, Chair, Richard Fein, Donald Wise, William Mullin Absent:
Kelly Erwin
Town: Guilford Mooring, Public Works Superintendent,
Public: Peter Lilya, Ann Cann

1. Administrative

- a. Minutes of previous meeting approved 3-0-0
- b. Next meetings: April 7 and May 12 (one may be cancelled)

2. New Business:

a. Atkins Corner Neighborhood Citizen Petition

Peter Lilya and Ann Cann, representatives of the Atkins Corner Neighborhood presented information regarding the group's Town Meeting Citizen Petition Article. Two handouts were supplied which included maps of the area and details regarding the six requests within the Petition:

1. Creating a pedestrian crosswalk at the level of the Hampshire College planned pathway from the area of the Yiddish Book Center to Atkins Farms Country Market,
2. Creating a bus pull-off in this area on the north side of West Bay Road so that bus patrons will not have to wait in the street,
3. Creating a sidewalk on the south side of the West Bay Road connecting the pathway from Atkins Farms Country Market to Rambling Road,
4. Creating a pedestrian crosswalk from the existing sidewalk on Rambling Road across West Bay Road to the north side at the Eric Carle Museum,
5. Creating a sidewalk on the north side of West Bay Road connecting this crosswalk to the existing path into the Eric Carle Museum that leads to the PVRTA bus stop.
6. Developing appropriate signage for traffic calming in this area.

Mr. Lilya pointed out severe dangers and difficulties for pedestrians trying to move among the various venues: Hampshire College, Eric Carle Museum, Yiddish Book Center, Atkins Market, walking paths, etc. Bay Road has no adequate sidewalks nor crosswalks to enable pedestrians to safely cross. This plan would enhance safe crossing of busy West Bay Road connecting the people and institutions on both sides of the road, supported by appropriate signage.

Regarding Request #1 and 2: Ms. Gray-Mullen updated the PWC on discussions the Planning Board has been having regarding this area. Hampshire College is currently in the process of installing a solar project on the adjacent field. They have been working with the DPW on where a crosswalk and bus stop should be positioned at the end of an unpaved walkway that ends across

the street from Atkins Market. The original proposal put the crosswalk at the end of this path. Hampshire College is planning on paving this walking path and the Planning Board has requested that the walkway be moved to curve westward towards the proposed bus stop. Landscaping or fencing would need to also be installed to encourage pedestrians to walk to the new crosswalk. The DPW suggests having this new crosswalk at the west end of the proposed bus stop at Gould Way. Placing crosswalks at intersections is standard design guideline.

If the crosswalk is placed at Gould Way, pedestrian flashing beacons may want to be considered as the vehicle traveling from the west approaches quickly around a bend in the road with verge vegetation causing a visual obstruction.

It was also noted that the 3 power poles at the end of Gould Way do not have street lights on them. PWC wishes to stress the need for adequate and appropriate lighting at these proposed crosswalks and bus stop.

After discussion a Motion was therefore moved:

“The PWC supports the six concepts included in the Atkins Corner Petition Article. The PWC also suggests adequate lighting to be addressed at the included crosswalks and intersections.

PWC has listed these sidewalks among others on the PWC 2016 Sidewalk Priority List.”

Passed: 4-0-0

b. 2016 Paving List

GPR camera with Lidar survey on van completed survey of all town roads. The pavement rating based on DOT criteria give the Town an overall rating of 55 on a scale of 1 to 100 (highest). This is up from the previous evaluation. The DPW air is to reach the mid-60s. To accomplish this is will cost \$16million without contingencies and between \$25 – 29 million with contingencies (police details, drainage improvements, etc.). This year, the DPW will only receive the standard \$818,000 in Chapter 90 funding. Governor Baker has not signed legislation to release the additional funding hoped for.

Funding Source	Road	From	To	Maintenance Activity	Current ePCI	Current Cost
Chapter 90	Amity St	S Prospect St	S Pleasant St	Reclamation	11	\$ 74,813
	Northeast St	Strong St	House #690	Reclamation	16	\$ 482,494
	TOTAL COSTS					
Sewer Funds	Larkspur Dr	Wildflower Dr	Cul-de-sac	Reclamation	58	\$ 117,420
	Ladyslipper Cir	Wildflower Dr	Cul-de-sac	Reclamation	56	\$ 115,140
	Woodlot Rd	Teaberry Ln	Cul-de-sac	Reclamation	54	\$ 111,467
	Teaberry Ln	Wildflower Dr	Woodlot Rd	Reclamation	56	\$ 151,367
TOTAL COSTS						\$ 495,393
Water Funds	Fisher St	North Pleasant St	Harris St	Reclamation & Base	13	\$ 62,383
	Harris St	Pine St	Fisher St	Reclamation & Base	15	\$ 76,528
	TOTAL COSTS					
CDBG Total	Shumway St	Main St	College St	Reclamation	12	\$ 199,827
Private Funds	Mt Pleasant St	East Pleasant St	End	Reclamation		\$ 72,835

After reviewing and discussing the DPW 2016 Paving List table presented by Mr. Mooring of the DPW, a Motion was moved:

"The PWC supports the DPW 2016 Paving List"
Passed: 4-0-0

3. Old Business

a. Project Updates from Guilford Mooring, DPW

- Boltwood walkways work is in progress
- Amity Parking Lot will be renovated
- Utility work at Triangle intersection will proceed
- Mill/overlay work on Amity Street and E. Pleasant Street will be done after graduations.
- Some water and sewer line work in Amherst Woods and North Amherst will be done.
- 99% of Pine Street completed. Minor details to finish up.

b. Sidewalk Prioritization

Ms. Gray-Mullen presented drafts documents:

Sidewalk Evaluation and Prioritization System
Sidewalk Request Tracking Worksheet
2016 PWC Sidewalk List (3/17/2016)

She has already filled out Sidewalk Request Tracking Worksheets for all 8 sidewalks on list. These are scanned and will be emailed to Mr. Mooring who will assign a staff member to complete the worksheets with the required technical information. The worksheets will then be

returned to the PWC for the prioritization to be completed. From that point, the 2016 Sidewalk Prioritization List will be finalized and forwarded to the Select Board.

PWC members may wish to complete worksheets for additional sidewalk requests. Also individual site visits are recommended to better understand and prioritize the sidewalk requests.

Ms. Gray-Mullen will email all the draft documentation and the 8 requests being submitted to the other PWC members.

The PWC was pleased to be developing a 2016 Sidewalk Prioritization List

c. Transportation Task Force Update

The Task Force met earlier in the week and approved the Recommendations Memo to go along with the Consultant's report: Transportation Advisory Committee Best Practices. These have been sent to the Temporary Town Manager, Peter Hechenbleikner for his consideration. It is the Task Force's hope that this information and the recommendations made for the formation of an Amherst Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) will be accepted and moved toward the Select Board for approval/creation.

It was also discussed how the report and recommendations suggest the PWC membership and charge be shifted to this proposed TAC.

Adjourned. 8:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Wise, Secretary, *Pro. Temp*