

1. Call to Order

The Chester Main Street Project Committee held a Special Meeting on Tuesday, December 9, 2014, at the Chester Town Hall, 203 Middlesex Avenue, Chester, Connecticut. Chairman Joplin called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

2. Seating of Members

Members in attendance were Michael Joplin, Steven Tiezzi, Charlene Janecek, Al Bisacky, John Schroeder, Chuck Mueller and Leslie Strauss. Brian Kent, Gary Giroux and First Selectman Meehan were also present.

3. Presentation by Gary Giroux of revisions requested by Board of Selectmen and prior to meeting reviewed by First Selectman Meehan and Michael Joplin of project area from School Lane to Laurel Hill Cemetery

4. Discussion of the culvert between Post Office and Jacobson's Office

Chairman Joplin noted he and First Selectman Meehan met with Gary Giroux about a week ago for about 2 ½ hours. Most of the discussion had to do with the area between the Post Office and Laurel Hill Cemetery. There were 9 points discussed.

The limit of the project on the east end is at the corner of School Lane and Main Street. There will be an ADA ramp at the corner of School and Main. The Town will indemnify Gary in terms of not crossing over to another ADA ramp on the other side. That will be defined in terms of the Library and the Library Grant in Phase 5. The other terminus is Laurel Hill Cemetery.

There will be a new sidewalk 48" wide with a granite curb going from School Lane to Laurel Hill Cemetery. Location of the sidewalk will be same as it is now. There are minimal changes to the curb line which is granite from School Lane to Laurel Hill.

Reconstruction of the culvert will be avoided as well as raising of the grade, realignment of the road and moving utility poles. The road will be wider between Laurel Hill Cemetery to the culvert by approximately 1 foot depending on where it is measured. Chairman Joplin noted it is his contention that the Town needs to have the culvert inspected and certified to be safe. On the upstream side, the headwall is damaged and needs repair or replacement. The result of this will be little, if any, impact to adjacent

property owners on Main Street.

Drainage will be implemented as planned up to the 70% drawings. Two catch basins have been added around the Jacobson and Kranyak properties because the road is not being elevated.

Lighting and parking will be discussed later in the meeting by Brian.

The CWC will be patching the road and not doing a full overlay or it will be a Town project in terms of the Chesterfield wall.

All improvements in Laurel Hill Cemetery will be completed.

No new parking will be developed along Main Street in the vicinity of Jacobsons, Post Office, Kranyak properties as that will be done later.

There will be no granite curbing on the south side and the grass situation in front of Jacobsons will be maintained. There will be no curb, it will be sheet flow. It was noted it is cost effective to replace bituminous with bituminous.

Gary Giroux noted the roadway alignment was set based on existing curb line. The north curb line will be built up so many feet to the south. They will also profile the north curb line as it presently exists to minimize grade on the north side of the project.

The width of the roadway is established at 28 feet curb to curb from the beginning of the project to a point somewhere in front of the Post Office (TBD). There will be some minor widening on the Jacobson property to maintain the standard 28 feet. It will be at a lower grade so not as pronounced on Jacobson's property. Some pavement will be removed going up the hill. We will have to take some land for pavement and give away some pavement for land.

Gary Giroux reviewed the culvert. Gary noted he has an issue with taking the culvert out of the project because it has not been inspected. The culvert is not going to last another 75 to 90 years. He noted its foolish to do this project and then go back in 10 years and redo the culvert. Steven Tiezzi noted either the culvert needs to be reconstructed or it

doesn't. It was Gary's opinion from an engineering standpoint that the culvert should be reconstructed. Gary further noted there is rusting, scouring, undermining of the culvert itself, the upstream headwall sits on the ground and there is no cutoff wall on it. He indicated they weren't hired to do a detailed inspection of the culvert. That wasn't part of the contract. They came into this project with the understanding the project would last for "x" number of years. He reiterated he does not know the actual condition of the culvert. Steven Tiezzi noted he was not comfortable saying the culvert will not be reconstructed.

There was discussion about when the culvert inspection could be done and how it is done – camera, someone goes through it, photos, etc.

Ed Meehan noted its obvious the upstream headwall has problems and has to be replaced.

John Schroeder noted this project has to last for the next 75 years so why don't we replace the culvert so it will last 75 years. Steven noted it should at least be investigated before going out to bid. Ed Meehan noted it should be investigated and something put in the budget for contingency.

There was discussion as to whether or not the road should be milled. Gary noted it could be milled if the culvert stays. The cost of the project and impact on adjacent properties was reviewed.

There was discussion regarding use of a corrugated metal culvert. Chairman Joplin asked Gary how long that would last. His response was 50 years. Joplin noted if the culvert is to be saved, it has to be inspected and someone has to sign off on it. The question is can we replace the culvert, maintain the roadway as it is and minimize impact to adjacent properties. Its important the roadbed be kept basically the same elevation. Joplin noted he would go with a corrugated metal culvert if the roadbed can be kept at same elevation. The question is – should the culvert be saved, what is the condition of the culvert. The Committee needs hard answers to this question and needs them quickly.

Steven Tiezzi noted if the culvert is inspected and found to be adequate, then we don't touch it. If inadequate, it gets replaced with a metal corrugated culvert so the elevation

of the roadbed doesn't have to be changed.

Ed Meehan noted the culvert should be left alone, fix the headwalls, investigate the culvert when construction is going on and fix in place if needed, don't raise the elevation so as not to affect the utility poles. John Schroeder noted this should be investigated now, not during construction.

Ed Meehan noted the Town has until January 7th to have a signed agreement back to D.O.T. that it accepts the STEAP Grant money.

Charlene Janecek asked how long it would take to get the culvert inspected.

Steven noted its important to note the Committee has stressed over this ever since it was brought up. Ed noted this has to be coordinated with CWC. Steven noted the road alignment is where we want it now.

There was discussion regarding when the culvert could be inspected. Ed Meehan noted that information needs to be available before the next Board of Selectmen meeting.

Chairman Joplin noted the only other way to do this is a bid alternative, the headwall will be repaired or replaced. At the time of the project, the culvert will be inspected and a decision made then. Al Bisacky agreed with the bid alternative. Joplin asked Bisacky if he would go with the concrete or metal culvert. Bisacky noted he would keep the corrugated metal and keep the elevation down.

It was agreed Stadia will do the culvert inspection as soon as possible. Joplin noted the Committee will then review the inspection results and determine if there will be a bid alternative to repair existing or replace existing. Gary noted it will be clear after the inspection as to what to do.

Brian Kent noted at the last meeting there was discussion regarding the height of the light fixture in the parking lot and whether this would be a nuisance to adjoining property owners. Brian noted he has found a manufacturer who will build to our specifications and set the height to whatever is needed. The criteria is to have sufficient lighting to illuminate the parking lot so individuals feel safe and secure while walking in

there. The light fixture has been set from the point where light emits at 8 feet. They tried to balance functionality and aesthetics. The parking lot is 200 feet long and the lights will be 60 feet apart. This is the spacing one would do normally for street lighting on a downtown sidewalk. The objective is to find the balance between sufficient light and reduction of glare. It was Brian's opinion that in the cemetery less light will go farther. If the Committee feels this design is acceptable, the Chester fixture can be maintained on a similar truncated pole sitting on a concrete base. One couldn't afford to have the fixtures hit and damaged by cars. A photometrics analysis will be done. Steven noted conceptually there is a manufacturer who can make a pole that is adjustable. Now it is a matter of doing a foot candle diagram so the Committee can review it and approve it.

John Schroeder noted if it proves to be inadequate, another fixture may have to be added. Brian noted there will not be noticeable lighting overlapping from one fixture to another. This should not be oversized.

Cost of the lighting was reviewed. Brian noted the budget needs to be balanced and a subjective decision needs to be made on how much lighting is appropriate. Everyone agreed Brian should move forward with the design as long as it doesn't shine on adjacent properties.

There was discussion regarding the grass strip. Chuck Mueller noted there needs to be room for signs and mailboxes. Ed Meehan noted everyone he spoke to said to get rid of the grass strip. John Schroeder asked about parking signs. Brian noted if there is no grass strip, they are embedded into the sidewalk. It was noted the road width in that area is 24 feet. It was noted the parking in that area will stay as is as a result of changing the road. Ed Meehan noted 5 parking spaces are picked up at the cemetery. Ed also noted the Board of Selectmen want to use asphalt curbing to save \$40,000. Leslie Strauss asked if it could be kept in as a bid alternate. The reply was yes. John Schroeder asked why the Committee keeps revisiting decisions all the time. Leslie noted the Board of Selectmen have come back with that recommendation. John noted the Committee is trying to save pennies and will pay for it down the line.

There was further discussion regarding the grass strip. Steven noted if the grass strip is eliminated, that will change the visual impact.

Chairman Joplin noted the recommendation to the Selectmen is that the bid alternate be granite curbing on the south side and replace the grass strip in front of 115 and 119 Main Street. Brian and Gary were asked to restore the grass strip as best they can and that will be the recommendation back to the Selectmen.

Chairman Joplin reminded everyone the vote at the Town Meeting tonight is to access the State STEAP Grant money and doesn't involve the Town Budget.

5. Adjournment

There being no further business, the Committee adjourned at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judith R. Brown". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the text "Respectfully submitted,".

Judith R. Brown, Recording Secretary