

1. Call to Order

The Chester Main Street Project Committee held its regular meeting on October 28, 2014 at the Chester Town Hall, 203 Middlesex Avenue, Chester, Connecticut. Chairman Joplin called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

2. Seating of Members

In attendance were Michael Joplin, Chuck Mueller, John Divis and Leslie Strauss. Charlene Janecek arrived at 8:20 PM. It is noted a quorum was not present.

3. Discussion with Connecticut Water Company (CWC) regarding replacement of water main on Main Street in Village
Dan Lesnieski from CWC and Allan Hull from B&L were present.

Chairman Joplin noted the Committee would like to get the water main in before the Main Street Project. Its approximately 1800 linear feet from Laurel Hill Cemetery to Route 154. The Main Street Bridge is being replaced in January 2016.

Dan Lesnieski noted they are looking to go from Maple Street to Route 154 and have worked with B & L and put together a set of plans. They will do what they can this Fall and come back in the Spring and finish off everything. Their work will be influenced by the weather and town conditions. They will do what they can to try and stay ahead of the Main Street Project.

Chairman Joplin asked what the date was for stopping in the winter. Allan Hull noted it depends on when the asphalt plants close, usually around December 15th. If its a bad year, it could be Thanksgiving. Joplin asked when they would start again in the Spring. Allan noted the first part of April.

Chairman Joplin noted the questionable time is early December to early April. He asked how long it would take to get from Route 154 to Maple Street. Allan replied 20 working days. They do 150 feet a day. This would also include the culvert.

Chairman Joplin asked Mr. Hull when they could get started. Allan replied November 10th. They would like to get the main line in before winter shut down and come back in the Spring to do the services. First Selectman Meehan noted there are about 26 homes. Allan noted they would take about 2 weeks and the asphalt plant would have to be open.

Ed Meehan noted there should be a contract by end of February or

early March. D.O.T. has all their DEEP permits in place. They are still negotiating with property owners on rights-of-way but should be done by end of the year. Utility work should begin early fall 2015.

Joplin noted our Main Street project should start mid April to first of May. It would be nice to have 3 or 4 months of breathing room between our project and the bridge replacement.

Allan noted biggest concern is traffic. The road is narrow in many areas. It would be beneficial if traffic is detoured. There may be times when traffic is stopped in both directions. Discussion ensued regarding detouring. Chief Grzybowski noted it is easier for emergency services to just go around. Allan noted they would start at the center of town and work up to Route 154. Ed Meehan noted he was not opposed to shutting the road down for non-localized traffic, but it must be kept open for local traffic and for the Post Office.

There was discussion regarding paving of the trenched area. Dan noted each town has their own criteria. He also asked what the town's requirements were for traffic management. It was felt signage, barriers and directional personnel would be sufficient. Police were not necessary.

Laydown area was discussed. John Divis, Public Works Foreman, noted there is the Maple Street Parking lot and North Quarter Park. Parking of equipment on the road was discussed, but it was noted the road is very narrow.

Chuck Mueller asked if CWC was realizing any scope of work or material cost savings because the Main Street Project is following right after. Dan noted he has to be able to justify cost to the regulators, but perhaps there can be some discussions regarding sharing of some costs.

Street Cut Permit, bonding and insurance was reviewed. This will be taken care of in the next two weeks. John Divis will also coordinate with Allan regarding the laydown area.

There was discussion regarding any additional hydrants. Chief Grzybowski noted he would like to see additional hydrants at 86 Main and at the Main Street Bridge. He also would like the hydrant in front of Chesterfield's moved to the other side of the driveway. Chief Grzybowski and Allan Hull will communicate regarding the hydrants.

First Selectman Meehan noted letters will be going out to adjacent

property owners by the end of next week. Gary Giroux noted the CWC letter should be sent separately as to not confuse the issue.

Meehan noted everything should be paved and buttoned up for the winter. It was agreed paving will be done twice a week or every couple of days. Meehan also noted there should be erosion control measures in the catch basins. There should also be protection around the culvert area, hay bales, etc. Dan noted the existing main is upstream of the existing culvert. They will be going under the culvert. Gary to provide an elevation for the culvert.

There was discussion as to whether an Inland Wetlands Permit was required. Dan noted Public Utilities are exempt from Inland Wetlands.

There was further discussion regarding traffic signage, parking, etc.

It was Keith Leone is the Project Coordinator working with Allan Hull.

It was noted additional detailed grading plans will be done by Monday.

There was further discussion regarding letters to property owners involved in this project. Each letter will contain what is to occur on each property, what kind of easement is required, if any, as well as a grading plan. These letters will go out next week.

A Public Informational Meeting has been scheduled for November 25th. Messrs. Meehan and Joplin will meet with all the property owners individually prior to the public meeting. Meehan noted a draft letter has been reviewed by the Town Attorney and he has asked for a sample easement document. It was noted WPCA will be offering a reduction of the tie in fee for the town sewer system.

4. Final review of 70% completion plans

5. Discussion of finalizing 90% completion plans within two to three weeks

Chairman Joplin asked when the 90% completion plans would be done. Gary Giroux noted they will be close to 90% by November 13th. They are approaching 90% now. Joplin noted the 90% plans should be ready by Monday, November 10th. Chariman Joplin asked how long it would take to get from 90% to bid documents. Gary noted the first week in January is doable. First Selectman Meehan noted D.O.T. has to do a cursory review of the engineering. We also have to demonstrate we have the money in place. Bid advertising should be middle to end of

January. Awarding of bid should be second or third week of March.

Chairman Joplin asked Gary Giroux how long the project should take. Gary noted if they start mid April 2015, he didn't see why it shouldn't be done by end of summer. The culvert has to be done between June 1 and September 30.

Chairman Joplin asked if SNET has been notified about moving poles. Gary indicated everyone has been notified.

6. Discussion of time line for next year including final public presentation, going to Board of Finance, Planning & Zoning and Town Meeting

It was noted the Section 8-24 Planning & Zoning meeting is November 13th. The Board of Finance meeting is November 20th. There is a public informational meeting scheduled for November 25th. The Town Meeting will be either the first or second week of December.

Chuck Mueller asked if Committee members should attend the Planning & Zoning meeting on the 13th. Chairman Joplin noted he hoped at least 6 or 7 Committee members would attend. Meehan noted the important thing is to present P&Z members with a written statement in advance of the meeting pulling information from the Plan of Conservation & Development (POCD) along with its recommendations that will effect the Main Street (East) area improvements. There are several in the 2009 Plan. The purpose of the Section 8-24 referral is to be consistent with the POCD.

Available funding was reviewed as was estimated soft costs and estimated project construction costs. The Memo from Stadia Engineering Associates dated October 27, 2014 outlining Bid Alternate Options was also reviewed. Chuck Mueller noted Deduct Alternate #3 should be removed as the Committee stated it did not want to entertain that as an alternate. It was also pointed out that reducing or deferring trees and landscaping was omitted from the list. It was noted the field office will come out of the project entirely.

There was further discussion regarding the possibility of adding Laurel Hill Cemetery to Phase 2, granite curbing and Chesterfield's wall. Joplin asked if the Town of Chester could take on the wall project like it does the road projects. Meehan noted there may be a possibility of putting it in as a Capital Maintenance Project.

Meehan noted this project also qualified for LoCIP funds and there is about \$50,000 there.

It was noted a decision needs to be made on the granite curbing.

Chuck Mueller noted the Chesterfield's wall has the potential for large change orders. It is wide open for unknowns.

Charlene Janecek asked if there was any way to save the lighting part of Laurel Hill Cemetery. Discussion followed as to what work could be done and what work could be deferred.

Leslie Strauss asked how the \$65,000 cost savings was broken down. She felt the parking lot has visual safety improvements because this predates the bridge and employees will have to use that parking lot for parking. Gary noted the light poles were \$3,700 each. There was discussion regarding dark sky lighting requirements. Leslie asked if the fancy lights were necessary in the Cemetery. Gary noted the lighting could be done and the paving could be deferred. Leslie noted the Town does not need fancy period lighting in the Cemetery. Chuck agreed. Chairman Joplin noted he would like to hear a price for temporary lighting as he felt this was an urgent need. He wasn't sure permanent lighting could be afforded right now. It was agreed an affordable alternate should be looked at for safety purposes.

7. Discussion of time line with D.O.T. for bridge replacement
Bridge discussion was held at various times during the meeting.

8. Approval of Minutes

The October 14, 2014 Minutes were amended by consensus as follows -

Page 4, 6th paragraph, add to 2nd sentence, "...Post Office and a few other key locations."

Page 4, 6th paragraph, add after 3rd sentence, "Schroeder noted that he does not recall any such discussion. In fact, we spend a lot of time talking about engineering issues, as we should, but very little time discussing aesthetic issues."

9. Approval of Bills - none.

10. Other Business of the Committee

11. Next Meeting - To Be Determined

It was decided there would be no meeting before November 13th and the Section 8-24 Referral to Planning & Zoning. The next regularly scheduled meeting is December 9, 2014.

12. Audience of Citizens

Christopher Moore and Virginia Carmany were present.

Chris Moore noted the Town is spending a lot of time on Phase 1. He indicated the replacement of the bridge is coming up and hoped the Town didn't run out of money for Phase 2, etc. Phase 2 will be after the bridge, January to May 2016 and the water main at the same time. Detailed plans will be a year and half two years after the bridge. Mr. Moore noted his concern was spending money for something the residents didn't ask for.

Chairman Joplin noted part of the problem when you run a project on a STEAP Grant, you are better off doing an uncomplicated part and establish a track record. This makes it easier to get future STEAP Grants. Chuck Mueller noted Phase 1 was voted as the easier one to prove a track record.

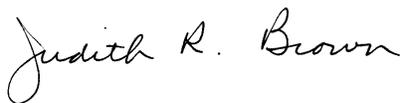
Chris Moore noted cutting the budget was not what was sold to the residents a year ago and they won't be happy with that. The residents will be bitter for Phase 2.

Virginia Carmany asked if the Committee still had the estimate for all the phases. Meehan replied yes. Virginia will get a copy of it from First Selectman Meehan.

13. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Judith R. Brown, Recording Secretary