

1. Call to Order

The Chester Main Street Project Committee held a Special Meeting immediately following a Public Informational Meeting on Tuesday, April 22, 2014, at the Chester Town Hall, 203 Middlesex Avenue, Chester, Connecticut. Acting Chairman Chuck Mueller called the meeting to order at 9:15 PM.

2. Seating of Members

Committee members in attendance and seated were Chuck Mueller, Steven Tiezzi, John Divis, Michael Joplin, Leslie Strauss, Charlene Janecek and Virgil Lloyd (departed the meeting at 9:40 PM). Brian Kent, Gary Giroux and First Selectman Meehan were also present.

3. Discussion of Main Street Bridge

Acting Chairman Mueller noted the bridge materials list must be approved and sent to D.O.T. by the end of this month. Brian Kent reviewed the bridge material list and the D.O.T. limit of work noting there is a good amount of streetscape in this area.

Mr. Kent noted there would be five (5) new lights. He pointed out the existing bridge and concrete. Mr. Kent reviewed the standard finish concrete noting there would be limited control over the color of sand. The sand has to be to a very specific specification in order to work. In order to get a darker concrete the Town should specify no blast furnace slag and 5 to 10% of fly ash. It was agreed the sidewalk material should not be pure white.

Mr. Kent noted the existing curbing is too far gone. The options are a conventional straight faced, salt and pepper gray granite. There is also a Phoenix darker gray and a blue mist darker gray. Kent noted all curbing will have split face. He indicated everyone had agreed to date to grind the corner so it's not sharp. The most cost effective way to do that is to take a grinder and grind off the corner. He indicated Mr. Schroeder, in his email, was emphatic that the Committee should consider a true bevel. Kent noted that would be saw cutting and would be very expensive. Mr. Kent reminded everyone that a precedent is being set on the bridge and therefore will be carried out through the rest of downtown. His recommendation was to go with standard 6" gray curbing with ground edge. There was discussion regarding thermal edging. It was agreed to do salt and pepper, ground edge, thermal top, concrete broom finish with whatever constituents in the mix make it darker.

Mr. Kent next reviewed the conventional Belgian block strips noting it should be a flush mortar joint. Kent noted most of these come out of Massachusetts. The colors are pink, grey, yellow and black. Mr.

Kent recommended regulation grey cobblestone (5 x 5 x 9) which is what John Schroeder recommended in his email.

With regard to crosswalks, Mr. Kent noted D.O.T. doesn't want to do anything different than the stripes. Chairman Joplin noted painted stripes is not acceptable. They wear away. The color needs to be in contrast with the asphalt. There was much discussion regarding crosswalks.

With regard to the railing, the railing today has no end blocks but is mounted on a parapet. The new bridge was designed with end blocks because they thought the Town wanted them. Mr. Kent noted cast iron bollards are available that are identical to the base of the existing lamp posts. The Princeton lamp post and the Spring City bollards could be used as end blocks that terminate the bridge railing. Mr. Kent reviewed a railing he saw in Massachusetts that had been designed by Dave Stahnke. The railings were mounted directly on the bridge. It was decided no vertical pickets and the color black would be used uniformly throughout the downtown.

First Selectman Meehan asked about the chain link fence in front of Helene's property. Mr. Kent noted that fence would be replaced with a steel ornamental picket fence. Meehan noted the replacement of the chain link fence and the picket fence should be consistent.

Mr. Kent noted he received a phone call from James Barrington indicating he was concerned about pigeons under the bridge. Barrington had suggested some kind of screening to prevent the pigeons from sitting there.

It is noted for the record Virgil Lloyd left the meeting at this time.

Mr. Kent reviewed the lighting by Scofield. He indicated Scofield makes the luminaire and sources the posts. He has a meeting with Doreen Joslow and her designer on May 19<sup>th</sup>. Scofield can design a light that has very sophisticated equipment that will throw light out into the street. New lights would have a solid top. There is a question as to whether or not D.O.T. will accept this because it is not D.O.T. certified. He hasn't heard back from Dave Stahnke relative to this matter. Mr. Kent noted incandescent lighting, as mentioned in John Schroeder's email, just is not possible. Kent further noted he is confident the desired lighting and performance can be achieved with LED lighting. Acting Chairman Mueller noted he has spoken with Mrs. Joslow's designer who indicated LED lighting will be fine and that legally incandescent lighting can't be used.

Acting Chair Mueller further noted Mr. Schroeder's impression of LED lighting is wrong. The Deep River lighting is metal halight, not LED. The height calculation has to be worked out.

Mr. Kent reviewed benches and trash receptacles. He also noted D.O.T. will have to allow for a wayfinding sign. He reviewed the bike racks which are bolt ons.

First Selectman Meehan noted Dave Stahnke wanted to know about the Town's work schedule. Chairman Joplin noted the consensus was they would work 12-15 hours a day, but not 24/7. It would be 6 AM to 8 PM and maybe on Saturday. Meehan also confirmed with Committee members that the Town wants the curbing, the water trough and the map on the bridge. It was agreed those items should be turned over to the Town.

Chairman Joplin asked if the State operates with a performance bond and how they vet the contractors. First Selectman Meehan noted he wasn't sure about per diem penalties but they do require performance bonds.

It was noted if the bridge work goes into May to July, there would certainly be some business closures in downtown.

**Motion by Tiezzi, second by Janecek, to advise Brian Kent to proceed with the materials specifications for the Main Street Bridge which are those being used on the Main Street Phase 1 Project as presented and discussed at this meeting. Voting in favor - Tiezzi, Janecek, Divis, Strauss, Joplin, Mueller. Opposed - none. Motion Carried.**

#### 4. Discussion of Public Informational Meeting Comments

It was agreed public comment was a lot more encouraging than expected. Steven Tiezzi asked if the Committee needed to give any further direction to the Selectmen. First Selectman Meehan noted he was more confident now because of the turnout at this meeting and receipt of the letter from the Meades. He will now bring this back to the Board of Selectmen once he gets a set of plans dated April 22, 2014 for a vote. Meehan further noted this will go to Town Meeting when there is the need to release Town funds. The Town currently has 85% of the funding.

#### 5. Approval of Minutes - March 25, 2014 and April 8, 2014

**Motion by Tiezzi, second by Janecek, to approve March 25, 2014 and April 8, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes as written. Voting in favor - Tiezzi, Divis, Strauss, Mueller. Opposed - none. Abstained - Janecek, Joplin. Motion Carried.**

6. Approval of Bills - none.

7. Other Business of the Committee - none.

8. Next Meeting - May 13, 2014

The next regular meeting of the Committee is May 13, 2014.

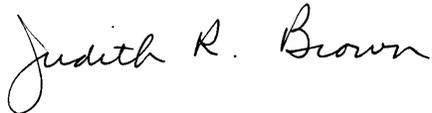
9. Audience of Citizens - none.

10. Adjournment

**Motion by Strauss, second by Divis, to adjourn at 10:15 PM.**

**Voting in favor - Strauss, Divis, Janecek, Tiezzi, Joplin,  
Mueller. Opposed - none. Motion Carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judith R. Brown".

Judith R. Brown, Recording Secretary