

MAIN STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

MAY 18, 2020 WEEK #5 ACTIVITIES

During week #4 of the project it was necessary to modify the schedule of work tasks because of delays in shipment of the new granite curbing. The Main Street improvements call for the installation of 1,140 feet of granite curbing to be set at 4 -inch height and granite top catch basins. The curb design will come with a bevel edge adjacent to on-street parallel parking spaces. This granite is durable, functional and will significantly enhance the business center's appearance.

Not to let this delay slow the project down and to work around setting the granite curb the contractor installed the catch basins on the northside of Main Street with temporary concrete tops. Moved onto work at the Chester wall for construction of the new wider Spring Street stairs. The area around the stairs will be reconstructed using the original salvaged wall stones. Also, the contractor removed the old sidewalk from the old Town Hall to River Tavern and placed a temporary gravel course for pedestrian use. Removing the sidewalk at this time advances two tasks that must be completed before pouring the new sidewalk and installing Belgium blocks.

Week #5 tasks are setting the concrete bases for the decorative lights and trenching for the electrical service conduit. Completion of these tasks will facilitate setting the granite curbing when it arrives then followed by sidewalk layout. Also planned is completing the storm water drainage in the driveway between the old Town and Otto's. This work involves connecting the adjacent building drainpipes into the storm system.

The removal of the sidewalk between Pattaconk 1850 and River Tavern revealed sections of deteriorated weatherboard that was anticipated and is necessary to repair before the new sidewalks can be installed. Sidewalks are wide in this section of Main Street and the contractor, after repair of weatherboard, may pour sections of new sidewalk, leaving the front section in gravel for install of light bases and conduit.

These are examples of the contractor's cooperation and efforts to make orderly tasks adjustments to keep progressing the pace of the project.

This phase of Main Street project involves almost 700 feet of roadway and sidewalks that has seen minimal improvements over the past 50 years. Unexpected construction situations occur in old village centers. Chester's business center is unique, and this construction project will positively address such situations if necessary. The Main Street plan will result in long overdue improvements, we are fortunate to have very qualified professional engineers and an experienced contractor helping the Town realize this goal.

For questions, comments and suggestions please contact Ed Meehan, emeehanrox@yahoo.com or 860-471-9404

