

Department of Public Works
Advisory Board Meeting
November 8, 2005

Approved

The meeting was held in Room 211 at the town hall on Tuesday November 8, 2005 at 7:30 AM. Present were Advisory Board Members Eric Sonnett and Jim Pyne, DPW Director J.T. Gaucher, DPW Administrative Manager Bruce Prentiss, Highway Manager Mike Mansir and Water/Sewer Manager Eric Carty. Also present were town residents Mary Pratt and David Adelman; Selectmen Executive Secretary Ted Kozak and representatives from Rice Associates, KSS and The Maguire Group.

40B PROJECT WOOD STREET

Representatives from Rice Associates presented a proposal for a 40B development on Wood Street on what is now the Quitt property. The proposal is for 5 buildings with a total of 60 housing units. They are requesting a connection to the municipal water system, but said that a sewer treatment plant will be built on site. Mr. Carty advised the board that the town is approaching its water withdrawal limit as set forth in our water withdrawal permit. A copy of Mr. Carty's water use document is attached. The board advised Rice Associates that they would take the request under advisement.

RECYCLING INSPECTION

Mr. Adelman spoke to the board about the Board of Selectmen's request for someone to check on the percentage of town residents that recycle. The board recommended that Mr.

Gaucher, Mr. Kozak, Mr. Adelman and a representative from Allied Waste Services set up a meeting to coordinate the effort.

STORM DAMAGE

Mr. Gaucher advised the board that the damage to the culvert on Front Street was found to be more severe than thought. The culvert pipe has failed and will need replacing and not a minor repair as previously thought. The new estimate for the work, from J.H. Lynch, is \$50,185.00. The board suggested that Mr. Gaucher update the storm damage estimate that was submitted to FEMA, which Mr. Gaucher said he would do.

Mr. Gaucher advised the board that the Chapter 90 funds for the repairs to the North Mill Street Bridge have been submitted and should be approved within a few days. That repair work is scheduled to start before the end of the month.

The damage on Fourth Road and Granite Street is not as serious as North Mill Street and Front Street and therefore temporary repairs will be made this fall and more permanent repairs will be done in the spring.

The repairs to Hearthstone Road are about 80% complete. The final paving is going to be deferred until spring. Sub-drains have been installed and a drainage swale still needs work this fall.

TRAFFIC FLOW STUDY

The Maguire Group presented the results of their traffic study of the intersections at Main Street and Grove Street, Main Street and Wood Street and West Main Street and School Street. A copy of their presentation is attached.

They reported that due to the geometry of the Route 135/Route 85 intersection it would not be feasible to install left turn lanes in all directions. They recommended adding a right turn lane to Main Street westbound and optimizing the timing of the existing traffic lights.

At Main Street and Wood Street they looked at the options of changing the intersection to have a minimum radius turn, a constant radius turn and a “tee” intersection. The minimum radius turn concept would bring the roadway to within about 11 feet of the house at the corner. The constant radius turn and the “tee” intersection would require removal of the house. The timing of the traffic lights is set forth by Mass Highway.

The intersection of West Main and School Street did not meet the Mass Highway warrant for installing traffic lights because the conflicting turning vehicle volumes onto West Main Street are too low. They did recommend adding a left turn lane on West Main Street westbound, and said with minor right of way additions on School Street (both directions) the safety at the intersection could be improved.

The board suggested that more research should be done on the timing of the traffic lights at Main Street and Wood Street and that the intersection at West Main Street and School Street should be looked at in more detail to determine if there is a way Mass Highway would agree that there is need for a traffic light at that location.

WEST ELM STREET 40B PROPOSAL

Representatives from West Elm Street Acquisition LLC and H.C.H.T.F. Inc presented a proposal for a 31 unit 2-bedroom multi-family development on West Elm Street. The developer is proposing to widen West Elm Street in the area of the entrance to the project. Mr. Gaucher said that widening of the road would be required for safety, and that with full width resurfacing the road would be safer with better line of sight than what exists today. Mr. Gaucher said he would draft a letter to the Planning Board supporting the proposal for the road improvements.

Mr. Pyne made a motion that the board should recommend to the Board of Selectmen that the town should accept the improvements to West Elm Street, pending engineering review of the plans and Planning Board approval of the project. Mr. Sonnett seconded the motion and it was approved by a unanimous vote.

DRAINAGE ISSUES

Mrs. Pratt said that she has noticed storm water run off from the new Fafard project on Wood Street and has spoken with the engineers about it. She said she was told it would be acceptable after all the catch basins were put into service. She questioned whether that information is correct. Mr. Gaucher said he has on-going communication with Fay,

Spofford & Thorndike (the engineers) and representatives from Fafard. He said the issue will be resolved.

Mrs. Pratt said she has noticed storm water run off from Sylvan Lane onto Winter Street and wanted to know if that was going to be fixed before cold weather. Mr. Gaucher said he has on-going communication with the developer of Sylvan Lane and that problem will be fixed in the near future. The board asked Mr. Gaucher to report back at the next meeting with an update of the two issues.

MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the October 25, 2005 meeting were approved as submitted on a motion made by Mr. Pyne and seconded by Mr. Sonnett. The vote to approve was unanimous.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday November 29, 2005 at 7:30 AM in room 211 at the town hall.

This meeting was adjourned at 10:10 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Prentiss