

Department of Public Works
Advisory Board Meeting
July 25, 2006
Approved

The meeting was held in Room 211 at the town hall on Tuesday July 25, 2006 at 7:30 AM. Present were Advisory Board Members Eric Sonnett, Jim Pyne and Dan McIntyre, DPW Director J.T. Gaucher, DPW Administrative Manager Bruce Prentiss, Highway Manager Mike Mansir, Water/Sewer Manager Eric Carty, Selectmen Muriel Kramer and Mary Pratt, Executive Secretary Ted Kozak, Also present were town residents Nancy Peters and David Beattie.

INFLOW/INFILTRATION STUDY UPDATE

Mr. Carty updated the board on the sewer inflow/infiltration study. He said almost all the property owners with questionable sump pump connections have been contacted. Attempts are still being made to contact the rest of the owners. Several owners purchased the property after sewer was installed and were unaware that they had a sump pump that was discharging into the sewer system. To date 3 pumps have been disconnected from the sewer system and the others should be disconnected in the near future. The majority of the pumps were in the center of town area.

Mr. Carty also explained that several manholes have been treated with a new product, which is painted on, to make seams between cement tiles water tight and to plug lift holes in the cement tiles.

SEWER CONNECTION REQUEST AT 241 WEST MAIN STREET

At a previous meeting a sewer connection request for 241 West Main Street was approved by the board. At the time of the request the property owner had reached an agreement with a neighbor to obtain a sewer easement across their land to connect into the low pressure sewer on Oakhurst Road. However, the neighbor failed to grant the easement and the house at 241 West Main Street was not connected. Since then the owner has attempted to obtain a sewer easement from other neighbors, but none are willing to grant the easement.

Mr. Carty said he has received an inquiry as to whether it would be feasible to run the sewer pipe out to West Main Street and then down West Main Street, a distance of approximately 300 feet, and connect to the existing low pressure sewer at West Main Street and Oakhurst Road. Carty said that due to storm drains, water mains and other underground utilities in the area it would be very difficult to make that connection and it would be very expensive. Connection to the low pressure at West Main Street and Oakhurst Road would also require the system to be shut down while the connection was being made, which would require pump trucks be standing by to transfer the sewerage to the pump station.

The board suggested to Mr. Carty that if he could determine how much this connection would cost compared to an easement it might help the owner to obtain the easement from one of the neighbors. Nancy Peters questioned whether or not there might be any kind of grant money available to offset the cost of either the connection or the easement.

STAGECOACH HEIGHTS WATER RUN OFF

Mr. Beattie explained to the board that the storm water run off from the Stagecoach Heights Development has been causing erosion along both sides of Wood Street in the area of the I-495 bridge. He said he has attempted to contact Mr. Gaucher several times both by phone and in person and all messages left for Mr. Gaucher to return his call went unanswered. He said in his opinion a public official should be required to return calls to citizens with concerns. Mr. Gaucher apologized to Mr. Beattie for not returning his calls.

Mr. Gaucher explained to the board that the storm drains in the project have silt cloth installed, as required by the Conservation Commission to help control erosion. Therefore the catch basins are not working as they normally would, and further explained that Fafard is not keeping the silt fabric clean and this is adding to the run off problem. Mrs. Pratt said she checked the area a few days ago and the hay bales designed to help control run off were scattered all around and there did not appear to be a sufficient number of them to work properly.

Mr. Pyne asked about the order of conditions for the project and who is in charge of enforcing the order. It was mentioned that while the building inspector has authority to enforce zoning regulations this project was transferred to Mr. Gaucher for oversight by the Zoning Board. Mr. Gaucher said he has spoken to the building inspector and he is going to be issuing an enforcement order in the near future.

Mr. McIntyre suggested that Mr. Gaucher should request the storm water run off permit and all associated records, as required to be kept by DEP. If the provisions of the permit are not being followed, or if the records do not exist Mr. Gaucher has the authority to

shut down the project until proper action is taken. Mr. Gaucher said he will go to the site after this meeting and request that information.

LUMBER STREET WATER DEPARTMENT LAND

Mr. Carty said he has spoken with Elaine at the Planning Board and asked if the property owned by the Water Department on Lumber Street is considered a buildable lot. He was told that because of the limited frontage it did not qualify as a buildable lot for a building, but it might be able to be considered for a tower or some other use.

At the last meeting Mr. Kozak said he would check with other town departments to determine if any of them might have a use for the property and is still waiting for an answer from some departments.

The board took no action regarding the sale of the property to allow time for those departments to respond to Mr. Kozak's request.

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Mr. Gaucher advised the board that the bid opening for the Spring Street and West Main Street water main upgrade is tomorrow morning at 10:00 AM at 66 Fruit Street.

Mr. Gaucher said the driveway and parking lot at EMC Park is scheduled to be paved the first part of August. The board suggested to Mr. Gaucher that he should assure pavement markings are applied.

Mr. Pyne asked Mr. Gaucher if he has found money to make sure West Main is paved from curb to curb at the completion of the water main project. Mr. Gaucher said there is money designated for that paving. He also said the test borings showed some level of cement base under West Main Street and if sufficient cement is found during construction it might not be necessary to use a new cement compound base for the new road surface.

There was discussion about the status of the storm drain run off at the Brock property at 283 Hayden Rowe Street. Mr. Gaucher said he spent about 6 hours speaking to former town counsel Faiman about the matter, and Mr. Faiman never responded with a definitive answer. Mr. Mansir again reminded everyone that this run off problem creates an on-going extreme safety issue, as he has mentioned at past meetings every time this matter is discussed.

Mr. McIntyre made a motion that the board should submit a request for use of town counsel to the Board of Selectmen, to be acted on at their meeting tonight, for 2 hours with the new town counsel, Mr. DeAngelis. Mr. Sonnett and Mrs. Kramer said they would attend the meeting along with Mr. Gaucher and Mr. Mansir. The motion was seconded by Mr. Pyne and approved by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Sonnett asked Mr. Gaucher what effect the increase in liquid asphalt prices will have on road paving projects. Mr. Gaucher said the cost will definitely increase and that new paving contracts have liquid asphalt clauses added now to allow cost increases as the cost of materials continues to rise. We have no major paving jobs scheduled for this summer,

so it is difficult to determine just how much of an impact there will be next year when we plan to do substantial paving.

MINUTES

The minutes of the July 11, 2006 meeting were approved as submitted on a motion by Mr. Pyne and seconded by Mr. McIntyre. The vote was unanimous.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday August 8, 2006 at 7:30 AM in room 211 at the town hall.

This meeting was adjourned at 8:55 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Prentiss, Administrative Manager DPW