

Selectmen's PUBLIC HEARING Minutes

Monday, January 7, 2019

PUBLIC HEARING:

To discuss and hear public comment on the Brattleboro Road Sidewalk Improvement Project

Present: Chairman Darcy, Selectmen Gallagher, Diorio, McCosker and Rideout; T.A. Collins and Kim P. Worden.

6:30 p.m. Chairman Darcy opened the public hearing regarding the sidewalk project. There were nine members of the public present. This was the second (of two) public hearing on the matter. He turned it over to T.A. Collins who noted that this was voted on in 2016, we received a grant from the federal government for 80% of the project and the remaining funds will come from the Capital Improvement Plan funds we have set aside. All abutters were notified of this meeting.

Mike McNally, Engineer from KB Partners was again present to discuss and give an overview of this federally-funded sidewalk project. He showed an aerial photo to scale with proposed design on top while discussing the project to begin at Taylor Heights and continue to the intersection of Hancock Street and Route 63. He again discussed Right of Way distances (66 feet per DOT), crosswalk safety issues and placements, ADA compliant/requirements re: landings, drainage and catch basin concerns, and wall work possibilities. Curbs will define the edge of the roadway for improved safety. The hope is for construction to begin this Fall. He noted that DOT will provide catch basins and pipes for drainage. There should be very few easements.

Questions from the public were addressed. Edwin O. "Smokey" Smith asked if the finished sidewalk would be even with the highway or above. Discussion followed. It will be a little above, curb up seven inches with slopes, about six or eight from where it is now with a six or seven inch stepdown. Smokey asked about the Taylor Heights sidewalk and if the flashing light at Indian Acres will be the only one in this project. That will be the only one. Smokey brought up the blind spot concern near Prospect and High Streets. Challenges were discussed and noted with the engineer. Chair Darcy asked about the retaining wall issues on the High Street side. Those will be repaired if the sidewalk goes there, according to the Mike McNally. Following another question from Smokey, it was clarified that the width of the road would be 14 feet the whole way from Taylor Heights to Hancock St./Route 63 intersection (project area).

Seth Stafford identified himself as a property owner. His concerns included the proposed crosswalk near School Street and that kids traveling to Taylor Heights would not use it. He felt it should be in a different location. Line of sight was discussed as well as school zone requirements. Mike McNally made note to check on the sight distance.

Sharron Smith had concerns and questions re: the proposed sidewalk near the Catholic Church. It was noted that the existing location cannot stay, due to proximity to a driveway.

Lisa Prince was concerned that Plain Road and kids crossing there was not addressed. Discussion followed including concerns with that intersection. The engineer can let DOT know of those concerns. Smokey noted that funds are available through SWRPC. T.A. Collins will ask about it tomorrow when she attends a meeting.

7:04 p.m. Public Hearing Closed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim P. Worden
Secretary