

SELECTMENS' WORKSHOP
Minutes of 02/04/08
4:00 p.m.

Selectmen:

Frank S. Michel, Chairman
Peter F. Brothers, Vice Chairman
Robert C. Flanders
Miller C. Lovett
Colette Worsman

Town Manager:

Carol M. Granfield

Recording Clerk:

Karin Landry

The Workshop was opened by Chair Frank Michel at 4:00 p.m. The Chair introduced the Selectmen, Town Manager, and the Recording Clerk. The workshop format allows for dialogue among the Board followed by public input at the discretion of the Chair.

W 08-10 Water Line Easement – Corliss Hill Farm Subdivision
(Lyman Brewer Properties, LLC)

The Planning Board conditionally approved the 7-lot subdivision off Corliss Hill Rd. known as the Corliss Hill Subdivision. The road is complete to base pavement with a guaranty for the balance of the pavement. The applicant is nearing recordation of the final subdivision plan and associated legal documents. An as-built survey has been completed and signed off by Mike Faller and Bob Hill. The extension of municipal water necessitates an easement to the Town. The applicant's attorney submitted a draft water line easement. The draft is acceptable to Water & Sewer Department Superintendent Bob Hill. Town counsel Tim Bates reviewed the draft and made his recommendations. The applicant's attorney confirmed satisfactory title and there are no mortgages that need to be released. The cost of constructing the water main and the preparation of the associated as-built survey has been borne by the applicant. The subdivision represents up to seven additional water customers/rate payers. The water main will be maintained by the Town. There is an undeterminable cost associated with the future municipal operation and maintenance of the extension.

Dialogue ensued regarding maintaining public utilities on public roads. The water for the subdivision has been pre-allocated. In order to allow for additional public notice, the matter will be scheduled for action at the February 11 Board meeting.

W 08-11 Meredith Center Intersection

Joint meetings have been held over the past two years with the DOT and residents regarding the area of the Meredith Center intersection. The DOT presented modeling alternatives for the intersection at the January 27 meeting, including the 4-way stop proposed by the Town. The State did not appear to support the 4-way stop. The Town has not heard from the State with their final recommendations. If the Town wishes to

move beyond the local level, they can write a letter to the Commissioner. Improvements to Child's Park have been delayed because they could be impacted by whatever action is ultimately taken at the intersection. Speed and safety are big issues at the intersection. The police department stepped up enforcement in the area, which has helped in the short term. The Town Manager is seeking direction from the Board on the matter.

Public Works Director Mike Faller told the Board that the two designs that were presented by the New Hampshire DOT will not do much to slow down traffic to a comfortable level. They do not lead to any Park expansion, which is what residents and Parks and Recreation Director Vint Choiniere would like to see. Mike is in favor of a trial that would introduce a 4-way stop at the intersection. He estimates he can redirect the intersection for approximately \$10,000. If the experiment works, the Town can petition the State to make improvements to the intersection. The cost of the project would be shared by the Town and State.

Meredith resident Dr. Fred Hatch attended the January 9, 2008 meeting. The main concern of the residents is safety. They are generally in support of a 4-way intersection. The DOT expressed two concerns with a 4-way intersection – the running of stop signs, and the modification of the right hand turn area to accommodate trailer trucks. He does not believe that the state will go along with an experiment making a major modification of a state highway. Bill Oldenburg of the DOT presented an alternate T-intersection of Corliss Hill Rd. and Meredith Center Road. The proposal does not result in a reduction of speed on Meredith Center Rd. Dr. Hatch urged Mr. Oldenburg to add traffic calming measures approaching Meredith Center Road, including a striped 10-foot lane, substantial curbing, no or very small shoulders, center island doubling as crossing refuge, and double alternating yellow blinkers overhead. There was some level of agreement that a roundabout may be the best permanent solution. Dr. Hatch suggests the Board take the matter to the Assistant Commissioner of the DOT.

Community Development Director John Edgar agreed that the state is in firm opposition of a 4-way stop at the intersection. He does not think it is disrespectful to take the matter to a higher level. Dialogue ensued regarding the funding of a project at the intersection. Selectman Brothers supports the funding of surveys so options can be better considered.

Resident Tammy Carpentiere spoke on behalf of the residents in the area of the intersection. She thanked the Board for taking action on the matter and getting the ball rolling. Parks & Recreation Director Vint Choiniere told the Board that short-term improvements to the Park will be made including improvements to the playground surface and correcting safety issues.

The Board is concerned that the State is not hearing the speed and safety issues. Dialogue ensued regarding taking the matter to a higher level. The Board was in general agreement to take the matter to a higher level. It will send a letter to the DOT asking them to set forth the issues involved with the intersection, and the barriers to making a decision. The letter will request a response by a specific date. Selectman Lovett

suggested sending a letter to the state representative and senator regarding the matter. The Board is in favor of spending \$10,000 to fund an experiment on the intersection.

The Chair directed the Town Manager to prepare a letter to the DOT Commissioner for the Board's signature. A copy of the letter should be sent to the Assistant Commissioner and Nancy Mayville. The letter should refer to the positive working relationship the Town has had with the DOT.

W 08-09 Water Committee Charge

As a result of the last workshop, the water committee charge has been revised to provide for a longer-term, standing committee. The committee will present the preliminary findings of its work to the Board by October 6, 2008. The charge directs the committee to develop a strategy for a long-term plan, including capital needs. Additional work for the committee might be identified as it carries out the charge. Dialogue ensued regarding the charge. The Board agreed that 2(a) should read "Assessing water system needs and setting priorities"; and 2(b) should read "Recommendations on the adequacy of existing service area". Selectman Worsman suggested developing liaisons with the academic community on projects such as this. The Board was in general agreement that it is a good idea, and that it should be developed from above the water committee level. The charge will be scheduled for action at the February 11 Board meeting. The Town Manager will respond to those who have expressed an interest in serving on the committee once the charge is adopted.

Selectman Flanders motioned to move into a non-public meeting under RSA 91-A:3(c) and (d) at 5:15 p.m. Selectman polled. 5-0. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol M. Granfield, Town Manager

Frank S. Michel, Chairman

Karin Landry, Recording Clerk

Peter F. Brothers, Vice Chairman

Robert C. Flanders

Miller C. Lovett

Colette Worsman