

BOARD OF SELECTMEN WORKSHOP
Minutes of 05-16-11
4:15 p.m.

Selectmen:

Colette Worsman, Chairman
Peter F. Brothers, Vice Chairman
Miller C. Lovett
Nathan J. Torr
Herbert R. Vadney

Town Manager:

Phillip L. Warren

Recording Clerk:

Karin Landry

Call to Order: Chair Worsman called the meeting to order 4:15 p.m. She introduced the Board, Town Manager, and the Recording Clerk and made announcements pertaining to emergency exits and cell phones.

W 11-09 GMP Proposal Regarding Main Street Improvements

Bev Lapham of the Greater Meredith Program Main Street Design Committee presented a proposal to enhance the passageway that runs from the parking lot at the Inn at Mill Falls to Main Street. The passageway is located in the core of downtown, and is frequently used by shoppers to access Mill Falls and the shops on Main Street. The proposed improvements include a 200' walkway constructed of pavers, bench seating, and lighting. An artistic committee will develop and implement a plan for statuary pieces in two areas and work on concepts for the walls of the abutting buildings. A directional sign with a New England flavor will be placed at the Mill Falls end of the passageway. The Committee obtained a letter of agreement from the three abutters, Michelle Ricciuti, Ben Saunders, and the Inn at Mill Falls. Mr. Saunders agreed to tie the lampposts into the common box in his building, and will be carrying the costs of electrical use for the lampposts. The \$39,000 projected budget includes hiring local landscape designer Bickford Landscaping to complete the groundwork and install the pavers and sod. The remainder of the project will be completed throughout the summer by volunteers. The fundraising effort is underway, and construction is scheduled to begin sometime in June. It is estimated that it will take six to eight days to complete the initial phase of the project, which includes the groundwork, pavers, and sod. The abutting businesses will not be affected by the project.

Selectman Torr inquired who will be responsible for maintenance. The Committee is hopeful that the Town will agree to clear the pedestrian walkway from Main Street to the Mill Falls parking lot while they are snowblowing in the downtown area. In the summer, the landscaping will be maintained through an Adopt-A-Spot arrangement.

Selectman Brothers expressed concerns with legal issues surrounding the town maintaining property that is privately owned. If the landscaping is not properly maintained, it will be less desirable than what is in place at this time.

Selectman Vadney agrees that the legal issues must be explored, and inquired who will be responsible if damage is done to the walkway in the process of maintaining it. Mr. Lapham has been assured by the landscaper that the materials used and the manner in which they will be installed will hold up to the use of a snowblower in the winter.

Selectman Lovett inquired if an easement would allow the town to legally maintain the property. He sees the project as another step in the direction of making the property look interesting to people.

Selectman Worsman inquired who maintains the property at this time. Mr. Lapham believes that there is an informal arrangement among the abutters for maintenance of the property. It is not a primary access way for any particular property. Ms. Worsman expressed concerns about taking on any additional projects, whether or not a legal way can be found to do so.

Town Manager Phil Warren made a recommendation to seek advice from legal counsel regarding the Town's ability to legally plow private property, and inquire where an easement puts the Town operationally and legally.

There is general support among the Board for the project. It will make the property more interesting and have a positive effect on the downtown area, which could ultimately attract more shoppers and businesses. Selectman Brothers offered that other options for maintenance of the area should be considered by the three parties involved and that it was his belief that the legal issues should not constrain the whole project.

W 11-10 Dental Insurance Proposal

The dental insurance plan offered through LGC will increase by 5% upon renewal of the policy. The Town Manager invited Cara O'Connell of Americas Group to present a comparable program for dental insurance that will save the Town approximately \$10,000. The plan is covered 100% for a single plan, and the difference for a two-person and family plan is covered by the employee. There are currently 74 employees eligible for the plan; 90 including dependants. The plan is comparable to the plan provided by Delta Dental. The cost of the plan was quoted on a yearly basis from July 1 to June 30. Under the plan, \$350 of the dental maximum per year (\$1,000) can be applied to reimbursement for eye care materials. The plan does not include orthodontic coverage. Ms. O'Connell explained the process for reimbursement and how it is determined. Preventative dentistry is reimbursed at 100%, basic dentistry is reimbursed at 80%, and major dentistry is reimbursed at 50% of what 9 ½ out of 10 dentists are charging in any given zip code. If a dentist does not participate in the plan, a claim must be submitted. Claims can be submitted by fax, mail, or electronically. She presented examples for the 15 most common procedures billed in the Concord and Meredith area. Americas Dental recently entered into an agreement with Walmart and Sam's Club for discounts on pharmaceutical items.

The Board posed questions about the billing procedure. The employee is billed for charges not allowed under the plan. If a dental provider is not willing to submit a claim to Americas, the employee is responsible for paying the provider and submitting the claim, and the employee is reimbursed by Americas. If Americas does not assign benefits to the provider, the provider can submit a claim and the employee will be paid and will be responsible for paying the provider. If the provider is willing to submit a claim, the procedure is exactly the same as what is in place at this time. The plan provides for a pre-treatment estimate for major dental work, which allows for a more consumer-driven process. A list of covered procedures will be included in the certificate of insurance.

Selectman Worsman inquired about the turnaround time for reimbursement. Ms. O'Connell explained that reimbursement varies depending on how the claim is submitted (electronically, by fax, or by mail). A check is issued and mailed the day after a claim is received. There is an incentive for employees to shop among providers for procedures reimbursed at 50% or 80%.

The Board will vote on the matter at its next meeting, which is scheduled for June 6. If the Selectmen vote to approve the plan, information will be forwarded electronically to employees and a formal

presentation will be scheduled. The Board hopes to ultimately extend the expiration date of the plan so it coincides with the health insurance plan.

The Chair announced that the Board will move into a non-public meeting under 91-A:3 II (e) litigation.

Selectman Brothers motioned to adjourn the Workshop at 5:15 p.m. Seconded by Selectman Lovett. 5-0. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Phillip L. Warren, Town Manager

Colette Worsman, Chairman

Peter F. Brothers, Vice Chairman

Miller C. Lovett

Nathan J. Torr

Herbert R. Vadney