

Town of Damariscotta
Board of Selectmen
Public Hearing & Meeting Minutes
February 15, 2017 5:30 p.m.
Damariscotta Town Hall

The Board of Selectmen held a public hearing on Wednesday, February 15, 2017. Their regular meeting started immediately after the close of the hearing. Members present were Robin Mayer, Ronn Orenstein, George Parker, and James Cosgrove. Mark Hagar's absence was excused. Staff present were Matt Lutkus-Town Manager, Michelle Cameron-Town Clerk, and Jason Warlick-Sergeant for the Damariscotta Police Department. Others attending were Karen O'Bryan for LCTV, Maia Zewert-LC News, Dave Allen-Maine Department of Transportation, and Travis Pryor-Wright-Pierce Engineering via telephone. See attached attendance sheet for public attendance.

I. Pledge of Allegiance

II. Public Hearings: R. Mayer opened the Hearing at 5:30 p.m.

- 1. Bristol Road Sidewalk Project:** Travis Pryor, from Wright-Pierce, provided a slideshow document that Matt Lutkus projected for the hearing. Pryor gave a brief explanation of each of the 20 slides that show the scope of the project as well as the current conditions of the project location. Pryor stated that the drainage would also be worked on during the project. The citizens asked the following questions:
Jean Moon of 73 Bristol Rd asked if the sidewalk on the Northwest side by Miles St would be included in the project.

Pryor said that the NW side is not part of the project.

Shari Sage, of 92 Bristol Rd asked, Can a cross walk across Miles Street from the existing sidewalk on the south/west side of Bristol Road be connected to the new landing on the opposite side of Miles Street?

Pryor indicated that the new landing was designed to accommodate such a future connection and the Town indicated that it might be a bid alternate if the current Bristol Road Sidewalk project comes in under budget.

Shari Sage, of 92 Bristol Rd asked, Can a cross walk be installed across Bristol Road from the High Street intersection to the existing sidewalk on the south west side of Bristol Road?

Pryor indicated that the new landing at the High Street intersection could accommodate such a future connection. The crosswalk would need to be approved by Maine DOT and a safe pedestrian landing would need to be constructed on the southwest side of Bristol Road.

Lutkus mentioned that he thought the State had some reservations regarding a landing.

Duff Duckett, of 86 Bristol Rd asked, Can the gravel pull out remain with the new sidewalks installed across from Miles Street? It was explained that this gravel area was within the Maine DOT ROW and that Maine DOT and the Town had reviewed this item and determined that it was not necessary to maintain this gravel access area.

Anton Lahnston of 35 Schooner St stated that he know of a lot of residents that want to see this project move forward rapidly. Lahnston also asked, what are the risks for further delay of the project being constructed? General follow-up was around when projects are bid later in the year, contractors often have already booked their workload and that pricing may be better if the project is bid for spring 2018 as a backup if fall 2017 is not feasible.

Jean Moon of 73 Bristol Rd stated that the timeline is of concern, a lot of people walk on Bristol Rd and it does become a safety issue and also an area of concern is the flow of traffic during the high season. She also asked if communications would continue with the public during construction.

Pryor stated that yes, the Town has done this for several past recent streetscape, utility and roadway infrastructure projects and will continue to do so. If folks are interested in receiving notice via e-mail, please provide that information to the Town Manager. Pryor stated that there would be one lane open for traffic during the project.

Lutkus stated that he would be continuing to call the project manager at the State to emphasize the importance of this project and that it is not unusual for these things to take a while because of MDOT approval. As far as knowing when the construction will take place, the State has been very good about letting us know when it will start.

Stephen Cole of 80 Bristol Rd asked, how long will construction last? **Pryor** is estimating approximately 12-16 weeks. **Cole** also asked if the town would have enough funding given the scope of the project.

Lutkus asked **Pryor** if the current price of materials had changed.

Pryor said the price of materials had not changed much but there may be additional funds needed as the project proceeds.

Chris Roberts asked, who will maintain the sidewalks? **Lutkus** answered that the Town will as part of their funding agreement with Maine DOT.

Shari Sage, of 92 Bristol Rd asked, when can construction activities take place? **Pryor** said that the Town's standard has typically been 7am to 7pm M-F and weekends and night work as approved by the Town and Maine DOT for projects on State Roads if needed.

R. Mayer closed the hearing at 6:09 p.m.

III. Call to Order: R. Mayer opened the Board meeting at 6:10 p.m.

IV. Action on Public Hearing Agenda Items: NONE

V. Item VII on the agenda was discussed at this time: Presentations:

- 1. Update on Elm Street Project:** **Pryor** said that the plans for the project are up for a final review at Wright-Pierce Engineering and hopefully will go out to bid in March. The project is estimated to take about 8-10 weeks to complete. There are some final Utility and Sanitary District coordinating to do. **Lutkus** stated that once he has finalized plans he will be presenting them to the Board and that there will be an opportunity for folks to come and review them as well.
Valerie Siebel, resident of Damariscotta, asked what the width of the sidewalks would be. **Lutkus** answered that five feet is the standard that the town requires for the private sector to build a walk way and it is the online minimum required for pedestrians to pass each other. The Board has requested that Wright-Pierce design it that way because it's a major pedestrian thoroughfare there and it doesn't make sense to go with something narrower. Snow removal is much easier as well. **Pryor** mentioned that even though Elm Street road has a width of two 9 foot travel lanes, the local consensus was that people understand using caution when parking, driving or opening vehicle doors and want the five foot sidewalks.
- 2. Follow up to Town's Request for Posted Speed Limit Review on Bristol Road:** **Dave Allen**, MDOT Region II Traffic Engineer, stated that the review was completed using radar during the busy time as well as the slow time. He revealed that although the volume of traffic increased in the summertime, the average speed was the same. **Allen** revealed that the review uses an 85 percentile formula and that the average speed was 44 mph. **Allen** said after speaking to Sergeant Warlick about the speed data that the police department collected on Bristol Road, it was revealed that they came up with similar numbers. **Allen** said that he didn't look at the 25 mph zone but did look at the 35 & 40 mph zone. He is recommending that the 35 mph zone be extended south for 4/10 of a mile.
There was discussion on why the 35 mph zone could not be extended to the southern town line and eliminate the 40 & 50 mph zone.
Sergeant Warlick explained that the speed sign was out from October through January and that it recorded 18,000 in bound vehicles on Bristol Road. **Warlick** stated that the average speed was 37.4 mph coming out of the 50 mph zone into the 40 mph zone. He also said that the data collected showed that the largest amount of traffic was during the hours of 7:00 am and 6:00 pm. **Warlick** said that the Police Department had written \$6,950 worth of speeding tickets just on Bristol Road for 2016.
Jean Moon said that she wanted to thank the Damariscotta Police Department and the Board of Selectmen for having the speeding sign because having that data was huge.
A question was put forward to **Allen** as to why MDOT did not look at the 25 mph zone. **Allen** said that they did not look at it and thought that the town had requested looking at the higher speed zones.

Some members of the audience were upset that the whole of Bristol Road was not studied.

Lutkus interjected that the town did request MDOT to look at the whole roadway and asked if Allen would be willing to come back and look at the slower zones.

Allen said he would be happy to come back and take a look at the 25/35 mph zone.

VI. Minutes:

1. **February 1 Meeting:** Tabled

VII. Financial Reports:

1. **Payroll Warrant #38:** On motion Cosgrove/Mayer moved to approve PY Wrnt# 38. **Vote 3-0 (Parker stepped out of the room)**
2. **Accounts Payable Warrant# 39:** On motion Orenstein/Cosgrove moved to approve AP Wrnt# 39. **Vote 3-0 (Parker stepped out of the room)**

VIII. Citizen Comments and General Correspondence:

1. **Letter from Friends of Colonial Pemaquid:** Lutkus said that this letter that he had emailed the Board was simply an update on where the FOCP were in their endeavors.
2. **Notice from State Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry re: Browntail Moth:** Lutkus announced that the information regarding the moth will be posted in the Town Office and that there are informational meetings being held around the state.

IX. Town Manager Items:

1. Lutkus said that he would send the Board the letter that went to MDOT to request the Bristol Road speed limit review. Lutkus felt that the letter had communicated the desire of the town to have the whole of Bristol Road reviewed and not just the higher speed zones.
Mayer said that she wants to see the outbound data for the Bristol Road when the Police Department has it.
2. Lutkus informed the Board that there would be an executive session on February 22nd to discuss a personnel issue.

X. Official Action Items:

1. **Contract for Shellfish Conservation Management Services:** Tabled
2. **Award of Contracts for Town Paving Projects:** Lutkus quickly listed the projects included in the contracts. He informed the Board that Hagar Enterprises has the low bid on all but one of the projects (repaving of the eastern side of Hodgdon) as well as the low bid for all projects combined.
Hugh Priebe had called the low bidder for the Hodgdon paving project, Thibodeau. The firm is located in Bangor and is not able to contract with the Town for just this project.
The Public Works Committee's recommendation is to award the project contracts to Hagar Enterprises for all six projects for \$150,206.32 which includes the Church Street alternate bid.
The following projects would be done in FY 2017 for a total of \$119,374.82: 1. Hodgdon Repaving; 2. Church Repaving; 3. Oak Repaving and 6. Parking Lot Patching.
The following projects would be done in FY 2018 contingent upon approval at the June Town Meeting for a total of \$30,831.50: 4. Belvedere Extension Repaving; 5. Hodgdon Sidewalk.
Lutkus asked the Board to approve a 10 % contingency i.e. \$11,937 for these projects in FY2017 and \$3,083 for FY 2018, the latter contingent on Town Meeting approval.
Assuming Town meeting approval in June, all projects would be completed during the 2017 construction season. **On motion Mayer/Parker moved to authorize the Town Manager to execute the Town Paving Contracts with Hagar Enterprises for the amount of \$150,206.32 and to approve a 10% contingency for the paving projects. Vote 4-0**

XI. Selectmen's Discussion Items:

1. Cosgrove would like to formally notify the Planning Board about whether the building project that will be located on the corner of Main Street and Biscay Road will have adequate sidewalks for pedestrians.
Parker agreed with Cosgrove. Board discussed access points for the new businesses and the safety issues regarding traffic flow and pedestrians. Board has asked Lutkus to draft a letter for the Board's review addressing their concerns.

Minutes

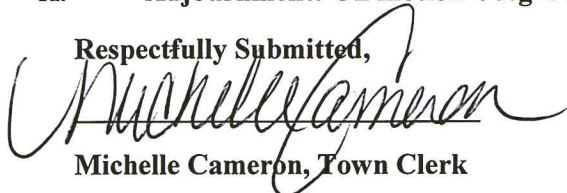
Minutes

Minutes

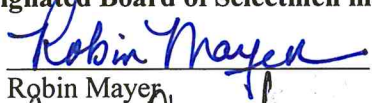
2. Parker updated the Board about the Belvedere Intersection meeting that he and Mayer attended. He said it was a good meeting, a good mix of people and that Sergeant Warlick made a very good case as to why there are accidents occurring there. Dave Allen from MDOT attended and presented accident statistics and whether there was an age correlation to the accidents.
Mayer stated that they talked about what solutions would work, for example, better signage, lower speed limit, and possibly a temporary raised island.
3. Mayer wanted to give a shout out to Hagar Enterprises and Road Commissioner Hugh Priebe for doing a good job cleaning up after the big storm.
4. Lutkus mentioned that he had a meeting with the YMCA and they are willing to give land to the town that meets the required criteria. The YMCA Board has to approve the gift. If all goes well, the land would be deeded to the town with the YMCA having access to use it.

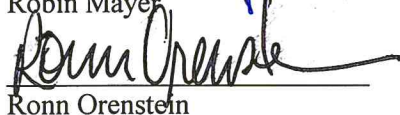
X. Adjournment: On motion Cosgrove/Parker moved to adjourn at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

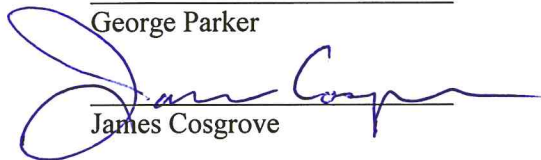

Michelle Cameron, Town Clerk

We, the undersigned, do hereby approve as written, or with corrections as noted, the minutes of the above-designated Board of Selectmen meeting.


Robin Mayer


Ronn Orenstein

George Parker


James Cosgrove

Mark Hagar

Town of Damariscotta, Board of Selectmen

Signed this date 3-15-17