

Draft Notes Community Park Connector Committee

September 8, 2015

Lucky consulted town attorney on ADA issues and application to project. Would likely need to be ADA compliant. Exceptions for approaches would need to show hardship, not likely.

One member suggested looking into trust ownership of land so that it is not school connecting town park. Perhaps this could be an end around to needing to be fully ADA compliant. He will ask his contacts for more information on this possibility.

Group decided at the suggestion of Nathan Poore to request funds from the town council in the amount of approximately \$25,000 in order to pay for various cost estimates: at grade crossing (G&P consultant is on record that there is a 0% chance of getting DOT approval for this), bridge crossing with ADA approaches and lastly a fully ADA compliant bridge and trail end to end, as well as cost related to legal and grant writing consultant. A fully ADA compliant project will likely open up greatest grant opportunities so our net cost to town may be equal or lower than non-fully ADA trail.

RTP Grant was mentioned, possible \$30,000-\$100,000 grant depending on users.

Doug Beck is director, applications are due in Jan. Need to have plan fully laid out ahead of time to be on the "top of the pile", historical, archeological approval etc.

D.O.T. grant could be much more significant. \$500,000-\$600,000 range is possible says Jamie, town engineer. They have a \$2m annual budget for the state. Jamie also suggested looking at the project in phases, associating smaller grants with smaller phases and vice versa.

Other grant opportunities mentioned: PACTS, Conservation Fund, Safe Kids to School. Wind and Water fund was also mentioned but perpetuity clause is very inflexible.

Nathan mentioned scope creep of project, this could get to be a much bigger project, but also result in a better project for the town in the end.

The committee decided to have the town staff: Nathan, Lucky, Jamie and Theo work on a plan to present first to the committee at our next meeting and then to the council for the request of \$25,000 in order to proceed with conducting our due diligence of the costs of various designs/scope as well as possible grant opportunities.

It was noted that none of the towns other trails are ADA, but the problem lies in the construction of a new bridge with the project.

Nathan also suggested that we should rebrand the project/committee perhaps thinking of this as a "Transportation Corridor". This may help gain more support for instance involving the Bicycle Coalition of Maine, etc. He also mentioned that including public comment on the project to be an important part of the process we are asking the council to approve funding for.

Part of the plan being put together by town staff would also include a realistic schedule to present to the council. 18-24 months says Nathan, Theo can help with this. He also mentioned thinking about the

timing strategically in consideration to other borrowing the town may be doing soon and try to package this together.

Ultimately he suggested that the project be under \$1m in total town cost with \$500,000 possibly coming out of town capital and the other \$500,000 to be borrowed. He expressed concern that funding for the project will not be a walk in the park with the current town council.

Thoughts were also shared on snowmobile use of trail. Councilor Hemphill mentioned that he received 4 calls after last committee meeting after rumor got out that snowmobilers may not be included in scope of project. For now the plan is to include them in planning.

Speaking with the various sports and recreational groups in the town will be very important to the planning process as well as possible sources for fundraising efforts. It was mentioned that Theo is well connected to the bike committee and that would be a good source of support.

Next meeting scheduled for Oct. 27th at 4:00 at Town Hall. We will review the proposal being prepared by town staff for final presentation to Town Council.