



Route 100 Committee

Wednesday, November 18, 2015

Minutes

Committee/Staff Attendance:

Name	Present	Name	Present	Name	Present
Sarah Boudreau	√	Eydie Pryzant	√	Joe McDonnell	√
Andrea Ferrante	√	Rebecca Grover	√	Steve Melchiskey	√
Charlie McBrady, Council Liaison	√	Lori Legere	-	Jim Thibodeau, LPAC Liaison	-
Theo Holtwijk, Staff	√	Nathan Poore, staff	√	Mark Debowski, FST	√

Others present: Councilor Anderson, Keith Smith, John Winslow

The meeting was started at 6:00 PM.

1. Review of Draft Minutes of October 28, 2015 meeting

The draft minutes of the October 28, 2015 meeting were approved as written.

2. FST Project Update

Mark reported that FST developed a 3D model to help with its quantity and cost estimating and has now designed the various components of the project. He expected to submit a Preliminary Design Report (PDR) to MaineDOT in early December. Mark reviewed the tree removal plans and memo he had prepared and explained why the trees needed to be removed. On the west side this is primarily due to the addition of the bicycle lane, esplanade, and sidewalk, which pushed the limit of work away from the centerline of the road. On the east side the tree removal is caused by utility pole relocation to place them all on the east side (instead of jumping back and forth across the road), locate them further away from the road edge and have enough clear space around them. He said that some trees may be able to be saved with tree wells and showed some pictures of that. He noted that tree wells can be very expensive.

Charlie asked if new trees are proposed to be planted on both sides of the road. Mark said that new trees had been proposed only on the west side. Trees could be added to the east side as well, but would have to be small so as not to interfere with the overhead power lines.

Rebecca pointed out a correction on plan sheet 228.

Eydie said that the tree removal seemed quite dramatic and wondered if a middle ground could be struck. Mark replied that a narrower road profile (without sidewalk and esplanade) would result in fewer tree removals, and that design exceptions could be sought in special cases with MaineDOT. Charlie felt that the esplanade was an important design element. The committee discussed if any existing trees could be saved in the esplanade, but concluded that the construction activity on either side of it would make it nearly impossible.

Rebecca asked if all property owners that would be affected by tree removals had been spoken to. Mark said no. The committee reviewed the plans and passed on to Mark names of property owners that Mark should again try to touch base with.

Keith explained that locating the new trees on back side of the sidewalk rather than in the esplanade would allow larger canopy trees to be planted in better conditions. The committee agreed with that assessment. Some trees may still be planted in the esplanade and that will be decided during the final design stage.

Nathan wondered if the trees to be cut should be flagged in the field. Since many of them are on private property, the committee decided against it. The committee wanted to make sure that tree removal was mentioned in the next abutter letter that would go out, so people are aware of it. Rebecca noted that tree removal can be shocking at first and that many people quickly adapt when they see the new trees we will plant and all the other improvements.

3. Project Scope/Cost

Theo reviewed the project cost sheet that Mark had prepared and the \$4M contribution that the MaineDOT Commissioner Bernhardt had agreed to. There was a discussion as to the various components of the work, when the section of Winslow Farm North could be expected to be done, and how to finance the proposed sewer improvements.

Nathan stated that he hoped that the Winslow Farm North section could be done in next three years, and would likely require a contribution from the Town. He explained that the sewer system has many moving pieces that are currently being evaluated in the West Falmouth Sewer Master Plan. A number of sewer projects need to be planned over the next 25 years. Typically these projects are financed by the users through the sewer enterprise fund. Bonds that are repaid through that fund do not require voter approval. Nathan mentioned that there are downstream impacts of the Route 100 sewer that need to be accounted for and which are not included in the \$1.3M estimate by Wright-Pierce.

Andrea asked a clarification on how the referendum question would likely be phrased. Nathan said that it would ask voter approval to issue a \$6.5M bond, but would also reference the total project cost and contribution from MaineDOT.

If the sewer costs can be financed in some other way by the Town, then the required Route 100 bond would be less than \$6.5M, which would help the TIF balance sheet.

The committee agreed with the scope of work as presented by staff and FST.

4. December 9 Public Forum

The committee discussed the format for the upcoming forum. Theo suggested the same format as before: brief presentation, general Q&A, and then an opportunity for people to review the plans on the walls. He said he hoped that committee members could do the presentation and that Mark would prepare that for the committee. Andrea will recruit four or so committee members to do parts of the presentation. Theo will take care of the forum notifications.

The committee agreed to show the extent of tree removal and the extent of new trees being planted at the forum. It was also important to the committee that individual property owners

have the opportunity to recognize which trees will come down and what improvements will look like on their properties. Committee members stated that they hoped that between the public forums that had been offered and Mark's willingness to visit anyone who requested an on-site meeting, people will be well informed as to the reasons for tree removal and location of the new trees proposed for the project. Mark will create an up to date and thorough presentation for the forum. Sheet 222 may be a good example of the variety of tree work that is being planned.

5. Other Business

Theo reviewed the work that had been done to address a few on-site curb cut and parking issues. As this was still a work in progress it was agreed to not show any possible improvements on the plans. Nathan, Charlie, and Theo will review the site specifics further and will make contact with the property owners and the rest of the Council as needed. Eydie brought up if there was an issue of adverse possession on the Town-owned parcel along Route 100. Nathan did not think so, but will ask the Town Attorney to look into that.

6. Next Meeting

The committee will next meet on December 9 at 6:00 PM to conduct the Public Forum.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Draft minutes prepared by Theo Holtwijk, November 19, 2015