



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes Tuesday, November 3, 2015

CDC Members: Claudia King, Chair; Caleb Hemphill; Karen Farber

Others: Nathan Poore (via phone); Charlie McBrady

Staff: Theo Holtwijk

Claudia started the meeting at 5:30 PM.

1. Bicycle-Pedestrian Plan Update

Theo reviewed the progress materials for the Bicycle-Pedestrian Plan. These included the approach for development of the plan, its schedule, a list of people who have engaged/invited in the process, a list of improvement suggestions received from the public, feedback received from stakeholders, e-mail feedback, the draft action plan, draft maps, feedback from stakeholders on the draft plan, proposed lane width reduction chart, cost estimates, a prioritized action chart, and proposed short term improvements for the Route 1-88 intersection. He explained how the suggested priorities were arrived at.

The CDC was pleased with the amount of work that had been completed. Karen suggested that the existing sidewalk network be distinguished on the pedestrian map. The CDC liked the idea of creating an informal stakeholder group that included residents and would meet 2-4 times a year. Such a group could help the residents members pass information on to neighbors regarding implementation of the plan.

The CDC was unsure if cost estimates should be included in the plan as they are rough guesses at present. In any case, it felt that including a review of possible funding sources would be useful. The CDC suggested changing the priority nomenclature to Short Term, Mid Term, and Long Term, or Tier 1, 2, and 3, to avoid the implied urgency of terms such as "High Priority". The CDC suggested deleting the implementation section, especially the notion of "standard practice", as it may imply that that is how the Town is currently conducting its business. The CDC saw the plan more as general policy.

The CDC discussed a recommendation brought up in the past, the creation of separate sidewalk trails that parallel rural roads, such as Woodville Road, rather than sidewalks. This was not pursued as it could have required location of these trails on private property.

Theo's next step is developing a more complete plan, and incorporating the CDC's general feedback. The CDC agreed to take on a homework task of providing "priority" feedback on the action chart and suggest any text edits. The CDC was interested to learn which of the "high priority" items were ranked highest as that list seemed rather ambitious and may need to be scaled back. Theo will send out a spreadsheet for the CDC's use. The next event will be a Public Forum on December 7 after which the draft will be further revised. The CDC will see a final draft in December or early January and be asked to recommend that to the Town Council.

2. Route 100 Preliminary Engineering Update

Theo reviewed the materials he had brought, which included a recent e-mail update to the Council and Route 100 committee, the remaining schedule for the project, the materials that had been presented the week prior to MaineDOT Commissioner Bernhardt, and a concept plan for a Mill Road River Trail.

As reported in the e-mail, MaineDOT has increased its commitment to \$4M, but that will still require the postponement of \$4.2M work on the section from Winslow Farm North. The CDC was wondering if a second bond question could be created in June 2016 to ask approval to do that section as well. Nathan commented that the total \$15M price tag seemed too much, according to the committee, and he was hopeful that MaineDOT would be willing to do the second section through a Municipal Partner Initiative. It is possible that at that time 50% of the cost could be borne by MaineDOT. The CDC agreed with that approach but felt strongly that this project should not be “let go.” Nathan believed that a good relationship is being built with MaineDOT and that staff would seek whatever commitment possible for the Winslow Farm North section.

The CDC liked the concept plan for a Mill Road River Trail a lot. The CDC wondered if Route 100 would see the same traffic sign profusion as Route 1 has. Nathan responded that the engineer FST has agreed to take a second look at the Route 1 signage and that it was quite aware of the feelings of the community. Nathan predicted that this issue would be avoided with Route 100. The CDC was pleased with that. The CDC felt it was useful to explain to the public why this project cost so much. In part this is due to the fact that there is concrete underneath a thick layer of asphalt. That concrete dates back to 1932.

Next step for the project is a committee meeting on 11/18 and a Public Forum on December 9. The project is on track to be completed by the end of December. This will allow the Council enough time to review the design plans, cost estimates, and financial plan and develop a referendum question for June 2016.

3. Other Business

West Falmouth Sewer Plan: Theo reported that the draft West Falmouth Sewer Plan was scheduled to be discussed in a joint meeting with CDC and LPAC on December 10. He said that that may be too much to do in that week considering the public forums that will be held then as well. He also wondered if staff would have had enough time to review the draft plan. Nathan agreed with that assessment and suggested delaying the CDC-LPAC review of that draft. Staff will be back in touch with CDC and LPAC about that.

Plummer Senior Housing: Nathan gave a brief update on the Plummer Senior Housing project. This project is scheduled for Council review on 11/9.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Minutes by Theo Holtwijk
November 6, 2015