Minutes Select Board Meeting – Town Office Monday September 20, 2021 11:00 AM

James Dutton Thomas Klinepeter

Kimberly Clarke Thomas Kingsbury

Also Present: MDOT Commissioner Bruce Van Note, Ernie Martin (MDOT), Angela Hinckley (MDOT), Katie Haley (Town Manager), William Harriman (Resident), Arizona Zipper (Resident), Rick Bennet via phone (Senator)

Kingsbury called the Select Board Meeting to order and declared a quorum.

Harriman and Zipper brought up concerns about the configuration of Zipper's driveway and the ancillary access to his property that allows his septic tank to be pumped. Martin noted that the crosswalk location and curb cut would be able to be used as an access for temporary/emergency purposes to pump the septic tank. Zipper commented about getting an attorney involved and discussion continued. MDOT reps will look at the location following the meeting.

Clarke outlines concerns about the design at the Congregational Church and Thrift Store. She noted that the design cuts off the church from the village area based on the curbing being bumped out in front of the church, that there are ADA concerns since the church recently constructed a ramp that needs to be accessed from the front of the building and there is not a safe loading/unloading zone, that historic structures should be honored by not separating them from the village and by allowing continued safe use, and that the thrift store/vestry has no driveway entrance to allow loading/unloading of donations which has a financial impact on the church.

Van Note asked if this was the towns official stance. Clarke confirmed that it was based on letters sent to Van Note, Governor Mills, and the petition signed by 200 residents. Kingsbury commented that the Select Board is responsible for responding to citizen requests.

Van Note conveyed that in his experience towns normally want to slow traffic down and therefore reduce the road width, which is a method to slow traffic. He thought that the request to widen the road was interesting. There was lengthy discussion about safety concerns, liability, and desired revisions. It was confirmed that the road width was ultimately reduced by 3'6". Clarke requested that the curbing in front of the church be pushed back 3 ft. to allow for safe unloading. Van Note asked if there was an expectation that this be paid for by the state; it was confirmed that that was the expectation. Martin commented that widening the road and pushing the curbing back would ultimately require a federal historic review process based on increasing the impervious area in a historic area.

It was confirmed that there will be concrete walkways leading to Main Street from the church and thrift store.

Clarke again requested that the MDOT reconsider the layout for the sake of safety in front of the church.

Clarke asked for clarification of the design in front of Fairgrounds Coffee. Martin noted that it would be loamed and planted and the that property owner was happy with the design. Martin requested that the town be patient and let the final construction take place. Kingsbury commented that people don't like change but will eventually adapt.

Senator Rick Bennett was on the phone and commented on his appreciation of Van Note's attendance and the subsequent dialogue. He is hopeful that there will be revisions in front of the church given the size of the church meeting space and overall lack of parking in Fryeburg village.

The access to Peary Park was discussed. Martin noted that the Town can use the ROW by the academy driveway entrance to access Peary Park. Haley asked if there are future plans for the park, could the town then apply for a driveway opening permit. Martin confirmed that we could and that it would avoid various historic permitting modifications that MDOT would have to go through if done now.

Klinepeter commented on his observations of other Main Streets, notably Harrison, Bridgton and Bethel. If MDOT can move the curbing back, then he is in favor of it but if not then he believes that people will adapt.

Dutton made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Clarke and passed unanimously.

Thomas Longslere

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