



BOXBOROUGH PLANNING BOARD
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James Faulkner, Chairman Eduardo Pontoriero, Clerk Nancy Fillmore John Markiewicz Owen Neville

Meeting Minutes
July 21, 2014
7:30 PM

Members present:

James Faulkner, Chair
Nancy Fillmore, Member
John Markiewicz, Member (arrived at 7:35 PM)
Adam Duchesneau, Town Planner

Members absent:

Eduardo Pontoriero, Clerk
Owen Neville, Member

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm in the Morse Room of Town Hall.

Route 111 Sidewalk Project Update from Places Associates, Inc.

William Murray and Matt Allison were in attendance from Places Associates, Inc. to discuss the Route 111 Sidewalk Project with the Planning Board. Mr. Murray recapped the two best options for how the sidewalk could cross over Guggins Brook. Option one included a precast, open bottom culvert that would abut the stone headwall of the existing culvert under Route 111, which would also meet MassDOT requirements. Option two would consist of two fiberglass bridges that would be constructed over the brook outside of the MassDOT right-of-way. One bridge would be 70 feet long and the other would be 50 feet in length. Mr. Murray noted that the Guggins Brook crossing design will need to address many issues including wetlands, the floodplain, and endangered species, all of which are within the proposed crossing area. He continued on to note that he had concerns about the precast concrete culvert that would abut the older, existing culvert. Mr. Murray also pointed out that each of the estimates that he had provided to the Planning Board included granite curbing, police details, specialized construction equipment, and other items that would all likely be required for the brook crossing portion of the project.

Mr. Markiewicz asked if the Boxborough Police Department could conduct the police details without a cost and Mr. Murray indicated that in his experience, this was not the case. Mr. Faulkner noted that it might be worthwhile to have a conversation with the Police Chief about this topic. Mr. Markiewicz inquired if MassDOT could get involved to possibly help out the Town with this project. Mr. Murray pointed out that MassDOT has been working on an "emergency repair" of a culvert under Route 111 near the Blanchard School and the culverts for this repair have been sitting next to the roadway for over two years. He continued on to note that MassDOT has stretched themselves pretty thin and in his conversations with them, they have indicated they have gone as far as they can with the repairs to Route 111 at this time.

Mr. Murray noted that the headwall for the existing culvert crossing over Guggins Brook seems to be in partial failure. Mr. Duchesneau inquired if Mr. Murray felt that the proposed culvert extension option was a bigger risk in the long term compared to the fiberglass bridges option. Mr. Murray stated that MassDOT could potentially end up fixing the failing culvert when the Town does their work to construct the culvert extension. Mr. Murray then suggested that perhaps the Town may want to retain their own structural engineer that specializes in the analysis of bridges and have them complete a study of the bridge. This study may show that the bridge/culvert is failing which would in turn require MassDOT to act to fix the problem. Mr. Faulkner asked if Mr. Murray knew how much a structural engineering study might cost and Mr. Murray stated that it may cost between \$5,000 and \$10,000. Mr. Murray added that if it could be proved that the bridge/culvert is failing, MassDOT's reaction would be an immediate short term repair.

Mr. Markiewicz stated that the Town would not want the liability of the existing bridge and headwall potentially failing after the Town has completed their extension of the culvert for the pedestrian crossing. He continued on to note that he would only agree to the culvert extension crossing option if the State will agree to fix their failing culvert. Mr. Faulkner indicated that the Planning Board needed to figure out where to go from this point forward with the project and wanted to discuss the topic further when there were more Planning Board members in attendance.

Mr. Markiewicz suggested involving Boxborough's State Senator and State Representative in this project to get MassDOT to work cooperatively with the Town. Mr. Faulkner agreed and felt that the Planning Board should look into getting political assistance on this issue. Mr. Markiewicz stated that he felt if a letter was sent to Senator Eldridge's and Representative Benson's offices indicating the culvert was failing, it would get a response from each office and hopefully get MassDOT to act on the situation. He continued on to note that it would be great to have an official opinion from MassDOT on the status of the existing culvert. Mr. Murray stated that Places Associates, Inc. could get the Planning Board an existing conditions layout for the area. Mr. Faulkner stated that it seemed the next step should be to reach out to MassDOT regarding the status of the existing culvert. If MassDOT indicates the existing bridge will be good for another two years or more, then the Town should consider a suitable alternative for a crossing outside of the MassDOT right-of-way. Mr. Murray indicated that he could look into their files for any information that they might have regarding the status of the existing culvert.

Mr. Markiewicz asked how the next steps of the Route 111 Sidewalk Project could be funded. Mr. Duchesneau indicated that he was working on a MassWorks Infrastructure Program Grant Application where the Town could apply for up to \$1,000,000 to put towards the project design and construction. Mr. Duchesneau also pointed that some of the MassWorks grant funds to be allocated are specifically set aside for transportation improvements which enhance roadway safety in small, rural communities with populations under 7,000. Mr. Duchesneau indicated that the application was due for submission to the State by August 29, 2014, and that he could have a draft of the application for review to the Planning Board in time for their August 4, 2014 meeting.

Meeting Minutes of June 16, 2014

Mr. Faulkner MADE a MOTION to approve the minutes of June 16, 2014. Ms. Fillmore SECONDED the MOTION. All members voted in favor.

Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) Minuteman Advisory Group on Interlocal Coordination (MAGIC) Planning Board Representative Designation

Mr. Duchesneau explained that he had been attending the MAGIC Subregional meetings on behalf of the Planning Board, however, he was not an officially designated representative of the Planning Board. He was requesting that the Planning Board designate him as their representative to attend these meetings in the future. Mr. Markiewicz indicated that he was comfortable with this request, but he asked that Mr. Duchesneau circulate the MAGIC Subregional meeting agendas to the Planning Board prior to these meetings to inquire if the Board would like to have input on any of the matters which would be discussed. Mr. Duchesneau indicated that he would do this.

Mr. Faulkner MADE a MOTION to designate Mr. Duchesneau as the Planning Board's MAPC MAGIC Representative. Ms. Fillmore SECONDED the MOTION. All members voted in favor.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:26 PM on a MOTION by Mr. Faulkner, SECONDED by Mr. Markiewicz, with all members voting in favor.

On Behalf of the Boxborough Planning Board



Eduardo Pontoriero, Clerk