

Route 156 Bike Way and Sound View Improvements Committee
Unapproved Minutes of April 7, 2015 4:30PM Memorial Town Hall, Old Lyme, CT

Members Present: Frank Pappalardo, Jim Lampos, Mary Jo Nosal, John MacDonald, Bonnie Reemsnyder, Angelo Faenza, Rob Haramut. Guests: David Head of VHB; Kurt Prochorena of BSC Group. Community members: Sandra Ziembra, Joann Lishing.

Welcome

A quorum was present and the meeting was called to order at 4:35 PM. There was no committee correspondence.

Approval of 03-24-15 Meeting Minutes

Motion: To approve the minutes of 3/24/15 made by Bonnie and seconded by John. There was no discussion and motion carried 7-0-0.

Parking-Safety Study Discussion

Mary Jo noted that on 4/6/15, David provided DOT's feedback regarding the proposed parking study presented during a recent DOT project management discussion with Andrew carrier of VHB. David informed the committee that the DOT is not interested in sharing in the cost of such a study because it will not provide any new information. It is known that there is a shortage of parking on some days in Sound View and it will continue to be so after the project is completed. Therefore, the DOT does not feel the study is a prudent expenditure of federal or state dollars. In response to John's question whether the DOT requires the study, David said that the study is not required. He said our options were: 1) Not do the study and discuss the parking changes in the report, or 2) The town could do the study and fund it.

There was consensus that there will never be enough parking on some days in Sound View just as at the State beaches. The committee reviewed the beach capacity question which previously showed we have enough parking for the size of Sound View beach. Discussion included: the fact that there is not a budget for such a study; revisiting the history of Sound View, the number of thriving businesses with much less available parking- although there were fewer cars. John commented that the committee can justify the parking reduction. Bonnie and Frank acknowledged that on most days there is plenty of available parking and you do not build for the exception, which VHB agrees with. The goals of the project, not limited to, safety, increased access for bike use, and economic driver, all serve as Angelo said to make Sound View a better place.

Mary Jo asked David about DOT's concerns shared previously regarding controversy with these win-win projects. David said that the public informational meeting will provide DOT with the consensus of the community; the town will address objections and provide a go-no go letter to the DOT. Jim noted that this situation is not unprecedented e.g., Groton and Mystic improvements that necessitate a loss of parking.

Bonnie noted that the feedback at the public information meeting will provide an important sense of support which will be needed for the future Town Meeting to approve the construction funding. Frank brought up the concern that often supporters do not attend the meetings. The meeting advertising will be important.

Motion: Whereas, DOT does not require the parking study because it will not provide any new information; and because DOT will not participate in any cost sharing for such a study, the committee should proceed without a parking study. Motion was made by Bonnie and seconded by Frank. There was no discussion. The motion carried unanimously 7-0-0.

BSC Group-Preliminary Design Plans

- Invoice - no outstanding issue.
- Web Site - all bi-weekly updates are posted. Committee members can provide their amenity preferences on the web site.
- Project on - schedule will be updated.
- Design Program for Restroom -The project architect, Nina Peck arranged a meeting with Mary Jo and Kurt (conferenced in) on Friday, April 3. There was a sense that the restroom options and recommendations need to be reviewed, detailed and consensus reached for Nina's team to proceed. The committee will provide their questions and recommendations to Mary Jo and Kurt by April 14. These will be provided to Nina for discussion at our next meeting (April 28) which will focus on the restroom. Town Land Use Coordinator, Keith Rosenfeld, will be asked for assistance.

Public Informational Meeting

- Mary Jo will have the Shore Road addresses emailed for review by the Committee.
- Possible meeting dates, in order of preference, June 9, June 8, June 23 at the Middle School Auditorium at 7:30PM.
- Bonnie will have Cathy Frank confirm the availability of the Middle School.

VHB update: nothing additional

Next Meeting at Memorial Town Hall

4/28/15 – The Committee will meet at 6:00 PM. This will be followed by a meeting with the architect to focus on the restroom preliminary design expected to begin at 7:30PM.

Public Comment: none

Adjourn Motion: to adjourn at 5:45PM by Angelo, seconded by John. Motion carried without discussion 7-0-0.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Jo Nosal, Acting Clerk 04-08-15