

**Route 156 Bike Way and Sound View Improvements Committee  
Unapproved Minutes from Meeting of February 3, 2015 4:30PM  
Memorial Town Hall, Old Lyme, CT**

**Present:** Frank Pappalardo; Jim Lampos; Skip Sibley, Mary Jo Nosal; Rob Haramut from RiverCOG; John MacDonald arrived at 5:00PM, and Bonnie Reemsnyder. **Excused:** Angelo Faenza. **Guests:** Kurt Prochorena of BSC Group. **Community members:** Lenny Cordo, Stephanie Livesey

**Welcome**

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 PM

**Approval of Minutes**

**Motion:** To amend the meeting minutes of 1/13/15 per an email request from John MacDonald made by Jim and seconded by Frank. In the unapproved minutes under Hartford Av. grading, it reads: "O&M costs of the office space associated with the bathroom was discussed. The office space was built into the scope as a small space for storage and public safety efforts of the rangers." Amendment to read: "Regarding adding office space to the bathroom for the Sound View patrol officers, a question was raised as to how much capitol and on-going O&M costs would this option cost. There was discussion and the motion passed unanimously 6-0-0.

**Update from VHB**

- David hopes to reschedule the CTDOT meeting with BSC and VHB regarding the flood certification and storm water management permits next week.
- The draft advertising meets DOT requirements. Revisions to the mailer will include: referencing Hartford Ave; deleting spacing and deleting cc: the DOT; adding the project cost estimate. The process is eligible for the 80/20 reimbursement.
- Following the Public Informational Meeting there is a 2 week period for public commentary that BSC will manage and share with DOT. This was new information for the committee.
- David will provide the additional process information.
- David will provide minutes from his meeting with two Sound View business owners on 1/21/15 and the subsequent conference call with Mary Jo and Kurt.

**Parking Study**

- David and VHB support the committee's interest in study to evaluate the parking and look at the related over-crowding and safety implications in Sound View.
- The proposed study is broader than originally considered in November. In looking at capacity and safety, it will identify town assets, beach size, include resident and business owners input, include parking spot counts and turn-over, some soft evaluations will be made e.g. number of residents based on parking sticker sales and accident data.
- David indicated that Federal Transportation projects are win/win so to controversy is unique. Therefore, addressing this concern will be important. He supports the completion and evaluation of the study before holding the meeting.
- David was surprised to learn from the business owners that people parked on 156 during busy holidays and walked to the beach and that it was an unrealized issue. He also asked about beach rights and abutting use.
  - Jim stated that this was a chronic problem when the state beaches fill up.
  - Frank offered that it would be helpful if the State DOT closed the State rest area and installed no parking signs on 156.
  - David indicated that the town can put safety recommendations in the parking study report for State Traffic Control to review.
  - Bonnie stated that Sound View is a small 60x60 public beach. The general public is not encouraged to use neighboring Miami Beach, but Miami's charter requires the general public be allowed on the beach. The town provides security and a grant in recognition of the public beach

draw. She stated that the quality of life for Sound View residents is affected with overcrowding due to too much parking.

- John referenced the overcrowded beaches of Coney Island and Laconia, NH.
- The committee discussed that last Memorial Day was a dangerous situation. There was consensus that safety and quality of life are major concerns.

- Frank noted that the parking issues have been well discussed and that the study may conclude that even less parking is appropriate.
- Skip suggested BSC Group provide the committee with a list of information the town could provide, e.g. parking lot data, recent kiosk parking data and private lot owners.
- Following feedback from the committee, BSC will develop a scope of work and corresponding budget for committee consideration.
- David said DOT should support reimbursement at the 80/20 split.
- The study is estimated to take at least 4 weeks to develop, complete and evaluate. This will delay the preliminary informational meeting at least 4 weeks beyond the tentative March 9<sup>th</sup> date. However, David said the current construction dates are still valid.
- VHB will manage any subsequent meeting with Sound View business owners and project personnel.

### **Preliminary Design**

- Kurt will update the project chart to reflect no March 9 meeting and a parking study.
- Project communication will be available on The Microsoft 365 site which is now available.
- BSC would appreciate feedback on the “likes” or “dislikes” of landscape options. The booklet will be added to the project site.
- TestCon (geotech firm) report was summarized and is on the project site. The results indicate peat fill, and high ground water table. The architect will provide the information to her engineer to develop the restroom foundation options. The high water table may require a re-evaluation of the rain garden.
- Rest Room Design-BSC will request the architect, Nina Peck, to update her original sketch per the Committee’s suggestions.
- Sidewalk Width-the current design incorporates 8’ sidewalks on both sides of Hartford Avenue. BSC reported that initial analysis of reducing sidewalk widths from 8’ to 6’ will significantly save costs. This plan will eliminate 75% of the concrete work and eliminates a water line replacement. Cross-sections will be produced for the committee to evaluate.
- Permit Process-BSC Group will populate a list of Town Boards/Commissions for scheduling necessary meetings when the committee is ready to present. Another option is to invite the Boards/Commissions for a joint informational session.

### **Next meetings**

March 2, 2015 at 4:30PM and March 24, 2015 at 4:30PM in Memorial Town Hall

### **Public Comment**

None

### **Adjourn**

**Motion:** Motion to adjourn at 6:08pm made by Frank, seconded by Skip. Motion passed without discussion and unanimously 7-0-0.