

**The Route 156 Bike Way and Sound View Improvements Committee
Unapproved Minutes of March 14, 2016 4:30 PM Memorial Town Hall Old Lyme, CT**

Committee Members Present: Rob Haramut, Jim Lampos, Mary Jo Nosal, Angelo Faenza (until 6:00PM), Frank Pappalardo (arrived at 4:55PM), Bonnie Reemsnyder (4:40PM-6:00PM), John McDonald. **Absent:** Skip Sibley (excused).
Project Engineer Present: Kurt Prochorena of BSC Group. **DOT Liaison Present:** Chris Faulkner of VHB (left at 5:15PM).

Welcome: The meeting was called to order at 4:35 PM.

Motion To Approve Meeting Minutes of 02/29/16: Motion was made by John and seconded by Jim. There was no discussion. Voting in favor: Rob, Mary Jo, Jim, John. Abstention: Angelo. None opposed. Motion passed.

Semi-Final Design Lighting – Chris reported that ConnDot does not consider the new lighting fixtures selected for the 11 existing poles as eligible reimbursable expenses. The main reasons given for this decision:

- (1) This lighting option was not part of the original scope of work. Pedestrian streetscape lighting would be acceptable (budget allowing) for reimbursement because it had been part of the original scope. Kurt clarified that the original scope of work had not included street lighting, only pedestrian lighting at the green space.
- (2) ConnDot considers the pole lighting “a betterment” as it is not the town standard. The Town could include the installation of Eversource approved lights on the poles as part of construction, but the work would not be reimbursable.
- (3) Concern that Eversource could remove a pole and the new federally funded fixture would not be needed.

Bonnie queried the allowance and eligibility of the conduit and handholds which were in the preliminary design plan. Chris stated that this was still eligible. She asked if new lighting (poles and fixtures) could be added to the budget if the construction bids were low enough. Kurt indicated that lighting would be about \$100K.

Designer response: Kurt reminded all that ConnDot questioned the purpose of the conduit and requested photometric analysis to properly locate the handholds for future lights. Therefore, if the committee went back to the conduit and handhold option, they would have to pick a fixture, pole height etc. for BSC Group to do the photometric analysis. If there was a significant delay before the new lights were put in, the desired fixtures may not be available. Importantly, the light pole bases are large and it is very disruptive to put the bases in the sidewalks later.

Angelo asked how many new lights (base/pole/fixture) would be needed. Kurt responded that it depends because photometrics would determine where and how many new pedestrian light systems would be needed and whether the existing pole lighting was desired.

Frank asked if removing the existing poles would be eligible and Chris felt the case could be made for this.

Kurt said that typically pedestrian lighting provides a decorative look and utilizes shorter poles, about 8-12 feet. The light goes more laterally and because of their lower pole height may be bothersome to some. For these reasons, some towns, like Stonington, keep their overhead utility pole lighting to cast directly down as their light source and use decorative lighting for ambiance. Jim noted that Niantic had done this. Kurt agreed that taking out the existing lights and lighting with pedestrian lighting is doable. The trick is that we need to light the sidewalk and the street which requires analysis and have the lights fit our plan. Photoanalysis will determine where lights are required, and we will have to modify our design accordingly. Additionally, putting a base in now would require the selection of a pole due to the manufacturing of these items, and putting a base in with a cap for a future pole and fixture could be a hazard. Kurt has never done such a project.

Bonnie discussed a projected town initiative to replace all the street lights (the heads) with LED lighting. This would be an opportunity to change the 11 poles on Hartford Ave. with the type of arms the committee selected. A future Town Meeting would stress the return-on-investment of such a project.

Kurt reviewed his efforts to date with Eversource. He will contact Irene and Carl at Eversource to get a formal response for lighting utilizing the larger bracket for the selected arms.

Bonnie felt that it would be more difficult to get buy-in for new lighting base/poles/arms and heads. John agreed that would be more than a \$100K project. There was consensus that there was no reason to perform the required photometric analyses for the conduit and handholds.

The budget savings can be used for planned amenities e.g. street signs with decorative posts, decorative posts that bolt onto the surface for banners, etc.

Chris suggested putting the Eversource approved lighting arm upgrades as an add-on alternate in our construction bid. Kurt elaborated that we would continue displaying the lighting on the design but bid this as a non-participatory item funded by the town if the bid was reasonable. This would also be another example of due diligence by the committee.

Semi-Design Comments from Officials/Commissions

- Frank read the Fire Marshal's 3/2/16 email to the committee (see below). As a follow-up to this, Mary Jo spoke with Dave and he agreed that designating a parking spot for emergency vehicles would be acceptable to him.

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MJ

Thanks for being patient.

My review of Sheet C-501 raises some concern. Detailed in Sheet C 501, depicts the fire hydrant near the parking lot along with a six (6) foot wide sidewalk and bumpout with a mountable curb adjacent to a parking space. This design, while allowing for fire apparatus to mount the curb to gain access to the hydrant creates an obstruction if a car is parked in the proposed parking space directly to the north of the bumpout. The removal or relocation of this parking space will support apparatus access to this hydrant.

Dave

Fire Marshal

David W. Roberge CFEI CVFI

Director-Emergency Management

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- Bonnie reported that the Building Official had no concerns to share and there is no report from Commissions.

Off-Site Work - Bonnie said that reminder letters were sent from her office last week to owners of the three outstanding properties.

Project Plan and Budget - Kurt will refine based on today's meeting and will remove the construction phase budget estimate for lighting.

- Mary Jo will ask Chris for more clarity on carry-over budget allowance from design to construction.
- Suggestions if additional funding is available:
 - Jim suggested consideration for a historical item to orient visitors to Sound View that could be eligible e.g. a sculpture that ties in the arts community.
 - Kurt will provide banner pole options.
 - In response to the suggestion that the Rt. 156 bike way be painted/signed, the committee recalled that the design plan is to carry our recommendations so that ConnDot may select the option when they work on the roadway.
 - There was interest in looking at the planter-flag pole at the end of Hartford Ave. for a stone façade resurfacing and an outlet. We need to get OK with Chris as this was not surveyed.
 - John suggested a bike-rack be placed at the end of Hartford. Additionally, he will provide information for a bike repair post/kiosk. This idea was well received by the committee
 - Possible a bike borrowing station and bottle filling dispensers were suggested.
 - Providing something unique and intermodal was the premise of the discussion.
- Prior to a town meeting, we will determine add-on's, the priorities, and eligibility.

Inspector RFQ – The available Q&A was reviewed. Last day for questions is 3/15. Chris is providing feedback.

Template Construction Document – Bonnie provided the template to our Town Attorney for review who only had one suggestion. The Agreement will go out to another firm for Agreement production.

Grant Sub-Committee - Mary Jo and Frank agreed to work on grants for Sound View Green.

Communication-BSC Group has requested budget clarification on architecture expenditure.

Public Comment - none

Next Special Meeting - Monday, 3/28/16 at 4:30 PM. Plans for the town Informational Meeting will be discussed.

Motion - Motion to adjourn at 6:15 PM, was made by John and seconded by Frank. There was no discussion. Voting in favor: Frank, Jim, John, Rob and Mary Jo. No one abstained or opposed. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Jo Nosal, Acting Clerk 3/15/16