

TOWN OF OLD LYME

HALLS ROAD IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: Thursday, February 9, 2023 @ 7:00 p.m.

Location: Town Hall meeting room 52 Lyme St, Old Lyme CT 06371

Committee Attendees: Dave Kelsey, Deb Czarnecki, Ray Thompson, Edie Twining, Mike Reiter, Howard Margules

Community Attendees: Tim Griswold, George Finley, Cate Hewitt, Martha Shoemaker, Matt Ward

1. Call to Order 7PM
2. Approval of December 8 2020 meeting minutes
3. Presentations of design work for Lieutenant River Bridge and Trail proposals

7:10 – 7:30 BSC Group

Jeff Fasser, and two others

BSC confirmed in writing that ConnDOT does not need to review the bridge design, which is normally a phase 1 task. This will be a cost savings for the project. BSC showed examples of prior and current bridge projects. Blackstone pedestrian bridge in Worcester, one 65' long and two 90' long and supported on helical piles. They are working on two bridges in Peabody, MA. One is a 230' span over roadway and one 180' span over a brook, each bridge has a different type of decking. Note that our span over the Lieutenant River is 90'.

For our bridge, given the age and uncertainty of existing structure, BSC does not for see using existing abutment as being possible. Too many unknowns for them to feel comfortable using them, unless we can find more good information. We would have to do some tests with the potential to learn the existing abutments with significant potential we would learn they could not be used. Propose to build the bridge behind the existing abutments. On plus side, this would be able to avoid doing work in the water.

BSC is considering several types of bridges, a Bowstring Truss bridge, Pratt Truss bridge and Beam bridge (works best for 60' or less). Designing for 90lbs/sqft or load of a Gator vehicle, which by code weighs 10,000lbs. Design for ASCO or state codes, whichever is more limiting. Also need to consider load of the bridge weight and weather conditions.

BSC showed Porous asphalt, flexible pavement, stabilized soil, pervious pavers and decking as options for paving the paths leading to and away from the bridge. All

require no or minimum maintenance. Landscaping and lighting will also be included in the proposal. Landscaping will focus on native plants, lighting will be solar powered and designed for minimal impact to wildlife.

Note that BSC has done the prior work for this committee.

BSC mentioned potential obstacles: Coastal Jurisdiction Line, tree removal related to the Northern Long Eared Bat, Rare species habitat and other adjacent habitats. Avoiding in-water work will avoid any potential fish related obstacles. BSC has 40 ecological experts on staff that can be used to work through these issues. Also issues related to transmission and distribution lines, along with vertical and horizontal clearances.

7:40 – 8:00 AI Engineering

Ray Gradwell, Associate VP. Ajit Gokhale, Director of Design Engineers, Tom Tavella, Landscape Architect

Founded in 1991, 270 person company, covering many disciplines. Core experience is public infrastructure.

Ajit presents a related experience to the committee, the Naugatuck River Greenway Trail. This is a serpentine trail with a 60' pedestrian bridge. Bridge was on short abutments with micropiles. Quinebaug Trail Pedestrian Bridge, has two bridges, one 12' long built with lumber, second is 100' span that used existing steel girders and put a new timber deck. This was a rails to trail project. Currently designing four bridges for East Hartford to cross the Hockanum River.

For this project, first option considered is a Weathering Steel Truss Bridge, with a width of 10'-12'. This allows the option to use existing abutments or build behind. There is an advantage to building behind because no effect on waterway. We have multiple options for decking. Second option is an aluminum truss or aluminum deck bridge. Third type considered is the GLULAM timber arch bridge. Usually used for longer spans, but still can be considered here. Advantage is these GLULAM bridges are shipped in parts and built by the supplier.

Landscaping experience presented shows a trail with playground in Yonkers, Saranac River Train in Plattsburgh, NY, Lafourche Parish Multi-Use Path in Louisiana, performed the master plan and feasibility study.

AI Engineering is helping DOT manage the LOTCIP program. They have an automated tool to show how projects they work on will improve the local economy. This has been used in other communities to help build public support and justify funding.

8:10 – 8:30 Jacobson & Associates

Howard Pfrommer, Terri-Ann Hahn

Jacobson started in 1972, primarily to support municipal clients. Key client is Quinnipiac University.

First bridge type shown is a fiberglass bridge. They don't consider this a solution but it is very light and easy to assemble. Also show the Mile Creek bridge over the Blackhall River that they did for us. Show a few other bridges that aren't an option for us but to show their range of design experiences for the range of obstacles that face bridge designs.

Regarding our project, they start by making it clear the issue brought on by the utility lines over the middle of the river which will limit the height of the bridge or how high it can be raised. Showed pictures of history of bow bridges in town.

Connected with Contech about truss bridges to work with on this project and show a picture of an example bridge they did in Milford.

This was the only group to discuss the importance of considering maintenance in the landscaping of the project. Highlights the elevation requirements and need to work with DOT on height of bridge. Might have to design for the bridge to be flooded. Thinking to place the new bridge on friction piles, believe the soil is very soft down to 100'.

Plan to help with community engagement on putting together design, can put together visualizations and helping with events and workshops.

Presented their schedule to use, which is also in the proposal. Plan is for 27 months across 7 tasks. Have done a significant number of projects in town.

4. Next steps for making a decision on bidder selection
5. Other business
6. Adjournment