

MINUTES of meeting, September 9, 2016

Board Room, Department of Public Works (DPW), 20 Municipal Way

Present: Diane Campbell, chair; members Robert Carley, Paul Criswell, Raina McManus, Kurt Somerville; project manager Peter Jackson; Town staff Dave Hickey, Mike Pakstis, and Brandon Schmitt.

The chair called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Minutes: Draft minutes of the meeting of July 28, 2016 had been distributed previously. MOVED Robert, SECONDED Raina to approve the minutes as submitted. PASSED unanimously.

Construction report: Peter Jackson reported on the state of the project. He stated that most of the construction in the streambed itself has been completed, and that the remaining work on the path will be completed this fall. He noted that the work on the new pedestrian bridges is substantially complete, with path connections to be finalized. He reported that the roadway drainage and paving are complete through Cameron Street, but stated that the work near Cottage Street would require a minor redesign. Peter described the work that still has to be completed. He stated that the landscaping would not be done until next spring, for obvious reasons, that some concrete liner removal still had to be done and that some of the masonry work, near Wellesley Avenue, is still to be completed.

Path Surface: Peter Jackson and Mike Pakstis reported that the Town was involved in ongoing discussions with the contractor regarding the aggregate that has been used on the path surface. Prompted, in part, by a letter in The Townsman, they stated that the town wanted to make certain that the contractor is using the correct aggregate, and that the stone materials are not coarser than has been specified. The town project team wants to confirm that the path will meet the Americans' with Disabilities Act requirement of a "firm and stable" surface. The Committee engaged in a discussion of the best way to optimize the path surface. The Committee concluded that it would respond to the letter in the Townsman once the town and contractor have arrived at a satisfactory solution. Meanwhile, the Committee Chair will reach out to the person who wrote the letter, to make her aware of our concerns and our actions.

Maintenance: Peter stated that the town is also engaged in ongoing discussions with the contractor regarding maintenance. The contractor is fully responsible to maintain the work in all sections of the project until the work has been tendered to the town and the town inspects and "accepts" the work. As of the date of the meeting, no part of the work has been tendered, inspected or accepted. The town has presented the contractor with a list of five trees and one hundred twenty-five shrubs that must be replaced. Dave Hickey reported that he will walk the length of the path with the contractor next week and will review the contractor's obligations regarding landscape maintenance. The Committee engaged in a lengthy discussion regarding landscape maintenance, public safety and the spread of invasive plant species. The Committee determined that Peter should address the issue in his next public project update and that Kurt would forward a report to the Friends of Fuller Brook. Peter will also look to write something that can be sent to The Townsman and other media outlets.

CPC: The Chair then noted that she has been invited to address the Community Preservation Committee, one of the chief sources of funding for the Fuller Brook project. Mike Pakstis reported that the CPC is interested in placing plaques around the Path, indicating that the citizens of Wellesley have generously funded this project through the Community Preservation Fund. It was the sense of the Committee that these plaques were acceptable, but that the matter should be submitted to the NRC and perhaps DRB for approval.

Miscellaneous: Peter reported that the last invoices have been submitted to the DEP so that the town can be reimbursed for the full amount of the “319 Grant” that it has received. Peter then spoke of a new initiative, the proposal to build a fish ladder by the flume, to assist migrating fish on their way up Fuller Brook. He noted that while this would be a worthwhile endeavor, it is not part of the current Fuller Brook project and would have to be done in a separate project. Bob stated that he would see if the Historical Society could do some research regarding the history of the flume.

Next meeting: The next meeting of FBPC will take place at 8:00 a.m. on Friday, October 14, 2016 in the Board Room of the Department of Public Works, 20 Municipal Way.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul L. Criswell, Member