

MINUTES of meeting, January 21, 2015

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

Present: Diane Campbell, chair; David Wright, vice chair; members Paul Criswell and Kurt Somerville; project manager Peter Jackson; Town staff Dave Hickey, Meghan Jop, Mike Pakstis and Brandon Schmitt.

The chair called the meeting to order at 8:09 a.m.

Minutes: Draft minutes of the meeting of December 19, 2014 had been distributed previously. MOVED Kurt, SECONDED Paul to approve the minutes as submitted. PASSED unanimously.

Construction report: Peter Jackson said that coir logs have been installed as part of streambank restoration near the Caroline Street crossing. Work is complete on the section of raised walkway between Forest and Paine Streets. A manhole in that area had been raised for easy access through the deck. Work has proceeded despite the subfreezing weather, as crews find frozen ground easier to get around on than mud.

Pond dredging and athletic fields: Mike said he found a reference to the State Street Pond as "Memorial Pond," so named because a planted area called Memorial Grove is next to it. David noted that maps from the turn of the 20th century list it as "Skating Pond," and photos from the 1940s show people skating on it.

Mike said he thought that regulators would approve pushing the dredged material to the north end of the pond for dewatering, and that by changing the orientation of the nearby field by 90 degrees one could retain a full-size field-hockey field during dredging. In a meeting last week of Peter, Mike and Dave Hickey with athletic director John Brown and the Playing Field Task Force, John Brown specified a minimum need of one playing field in the spring and two in the fall, with field hockey (fall) needing a larger field than lacrosse (spring). Mike said that a May start date would give the contractor more time to get ready and still finish the work by fall. It would also satisfy regulators, who prefer that the pond be empty for as short a time as possible.

Trails Committee proposal for Segment 3: While the project approved by 2014 Annual Town Meeting and overseen by FBPC does not include path improvements in Segment 3 (between State and Paine Streets), FBPC considered a proposal by Trails Committee to route and mark the Brook Path through open spaces in the segment rather than on town streets. The proposed route would require moving a portion of the fence by the baseball field, and would pass over School Committee property presently maintained as a lawn by the owners of the property at 41 Rice Street.

Staff members said carrying out such a plan would involve consultations with the abutters, Schools Committee, Wetlands Protection Committee, and Natural Resources Commission, and perhaps reassignment of funds in the Town tree planting budget for screening. The Committee's consensus was that, while FBPC was not authorized by ATM to "add back" path work that had been dropped from the project, FBPC had no objection to another committee pursuing its proposal independently, as long as it did not interfere with the authorized FBPC project. Specifically, FBPC recommended that trails work not begin until the pond dredging in this segment was complete.

319 grant: Dave reported that a federal EPA funding freeze is still holding up reimbursements. EPA would like to change the expiration date of the grant from June 2018 to June 2017. Because some grant-qualified work must proceed and be paid for in the next few months, some opportunities for funding through this grant may be missed.

Financial status report: Dave said that while 12% of budgeted costs have been billed, less than 12% of the path has been completed. Relocating helical piles and redoing shop drawings have added to costs. Mike said there were more complexities in the current work area than in the upcoming ones, although removing the concrete stream liners may raise unforeseen issues.

Next meeting: Wednesday, March 4, 2015, at 8:00 a.m. in the DPW Board Room.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:43 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
David Wright, Vice Chair