

Planning Board Members Present: Denis Hebert, Mike Marconi, Tom Bobotas, Chris Cross, Cosmas Iocovozzi, Peggy Lamson, Patty Borkland, and Rick Stern.

New PB Member: The Chair introduced new Planning Board alternate Patty Borkland.

Spaulding Turnpike: NH DOT introduced themselves, Peter Salo, Mark Lown, Ansus Yarni, and Steve Ireland. Accompanying DOT was Peter Clary and Jason Ayotte from Vanasse, Hangen & Brustlin. Mr. Salo stated that the purpose of the Spaulding project was to enhance safety and efficiency. The number of construction contracts has been reduced from eight to five. The first contract would be for the bridge. The second contract, encompassing much of the turnpike work in Newington, is scheduled to go out to bid in the autumn of 2011. The work on that contract would take three years to complete.

Peter Clary sought the Town's opinion on the park proposed for the foot of the Sullivan Bridge. Morgan commented that the park would be an attractive enhancement. Other Town officials expressed no interest in assuming responsibility for maintenance or policing the premises.

Conservation Commission Chair Justin Richardson asked if the proposed basin adjacent to the proposed park would treat storm water as well as detain it. Ayotte answered that treatment is the intent.

Hebert noted the large number of bicyclists passing between Portsmouth and Dover via Pease, and suggested that the design be adjusted so as to accommodate this traffic. Lamson suggested that DOT and VHB confer with the Seacoast Area Bicycle Routes (SABR).

In regards to the park, Hebert stated that the Town would provide DOT with a formal response in the near future.

Richardson brought to DOT's attention comments from the Town's wetland scientist, Mark West, regarding the Railway Brook, so-called.

Salo proposed that the Town accept full maintenance responsibility for:
1) the roadway that will provide access to the DOT-owned drive-in property,
2) Woodbury Avenue, and 3) Fox Run Road. Town officials indicated that they saw no benefit to such an arrangement.

Ayotte explained that the proposed roundabout is more efficient than traffic signals. The impacted land area is about the same with either option.

Morgan proposed utilizing the segment of Arboretum slated for abandonment as a bicycle/pedestrian trail, noting that this would allow Portsmouth and Dover bound cyclists to bypass the roundabout. The board concurred.

Discussion ensued as to the origin of the curb cut depicted in the vicinity of the drive-in property. Project Manager Keith Cota (who arrived late) explained that the curb cut had been in the plan since 2006, and was a product of the public hearing process.

In response to an inquire by Hebert, Cota stated that excavated material will stay in Newington, and will be utilized exclusively on the Spaulding project.

Cota stated that when the Exit 2 end of Fox Run Road is abandoned, a cul-de-sac circle will be constructed at that location.

Cross requested a bus pull-over near the proposed roundabout so as to provide Newington residents a better opportunity to utilize COAST service.

Hebert expressed reservations about a roundabout, noting that the one at Foyes Corner in Rye does not handle large trucks very well. Cota responded that the proposed roundabout would have a 16-foot apron, which is substantially larger than the one at Rye.

COAST: Executive Director Rad Nichols addressed the board. He thanked the board and the Town for the Town Meeting decision to contribute to COAST. The board asked if the Route 2 bus could be routed via Shattuck Way. Nichols speculated that on-demand service along this corridor might be feasible if COAST is allowed to utilize Avery Lane. Morgan noted that COAST offers paratransit service within .75 miles of the regular bus routes. Nichols noted that overall service would be more efficient were COAST allowed to resume stops in the vicinity of the Fox Run Mall's food court. Morgan offered to arrange a meeting with mall management in order to explore this possibility.

Minutes of May 10: Marconi moved to adopt the minutes. Lamson seconded. All in favor.

Roadways: Hebert suggested that the board set some time aside in the near future in order to review the Town's roadway construction specifications.

Appointments: Cliff Abbott requested appointment to a three-year term as a Planning Board alternate. Marconi moved to appoint him. Lamson seconded. A majority voted in favor. Cross opposed.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:31 PM.

T. Morgan
Acting Sec'y

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