MINUTES
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN OF PEMBROKE, NH
Wednesday, July 25, 2007

Present: Chairman Brian Tufts; Selectman Fred Kline; Selectman Dave Sheldon; and Selectman Cindy Lewis

Excused: Selectman Larry Preston

Staff: Troy R. Brown, Town Administrator; Scott Lane, Chief of Police

Others: Mike Vignale, P.E., KV Partners LLC; Randy Collins, Landscape Architect, Gates, Leighton and Associates; Floyd Smith, Roads Committee; Gerry Fleury; Alan Topliff; Sally Hyland; Jason Menard; Robert Wasowski; Dana Carlucci; Gerard Brasley; Regis Lemaire; Bill Manion; Jack Menard; and approximately 15 other residents

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Tufts called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

2. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Mr. Brown began by thanking everyone for coming and gave an overview on the project explaining that the Town is the early stages of the reconstruction project of Broadway, Maple, Pine and Prospect Streets. KV Partners has been employed by the Town and have been reviewing existing data and working on survey information. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to get input from the residents that live in this area of town on what improvements they would like to see, existing problems and any suggestions they may have. Mr. Brown introduced Mike Vignale, KV Partners, who gave a detailed explanation on the preliminary design concept including roadway widths, crosswalks, sidewalks, curbing, trees, lighting and drainage. Mr. Vignale introduced Randy Collins, Landscape Architect, who is working with KV Partners on the Broadway section of the project. He reviewed ideas relating to the landscape portion of the project including street trees, the grass strip, crosswalk materials, the island and ornamental lighting.

Broadway, Maple, Pine and Prospect Reconstruction Project

Chairman Tufts called the Public Hearing to order at 7:15 P.M. and asked the public for questions or comments.

Jason Menard, 315 Pembroke St., inquired about the truck route. He feels that if the road becomes narrower due to the island, the trucks will have a hard time making the turn. He asked if there would be a maintenance plan in place for the trees once they are grown. His concern is that tall limbs could also be a problem for trucks. Mr. Menard wanted to know what type of trees will be used as he is concerned that the roots would cause problems for the sidewalks. He also asked what type of curbing would be used.

Mr. Collins stated that the width of the grass strip where the trees would be planted is larger than most at approximately six feet which will help with the root zone area. Generally the roots will not grow into the roadway. Maple trees will tend to push up sidewalks but locust or oak tree roots go deeper down and don't have the same buckling which makes them more sidewalk friendly. Ideally the trees will be large so they grow out and over the roadway versus down into the roadway. Selection of trees is critical.

Mr. Vignale explained the shape design of the island. He stated that it will be part of the design process to make sure trucks will be able to get around the island. Mr. Vignale is recommending granite curbing.

Robert Wasowski, 11 Pine St., asked if curbing would be on both sides of the side streets. His concern is that he has an existing cement stairway that goes down to the street. He would not want it destroyed. Mr. Wasowski asked about drainage and if there would be more public hearings regarding the project.

Mr. Vignale explained that all drainage would be done as part of the project. By reconstructing the road and putting in curbing, a gutter system is created which should help with the current drainage issues and be more efficient. Curb tapers would also be used when necessary. The cement stairway will be looked into.

Chairman Tufts stated that there will be more public hearings regarding the project.

Dana Carlucci, 8 Prospect St., is concerned about parking. He feels that visibility is poor on the western side of Broadway due to parked cars on the street. He suggested that KV Partners look at the possibility of continuing the narrowed section of Pleasant St. north past 16 Broadway to allow enough room for safe visibility for vehicles coming up pleasant and turning left. Mr. Carlucci also asked if stamped concrete could be substituted with something else. He would also like to confirm that the sidewalk elevation near his residence is correct as he is concerned it is too high and causing drainage issues. There have been problems with storm water backup causing sink holes that have been patched. He would like KV Partners to review the 50 feet of Pleasant St. that meets Prospect St. to see if something should be done as far as excavation.

Mr. Vignale will take a look at materials for crosswalks and long term durability. Some products have improved and are much better now than they have been in the past. He states that the parking remains about the same with the current plan but he will review the site to see if a change could be made. Mr. Vignale will also review the drainage issue near Mr. Carlucci's residence.

Gerard Brasley, 3 Maple St., is concerned over the current drainage issues and the condition of Maple Street. He stated that his house literally shakes when plows and busses travel Maple Street. He feels that the truck route should be changed back to Main St. as children walking down the street to and from school are not safe.

Mr. Brown explained that this project will go through several phases and will span over a few years. He will share Mr. Brasley's concerns with the Roads Committee.

Regis Lemaire, 9 Maple St., is concerned that the sidewalks the children should use to walk to school is not safe and not being used. He states that children are walking in the roadways having to contend with busses and he feels that sidewalks must be accessible and presentable so youngsters will use them. He would like to know what can be done to extend a portion of the sidewalk and what will be done about the visibility issues due to parked cars.

Bill Manion, 67 Broadway St., is concerned over sub-surface water and drainage. He asked if part of the new drainage system would take care of that as well. He also asked about widening Broadway and the speed in which the road is traveled. He feels that putting a crosswalk in the middle of Broadway would be dangerous to pedestrians.

Mr. Vignale explained that the new drainage system would help sub-surface water somewhat and that further exploration will be done. He also explained that Broadway is being designed differently, not being widened and that the crosswalk would be toward the bottom of the hill and highly visible. There would be advance warning signs from both directions and a sign at the crosswalk itself.

Jack Menard, 65 Broadway St., asked about underground water problems, the grade level of Broadway and the ledge. He also suggested that there be sidewalks on only one side of the street for safety reasons.

Mr. Carlucci feels the Town needs on-street parking more than sidewalks on both sides of the street.

Mr. Vignale explained that part of the road would have to come down in the middle where it is mounded up. Currently the recommendation is for sidewalks to be on one side of the street on the side streets with curb on both sides. Parking on side streets will only be available on one side as the roadways aren't wide enough to accommodate parking on both sides. He will look at possible changes for on-street parking.

Jason Menard, 315 Broadway pointed out that narrowing the road by putting on-street parking on both sides tends to slow traffic down to a safe speed.

Mr. Brown asked for comment on stamped pavement for the sidewalks on Broadway that could eventually continue down through Main St. and into the Village. Stamped concrete creates a look similar to red brick or cobblestone.

The general feeling was that plows could tear up the stamped concrete and that pavement would be more advisable because it is easier to repair and match.

Mr. Brown asked the public for comments on how they felt about saving some of the very large maple trees that exist in the reconstruction area or if they feel the trees should be removed.

Regis Lemaire, 9 Maple St., is concerned about damage to street trees during the winter due to salt. He feels that any decision on the removal of trees on or near a residence should be discussed with the owner. Mr. Lemaire has a hemlock tree that he would not want removed.

Mr. Wasowski would like an Arborist called in to review the existing trees. He feels any trees that are causing problems for sidewalks should be removed when the project begins however, trees should be saved if they are in good shape and are estimated to live for several more years.

Mr. Collins explained that there are some trees that are better in salt areas and that the selection of trees is very important. Mr. Collins will be doing an inspection on the existing trees. He will evaluate them as part of the preparation process of the plans and will look at how they undertake the construction of the area to save any trees possible. He will discuss any questionable trees with property owners.

Selectman Lewis asked Mr. Vignale if the plan was to put curbing on both sides of all streets. Mr. Vignale said that is the recommendation and that some type of curb must be used on both sides for the drainage systems. Selectman Lewis feels that curbing should be reviewed at each individual property as some will no longer be able to access their property with their vehicles especially during winter parking bans. Alternate curbing should be considered. She also feels that curbing may prohibit some people from parking correctly which may mean people will be parked too far into the street.

Chairman Tufts asked for any further comments. There being none, he closed the Public Hearing at 8:29 P.M.

Solid Waste and Recycling Fees

Chairman Tufts called the Public Hearing to order at 8:40 P.M.

Mr. Brown gave an overview of the Solid Waste and Recycling Fees including what will and will not be accepted. He explained that commercial use will be banned and non-burnable construction debris such as roof shingles, insulation and sheetrock will not be accepted. Burnable materials would change to require that they be broken down to 4' lengths which would save on labor costs. No trucks larger than one ton would be permitted and residents would be restricted to two loads per day. There will be a flat fee of $5 each for passenger and light truck tires. Any tires greater than 19" or tires with rims will not be accepted. Any small appliance without CFC's would be $5 each and large appliances without CFC's being $15 each. Any appliance with CFC's would be $25 each. The fee for 0-1 lb tanks and canisters would be changed to $1 each; 2-20 lbs, $5 each; 21-100 lbs, $25 each; and 101 lbs or greater would not be accepted. State law now mandates that video displays can no longer be disposed in a landfill or incinerator. The recommended fee for video display devices 18" or smaller is $10 each; 19" or greater $20 each; microwave ovens, $10 each; and miscellaneous equipment such as CPU's or keyboard, $5 each.

Selectman Lewis asked if residents will be required to pay for each individual piece of computer equipment. Sally Hyland answered that it is possible to not charge for the smaller pieces such as a keyboard or mouse but that a tower, printer or fax should be separated out with the charge of $5 to apply along with the charge for a monitor. She will get clarification on the smaller equipment.

Selectman Sheldon does not feel that residents will choose to pay for small miscellaneous items that they can just bag up and send out for trash pick up.

Chairman Tufts discussed the possibility of removing the $5 miscellaneous fee which would allow residents to dispose of smaller electronic items such as stereo's at no charge. He feels that items which do not need to be disposed of in a special manner, as required by law, should not have a fee. Mr. Brown pointed out that even if there is no charge, items can still be collected and recycled and there would be no expectation by residents on security issues.

Ms. Hyland explained that she could get more specific on what is considered miscellaneous electronics. She feels that scrap metal dealers will not want to accept microwaves or CPU's due to the electronics in them. An advantage to disposing of CPU's properly is that the recycling company will overwrite the hard drives which allows security protection.

Selectman Sheldon pointed out that it is just as easy and probably safer for residents to break up their CPU's and dispose of them in the regular trash rather than having them all in one central location which makes them more easily accessible. Ms. Hyland stated that the vendors they would use can assure protection and security by overwriting or destroying the drives. Selectman Sheldon asked Ms. Hyland what insurance the town has that security measures will be followed. He feels that by charging residents to accept their CPU's, the town will be responsible and liable for their personal information. Ms. Hyland explained that a certificate of destruction or recycling will be acquired from the vendor, a manifest that comes back to the community. Selectman Sheldon stated that before moving forward, a discussion with the Town Attorney is needed regarding liability issues. Ms. Hyland agreed and will address this issue legally and with the vendor.

Mr. Fleury feels that the public needs to be educated on recycling and alternate ways of disposing of certain items.

The issue of accepting non-burnable construction debris was discussed. Currently, if a homeowner has a building permit, they can unload their debris at the facility. Selectman Lewis pointed out that the Building Permit needs to be reviewed and adjusted as there is an extra fee built in for use of the landfill. Mr. Fleury feels that even if a homeowner decides to replace a roof and has a building permit, there should be a requirement that a container be brought in by the homeowner for debris. Selectman Lewis asked if the Concord facility can still be used. Ms. Hyland confirmed and Chairman Tufts stated that information should be posted and in the newsletter stating other solutions for debris that Pembroke can not take.

Mr. Topliff agrees that not accepting commercial debris makes sense but is concerned that if an opportunity is not provided for homeowners to dump their construction debris, it may be disposed of improperly. He suggests a test period of 6-12 months of not allowing commercial use but continuing to accept non-burnable items. If the cost savings is substantial, the town could continue to accept it.

The issue of residents making several trips per day to the landfill was discussed and that the problem will be corrected by limiting them to two loads per day. It was also discussed at length how to monitor who uses the facility and for what purpose.

Ms. Hyland asked if there is a way to identify non-resident building owners. Selectman Lewis stated that if you are not a resident, you cannot use the landfill. It would fall under commercial. The issue is that a resident, who also owns other rental property in town, can enter the landfill as a resident and be allowed to unload debris from their rental property. This issue needs further review.

Selectman Lewis asked how the Board will proceed from this point. Chairman Tufts suggested that more review be done and that the issue be placed on the agenda for the next BOS meeting.

Chairman Tufts closed the Public Hearing at 9:48 P.M.

Mr. Brown will provide the Board with a copy of the current fee schedule and the Solid Waste Ordinance for their review.

Selectman Lewis informed the Board that the Suncook Post Office is no longer stamping local mail. All mail will go to Manchester first. Apparently the decision for this was made by the Suncook Postmaster. The concern is the time it will now take for the local mail to be received. Chairman Tufts suggested a letter be drafted to the Postmaster from the Board of Selectman. Selectman Lewis stated that a copy be sent to the Postmaster in Manchester.

3. Adjournment

Selectman Kline moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 P.M. Selectman Sheldon seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

Accepted by the Board of Selectmen

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. Brian Tufts, Chairman