

WEBSTER PLANNING BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
5/2/2015

The meeting convened at 2 p.m. Planning Board members present were Chair Susan Rauth, Vice Chair Susan Roman, Jere Buckley and Select Board member Roger Becker. Members of the Conservation Commission present were Chair Mary Jo MacGowan, Betsy Janeway, Susan Roman and Linda Clark. Police Chief Dupuis was in attendance as well as an additional nine abutters and citizens.

Road Agent Emmett Bean made a presentation about the proposed repairs and relocation of Bashan Hollow Road. The culvert near the end of Bashan Hollow Road at Deer Meadow is structurally unsound and needs to be replaced. It would be located in the same place as much as possible. His proposal includes the relocation of approximately 400 feet of Bashan Hollow Road to remove a bend in the road. The primary concern is safety and the goal is to improve the line-of-sight around the curve. A stormwater management system would be incorporated into the design.

Engineer Erin Darrow, a consultant on the project, presented the plan and the process. The first step would be to map the project. This would entail a field survey to delineate the right-of-way, wetlands and other landscape features. Bashan Hollow is classified as a Scenic Road and the trees, rocks and stone walls to be removed would be identified. The owner of the land is in favor of the project.

Road Agent Emmett Bean described an alternative plan that would cut back the corner embankment, slope the ditch back and stabilize the slope with the same goal of improving the line-of-sight. The road would not be moved. This alternative could include stormwater management.

Roy Fanjoy described the traffic pattern, volume and safety problems associated with the blind curve. It was pointed out that other spots on Bashan Hollow and Gerrish Roads have poor visibility. A question and answer session followed.

Vice Chair Susan Roman explained that the land impacted for either approach is located on property held in a conservation easement by the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests (SPNHF). A representative from the SPNHF was contacted about the project by the Planning Board in advance of the meeting. He indicated if the town plans to relocate or widen the road (or road right of way) into land subject to the conservation easement, the Town will need to go through a condemnation process.

Erin Darrow indicated the survey process would take 3-4 weeks. She estimated the process to design, permit and map the project will cost approximately \$10,000-\$12,000 to get it ready for construction.

Selectman Becker requested a rough cost estimate for the two construction alternatives prior to the Select Board's May 11th meeting. He asked Mary Jo MacGowan, Chair of the Conservation Commission, to outline the benefits of stormwater treatment systems. Planning Board Chair Sue Rauth will contact the SPNHF representative to request access to the original land survey when the property was put into conservation in 1988 and provide an update.

Planning Board Vice Chair Susan Roman explained that -- per advice from Attorney Buckley at the NH Municipal Association -- the Planning Board has jurisdiction over the Scenic Road aspect of the project. The Select Board has authority over the road relocation. For this reason, it was agreed that the Public Hearing on the Scenic Road originally scheduled at the May 21st Planning Board meeting be postponed until the Select Board has the information and plat they need to make a decision on the road relocation project.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

These draft minutes were approved as written at the Planning Board meeting of June 18, 2015.

Susan Rauth, Chairperson