

JOHNSON VILLAGE TRUSTEE BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
JOHNSON MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2013

**Present:**

Trustees: Gordon Smith, George Pearlman, Ellis O'Hear, Walter Pomroy, Chris Parker

Others: Duncan Hastings (Manager), Steve Towne, Lea Kilvadyova, Nat Kinney

**Note: All votes taken are unanimous unless otherwise noted.**

**1. *Call to Order***

Gordy called the meeting to order at 7:00.

**2. *Review and Act On Plans for School St/College Hill Street Improvement Project***

The board reviewed conceptual plans from Otter Creek Engineering for the School Street/College Hill project, along with memos from Peter DeGraff of Otter Creek and from Duncan. Peter is looking for authorization to move from conceptual plans to preliminary plans. Steve Towne, Lea, and Duncan met to review issues and concerns, with Steve Smith's input, and those are listed in Duncan's memo. The board discussed the issues.

The plan currently has a bulb out at the school loading zone, which Duncan suggests eliminating. The crosswalk would then need to be realigned a bit. Gordy asked if the school board and selectboard will review the plan. Duncan said the selectboard will look at it at their next meeting and the school board can be given the opportunity also. We will need a right of way permit from the town for some of the work. Lea said we don't yet have a memo of understanding from the school board. The only thing in the plans she feels they might object to is the bulb out, which is why she feels we should continue in a straight line, eliminating the bulb out. The bulb out was an idea that came from Otter Creek. The trustees agreed that it would be better to eliminate the bulb out.

There is nothing in the project budget for milling and repaving School St. It is not an eligible project cost. We have known that all along. Duncan plans to seek a Class II Paving Grant for this work. The goal would be to coordinate with this project (likely 2015 construction.)

Gordy asked if that will put back the grant for Clay Hill paving by a year. Duncan said probably. The selectboard is in favor of deferring any paving on School St. until this project is done.

We are negotiating with VTrans to get all 3 storm drain catch basins shown on the plans included in the scope of work as eligible. Duncan thinks we will be successful.

The sidewalk is proposed to go on the west side of College Hill, which means the road will be shifted over 5 feet. The selectboard is on board with that concept as long as the cost is not borne by the town highway budget. We are trying to get VTrans to pay for that 5 feet of paving under the grant. Duncan proposes including milling and repaving the rest of College Hill as part of the town annual paving project for 2015. The selectboard is aware of that need. Walter asked, if the selectboard decides to wait on paving College Hill, will it be functional as a road in the meantime? Duncan said it could be if VTrans matches their base coat with

the existing pavement. But ideally he would want to come in immediately following the project to grind what hadn't been ground and pave it.

Duncan has asked Peter to look at the cost of putting in curbing on the east side of College Hill instead of a paved swale. A paved swale is handwork and pretty expensive. Duncan prefers not to include paving work in the bid spec for the project because the contractor will add a 10% markup if it is in the bid spec. He would rather not use town tax dollars for that. He would rather have us do the paving after the project is done.

Stormwater drainage on College Hill is in a state of failure. VTrans has said the storm drain system is only eligible under the grant if it is directly related to the sidewalk improvements. It is unlikely that we can get new drainage covered under this grant or a similar grant program. Duncan proposes to seek a VTrans Town Highway Structures Grant for 2015. This work would likely be included in the bid spec for the project, though the funding source would be different. Gordy said Steve Smith would like to see the storm drainage work done before this project because it is badly needed.

The plans now show four streetlights near the pedestrian access to the school that would match the Main St. streetlights. The cost for those is about \$31K. Duncan suggests having this listed as an alternate, contingent on availability of funds. The lights would be more beneficial to the school than as street lighting. Lea said she thinks the school would appreciate having more lighting. If we don't get funding from another source she doesn't think the lighting will be financially possible. We don't have any other part of the project we can get rid of in order to free up money for the lighting.

Gordy said Edson Jones had mentioned getting a warning light by the school. Duncan said he had sent pictures of the light by Morrisville Elementary on Route 12. Peter is aware of the need for a light. Duncan is not sure where it would be placed.

Duncan said the work on the south side of School St. was originally listed in the application as an alternative, but we got it rolled into the main project. If we really wanted the lights he thinks we would have to look at eliminating work on that side of the street, but he assumed the board would think that was more important than the lights. The trustees agreed. Ellis suggested maybe we could put in lights more like what the school already has rather than what is on Main St.; that might be cheaper. Steve said he can check on whether money might be available from Efficiency Vermont, since it is for a school. Walter suggested we could tell the school board we might be able to put in lights if they have ideas for how to do it more cheaply. Lea said she thinks they would be happy just to have lighting and would not care much if it were decorative. The board agreed to ask the school board if smaller lights or fewer lights would be all right with them.

The board reviewed a spreadsheet showing estimated project costs and available funds. With possible cost reductions due to use of alternate funds (town annual paving budget, town structures grant), the estimated surplus available would be \$33,653.45. But we may need to pay a little more than anticipated for design services, which would decrease that.

Walter asked, we are moving College Hill Road, not the bank and school fence? Duncan and Lea said that is correct. Duncan said he needs to verify this, but we may need to get easements from landowners for the existing sidewalk in that area, based on where the estimated edge of the highway right of way is.

Gordy asked what type of material will be used for crosswalks in the project. Duncan said the proposal is for painted crosswalks. Lea pointed out that the cost estimate includes granite curbing, which is more expensive than concrete curbing. Switching to a different type of curbing could lead to savings. Gordy asked if we can get a price on color impregnated concrete. Walter said there is less traffic on School St. and College Hill than on Main St. so he is less concerned about the crosswalks there, but he would love to see colored concrete used. There was discussion about the possibility of using asphalt curbing. Duncan said Steve Smith thinks it doesn't hold up as well, but Duncan doesn't know that that is the case. Gordy said if we ask Peter to research the cost of colored concrete the village can use that information in making plans for the Main St. crosswalks. Duncan said his recommendation, if the budget will allow it, is to use granite curbing in the higher traffic areas because it is a lot longer lasting.

Board members agreed they were comfortable with all Duncan's recommendations and with having Otter Creek move to preliminary plans.

**3. Adjourn**

It was moved and seconded to adjourn at 7:57.

*Minutes submitted by Donna Griffiths*