

Brandon Select Board Meeting
Transportation Alternatives Grant Public Information Hearing
January 10, 2013 – 5:00 PM

NOTE: These are unapproved minutes, subject to amendment and/of approval at the subsequent Select Board meeting.

Public officials in attendance: Devon Fuller (Select Board Chair), Richard Baker (Select Board), David Atherton (Select Board), Keith Arlund (Town Manager), Brian Sanderson (Public Works Director)

Also in attendance: Eleanor Sisco, Edward Sisco, Wayne Rausenberger, Bernie Carr

1. Call to order - The meeting was called to order at 5:11 PM by Chair Devon Fuller

Brian Sanderson presented an overview of the Transportation Alternatives (TA) program and gave a description of the intended project. Richard Baker asked Mr. Sanderson why the existing sidewalk on VT Route 73 was not discussed in the application's Project Description. Mr. Sanderson informed Mr. Baker that he was attempting to make the application as short and concise as possible, considering the large number of applications the State will have to review. Mr. Sanderson expressed his concern that the sidewalk Mr. Baker mentioned was located well away from the sidewalk the Town wants to have the Feasibility Study review, therefore he did not include it. Mr. Sanderson further added that the sidewalk was included and highlighted in one of the application's orthographic photographs.

Devon Fuller inquired as to Mr. Sanderson's experience with grant writing. Mr. Sanderson informed him that the TA grant application was his first.

Eleanor Sisco asked who Mr. Sanderson was and why he was researching the sidewalk project. Mr. Sanderson told her that he was the Public Works Director and he was following guidance from the Select Board in applying for the TA grant. Ms. Sisco then expressed her concerns with potential right-of-way (ROW) conflicts and was wondering how much land/lawn she would lose if the sidewalk was constructed. Edward Sisco replied that the process thus far is only Feasibility Study and that no one really knows where, if and when a sidewalk can be constructed.

Keith Arlund expressed his concern with handicap accessibility with regards to the incline of a hill on North Street and whether a sidewalk could be built to meet with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Wayne Rausenberger wanted to know when the results of the application would be known. Mr. Sanderson told him that awards would be announced sometime in March.

Ms. Sisco expressed concerns with potential construction grading issues. She was worried about storm water run-off and pooling of water on her property if a sidewalk was built. Mr. Arlund told her that any drainage issues would be addressed by the Feasibility Study.

Mr. Rausenberger asked how long the project was. Mr. Sanderson replied that the project was approximately 4,300 lineal feet, or roughly .8 miles long.

Bernie Carr was also concerned with steep inclines along North Street and whether or not there would be switch-backs or zig-zags with the walkway in order to meet ADA specifications. Mr. Arlund replied that the Feasibility Study should determine if accessibility standards will be required and if they can be met.

Mr. Fuller asked Mr. Sanderson what type of surface the sidewalk would be. Mr. Sanderson replied that the Feasibility Study would probably advocate for some type of hard surface, such as concrete or paved asphalt. Mr. Arlund agreed with Mr. Sanderson stating that since the Town would have to maintain the sidewalk, it would have to be a surface that is conducive to plowing or snow-throwing. Mr. Baker said that more often than not, new sidewalks are generally constructed with concrete.

Ms. Sisco voiced her concern with the existing bridge over the Neshobe River and whether or not the bridge could accommodate a sidewalk. Mr. Arlund told her that her concerns would be noted and subsequently addressed by the Feasibility Study.

Motion was made by Chair Devon Fuller to adjourn the meeting at 5:36 PM. **The motion passed unanimously – 3 to zero.**

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Sanderson