

**Board:** Board of Selectmen/ Water Commissioner's Meeting  
**Date:** Thursday, September 12, 2019  
**Location:** Senior & Community Center, 1 Care Drive, Erving, MA 01344

**Selectmen Present:** William Bembury, Jacob Smith  
**Also, Present:** Bryan Smith, Glenn McCrory, Michael Gordon, William Storti, Robert Miner, George Moonlight Davis, Morning Star Chenven, Claude Jeanloz, Stanley Gradowski  
**Press:** none

At 6:37 PM **Chairman Smith** called the meeting to order.

#### **River, Warner & Strachan Street Project Discussion**

**Chairman Smith** opened the meeting with an overview of the proposed road and sidewalk improvement project for the neighborhood of River Street, Warner Street and Strachan Street. William Storti, Weston & Sampson, presented the proposed project scope of work.

George Moonlight Davis asked for an explanation to how the Town was approaching the proposed sidewalk work. **Chairman Smith** explained that the Town is working to ensure that each roadway improvement project addresses requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) as well as a Complete Streets approach. As a result, the proposed sidewalk work would connect the two (2) sections of existing sidewalk on River Street and would add sidewalk on Strachan Street with crosswalks to the existing sidewalk on River Street and Warner Street. Claude Jeanloz asked if the Town had considered removing the sidewalks from River Street rather than adding to the existing sidewalks. William explained that the engineering work did not look at removing the sidewalks but is planning to add the sidewalk on River Street to connect the existing sidewalks and would work with the property owner to site two (2) curb cuts with a driveway apron that would allow for larger commercial trucks to use the parking lot. Claude expressed his concern with out of town vehicular traffic that travels Route 63 and misses the turn onto Bridge Street in Millers Falls and ends up on River Street instead. Claude expressed concern for residents of the neighborhood with large commercial trucks navigating the neighborhood and trying to get back out to Route 63. Claude requested that the Town evaluate options to improve pavement markings and signage for Route 63. **Chairman Smith** explained that the Town will work with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) engineers to improve the painting and signage on Route 63.

George asked for an explanation of the proposed project timeline and about the associated funding. **Chairman Smith** explained that the project is anticipated to occur in the spring for 2020 as a fiscal year 2020 project. William explained that the construction period would be approximately 90 days. **Chairman Smith** explained that the Town has worked with MassDOT to save four (4) years of Chapter 90 funding to help support this project. **Chairman Smith** added that if the Town decides to delay the project, the Town will need to find another project that would likely include sidewalk improvements to use the oldest of the Chapter 90 funds. Bryan Smith, Administrative Coordinator, explained the procurement process and that the purpose of the site visit and the community meeting is to further identify questions and concerns that will require changes to the draft procurement documents.

Robert Miner discussed the lack of night lighting at the intersection of River Street and Route 63 and explained that the bridge used to be illuminated at night with light fixtures. Glenn McCrory, Highway Foreman, explained that he has been looking into options to add a new street light over the intersection.

George asked how residents and property owners would be notified about project developments during construction. William explained that Weston & Sampson would have an on-site project inspector available to work with property owners and that individual would be responsible for corresponding with owners and the contractor about project developments. Claude asked the Town to review the drainage improvements proposed for River Street and explained that some pipes were abandoned in place when the canal was abandoned and that they occasional are blocked by tree root growth. William explained that the existing drainage and pipe system would be reviewed.

Stanley Gradowski expressed his concern about the size and cost of the project unless the project was related to a new development project or anticipated population growth. **Chairman Smith** and **Selectman Bembury** both addressed the useful life of the roadways in town and the Town's need to periodically plan for the maintenance, replacement, and code compliance of the roadways. The Board discussed planning for a useful life of 20 or more years. Bryan explained that the Town is working to keep the neighborhood's infrastructure in good repair and that the Town has no knowledge of any large housing development in the area. Bryan added that hypothetically if a large housing development was to be proposed, the Town would require the developer to improve the property and improve the public layout to align with the anticipated increase in use. Claude asked if the Town had considered installing the proposed sidewalk on River Street along the Millers River bank instead. William explained that with the environmental regulations the Town would not be able to construct an impervious surface system in the riverbank setback area.

George and Morning Star Chenven asked about extending the proposed sidewalk on Strachan Street to service the full length of the public way. William explained that the proposed work was preparing the area for a future expansion if the Town chose to and that if the Town wanted to extend the sidewalk in the current project in would require the relocation of two (2) catch basins. **Chairman Smith** and **Selectman Bembury** both expressed their support for including the full sidewalk for Strachan Street in the proposed project, even if it is added as Alternate 1. William will revise the project scope and cost estimates.

**Chairman Smith** and **Selectman Bembury** thanked everyone for attending and for the dialogue.

#### **Adjournment**

At 7:45 PM **Chairman Smith** made a motion to adjourn. **Selectman Bembury** seconded. **Vote:** Unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Bryan Smith  
Administrative Coordinator