

DIP Minutes 4/24/19

Meeting Commenced at 6:02 P.M.

In Attendance: Members: Andy Harris, Ben Rossi, Gar Morse, Steve Carhart, Carley Cook, Kirk Svetaka, and Chris Shea, DPW Director Chuck Dam, Project and Facilities Manager Nate Desrosiers,

The minutes from the DIP meeting on 3/26/19 were approved.

Initial discussions revolved around the School / Central intersection. Chuck indicated that the present work being done has nothing to do with the Complete Streets plan but will help as we move forward. DPW is changing out valves and the drainage at the intersection which will be rerouted down Church St. The work on all three of the intersections in question has gone out to bid and is due back by May 8th. The selectmen will discuss the findings at their meeting on May 20th. Ben inquired if there will be one total dollar estimate or three separate ones. Chuck seemed to think we could pick some or all of the pieces doing the work best suited to the town. Steve asked if the town DPW was capable of performing the work. Chuck and Nate said no – we need outside contractors. We need more expertise. Chuck also said that the sidewalk plan for Beach St. has now been limited to Masconomo St. to Singing Beach and surveying is currently being done so no private property is impacted.

We then got into a discussion regarding bumpouts. Chris asked if the letters and petitions received by the selectmen signed by 250 Manchester residents related to bumpouts and/or other issues of concern. No one could confirm. Gar remained adamant that bumpouts were not necessary. There was some confusion regarding the expanded curb cuts at the end of School St. which Gar interpreted to be bumpouts. Chris and Ben disagreed with Gar. The semantics were not resolved and Steve suggested we move on as nothing was being accomplished.

We discussed the positive and negative aspects of the Union / Beach intersection . Gar mentioned that moving the stop sign forward was good but that narrowing Union St with a bumpout was a poor choice resulting in loss of parking. Chuck mentioned that The Historic District Commission has no say regarding what happens on the ground but does have a say on vertical signs and light poles.

Chris reminded Chuck and Nathan that the DIP had recommended raising the speed limit on School St. outside of 128 to 35 or 40 MPH. Chuck will take it under advisement. Kirk raised the issue of Bike Lanes on Pine St. A discussion followed regarding shared bicycle and automobile lanes and the painting correct lines on both Pine and School St. Steve mentioned that the same held true for Bridge St. between Pine and Ashland Ave. Nathan needs someone to provide a layout for location of parking and travel lanes on those streets. Ben added that we definitely need more enforcement and suggested that we invite acting police chief Todd Fitzgerald to the next meeting.

Andy mentioned the new lighting. Nate mentioned that the controllers are on order and soon they will be able to control the lights from their phones or from Town Hall. Carley wondered if we were adding lights anywhere in town but Nate said that the Cobra lights are now owned

by the town and it's a learning process. We are investigating a coop arrangement with Ipswich which recently purchased their lights from National Grid as well.

Another issue in the Downtown discussed was the upcoming Central Street Culvert work. Chuck mentioned that we're a year out from bids and we need numerous State permits. If the project goes according to plan, construction will begin after Labor Day, 2020. Central Street could be shut down for vehicular and pedestrian traffic for as long as two months. Andy brought up the idea of a floodgate across the harbor by the Yacht Club to prevent flooding in the event of rising sea levels.

All sitting members of the DIP indicated that they would continue to serve in the upcoming fiscal year starting 7/1/19.

The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, May 13th at 6 PM. This will give us an opportunity to discuss the project bids before the Selectmen's meeting on the 20th. Ben suggested we advertise this as a public meeting in The Cricket

Meeting adjourned 7:12 PM

Respectfully submitted
Chris Shea