

## Downtown Improvement Project Committee—Minutes 9/5/19

Meeting Commenced at 8:05 A.M.

In Attendance: Members: Carley Cook, Linda Crosby, Ben Rossi, Gar Morse, Chairman Steve Carhart, Kirk Svetaka, and Chris Shea, Project and Facilities Manager Nate Desrosiers, Manchester resident and former DIP member Rick Gibson.

Minutes of DIP meeting held on 7/29/19 were approved.

Chairman Steve welcomed Linda Crosby as a DIP member and discussed the swearing in procedure. We then discussed the results of the 9/4 “Speed Limit” Committee meeting. Results included an increase from 20 – 25 MPH on Pine St. from just above Newport Park to Pleasant St. and an increase to 35 MPH on outer Pine St. The state has a listed speed limit of 15 MPH on Beach St. from Tappan to Union. That limit would be extended from Beach to the foot of Pine St. Ben discussed lowering the speed limit to 25 near Sweeney Park.

Nate told us that grant money for Complete Streets has been approved and bids have gone out for four projects including three intersections and the sidewalk along Beach St. The bids are tied to Chapter 90 paving projects and should be received within a week. A discussion followed regarding asphalt vs concrete sidewalks. Ben asked if bids were for concrete sidewalks. Nate responded in the negative but indicated that changes could be made before any implementation. Linda inquired as to the repair of the curb at School/Union and was told it would be part of Complete Street implementation. We agreed the town should do something to rectify the situation immediately. This is also part of a larger drainage project in the area as well as the Complete Streets Project.

Nate informed us that the order of project completion is 1) Washington/Summer 2) Sidewalk on Beach St. 3) Beach/Union 4) School/Central. Chris went on record as opposing this order. DIP has been focused on #'s 3 & 4 which now have little chance of being completed.

Gar indicated that the proposed Beach/Union plan eliminates much of the parking and is unfair to the elderly living in affordable units in the area. He has written letters to the Secretary of Transportation and to The Selectmen opposing the project. DIP has consistently maintained that parking must be at least neutral in any of the designs with no loss of parking. Carley said that not many changes had been made since the last Open Public meeting.

Gar addressed the striping of the Union- Beach intersection. We should paint the Complete Streets proposed changes especially the center lines including the dotted line around the turn from Union onto Beach. Also the center line in front of Cargo Unlimited should finally be put in the appropriate spot. A motion to this effect was approved at our last meeting but nothing done. Steve addressed the striping on Bridge St. Nate indicated that there were no current plans. A motion was approved at our last meeting to stripe from Pine to Ashland but so far no action.

We addressed the striping on School St. Nate indicated that there would be 10' travel lanes with the center line down the middle of the street with no regard for parking areas as the street has a wide variety of widths. Kirk spoke to the Bike and Ped's work to improve this situation a few years ago. Parking areas should be marked and the center line placed appropriately wherever possible.

Rick filled us in on the progress of the LED lights in the Phase I area. He mentioned that the town has a gift to fund all the improvements and maintenance bringing all 34 poles up to the modern LED / Controller standards. Gar made a motion that the DIP enthusiastically support this project, seconded by Linda and unanimously approved. Rick also defined the methods used to fund Phase I. DIP raised over \$2M via grants and donations. He feels that funds do exist on the state and federal levels.

The Central St. Culvert Project has gone to the state for review. We should hear back in about 8 months. Ben urged that the culvert be extended 3-4 feet upstream to provide more space for the sidewalk and roadway.

Steve discussed the need to focus on Phase II improvements and the need to seek out grants. Mary Riley is the town grant coordinator. Ben added that we should focus on street lights, curbing, and cement sidewalks up from Phase I.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 3rd at 8:30 AM

Meeting adjourned 9:15 AM

Respectfully submitted  
Chris Shea