

DIP Minutes 10/7/19

Meeting Commenced at 8:34 A.M.

In Attendance: Members: Ben Rossi, Gar Morse, Chairman Steve Carhart and Chris Shea, DPW Director Chuck Dam, Project and Facilities Manager Nate Desrosiers, Manchester residents Bob Coyne and Brenda Furlong.

Minutes of DIP meeting held on 9/05/19 were approved.

Chuck stated that the bids received for the four submitted Complete Streets projects were very expensive. The selectmen are meeting tonight (10/7) and plan to focus on plans 1 & 2 – Summer / Washington and the sidewalk from Masconomo St. to Singing Beach. They plan to put a hold on plans 3 & 4 – School / Central & Beach / Union or perhaps do modest improvements. He mentioned that the Beach Street Sidewalk project was submitted as a 10' wide sidewalk for joint bike and pedestrian use.

Bob Coyne, a Beach Street resident spoke at length in opposition to the project. He addressed his discussions with DOT and DPW, safety issues, green space issues and feels strongly that the whole thing is a “make work” project. Bob Maroney, former DPW Director replaced the sidewalk only a few years ago. Chris indicated that both the DIP and Bike & Ped Committees have been opposed to the project as designed since it's inception. Ben felt that a 7' wide sidewalk with granite curbs and 2' of green space would be fine. There should be shared bike and auto markings in the roadway. He made a motion to this affect but there was no second. Brenda asked about positioning of light poles in the plan and complained that the town was spending thousands on a design that no one wants. Ben was adamant about using concrete on any sidewalk improvements as opposed to asphalt.

Steve complained that the DIP is being sidetracked in that our primary interest has been in the other two intersections. Chuck reiterated that the State grant is for \$243 K and if we do only plans 1 & 2 there will be a slight shortfall. There's no money to do plans 3 & 4.

Gar stated that a new plan developed by him the Town Administrator for Beach / Union would be much cheaper than the plans submitted by the town. Chris said basically the same thing regarding School / Central. Two plans were presented. Gar made a motion for the Selectmen to review these plans and continue discussion on plans 3 & 4. The motion was seconded by Chris and approved unanimously.

Nate told us that the new LED light fixtures for the Phase I light poles would be installed within the month along with the new controllers. Gar urged us to discuss the Pine / Union intersection at our next meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, November 4th at 8:30 AM

Meeting adjourned 9:32 AM

Respectfully submitted  
Chris Shea