

August 12, 2019

MINUTES: Meeting w/ Charlestown Beautification Coalition

OPENING: Mr. Steven A. Neill opened the meeting at 5:05 pm with introduction of participants.

PRESENT: S. Neill, Chairman, A. St. Pierre & J. Lessels (Selectboard). Sharon Francis, Chairwoman, & other Coalition members, Aare Ilves, Jan Lambert, Judy Murray, and Matt Maki.

OLD BUSINESS: Ms. Francis began a discussion of the purposed green strip with granite curbing; that the Coalition wishes to have placed between the sidewalk and Main St., starting approximately at the south-end of R & K's lot down to the so-called old Whitney driveway just north of the former Shell gas station. Several of the coalition members discussed how the green strip would help with drainage, as well as, beautification on east side of Main Street. After further discussion it was concluded that this "green strip" may end up being grass and/or a combination of other types of plantings, as yet to be determined and may indeed be a work in progress, as time passes.

Ms. Lambert and Mr. Maki talked about the rain gardens they envision around the telephone poles in this area and it was concluded that all were in agreement with this concept. There will be no curbing around these rain gardens; so as to allow for the absorption of as much runoff as possible, and they will contain such plants as native grasses, sea roses, etc. that are well adapted to the effects of road salt. In fact, these areas will most likely be somewhat recessed from the road grade.

Further at the insistence of Mr. St. Pierre there will be no granite curbing between the green strip and parking spaces on Main St. Mr. St. Pierre explained that no curbing and a slight concave (trough) built into the green strip will afford a more pronounced water absorption rate and may even be more appealing to the eye in the long run. It was noted, that should cars drive into this trough, they will likely "do it only once"; however, should this be a problem more so than is anticipated, the placement of concrete bumpers might be considered.

Conversation ensued regarding hardening features that could be incorporated into the plans, such as granite posts w/ or w/o fencing, that might enhance the overall appearance of the project. Mr. Neill asked Coalition members to do measurements of extent of green strip, and to develop cost figures for curbing, parking barriers, and upright granite posts. With the benefit of this information, the Selectboard and Coalition will meet again to continue working on refinements.

Mr. St. Pierre suggested, that the project planning be continued through the fall and early winter, if necessary, to help foster an optimal outcome. The Selectboard assured the Coalition that they were in overall agreement and behind the project to the extent currently possible. Although, the Board must reserve the right and possible need, to impose conditions or make slight adjustments,

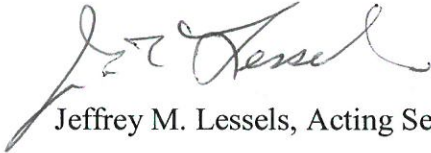
as it may determine necessary as to the practicality, safety, and aesthetics it believes benefit the Town in its entirety.

Inquiries were made into whether or not the Selectboard had any plans for replacing the asphalt from the edge of Main St. (Rte.12) to the proposed “green strip”, noting that those areas were in a somewhat deteriorated condition. The Board indicated that it had no plans to so at this time. Ms. Murray reported the Coalition had been in contact with Valley Regional Hospital and Claremont Savings in an attempt to include their properties in this effort. Both institutions had expressed in writing their willingness to do so, and Mr. Neill advised those in attendance that the Selectboard was aware of this.

In conclusion; Hoyt funds and other monies budgeted for this work, including sidewalk replacement will be encumbered over until fiscal year 2020, when this project can move forward and be completed. Mr. Weed, Highway Superintendent and Jessica Dennis, Administrator will be made aware of this fact, so they may adjust their planning and accounting, accordingly.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned by Mr. Neill at 6:08 pm.

A true copy, attest.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey M. Lessels". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "L".

Jeffrey M. Lessels, Acting Secretary