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By Darlene Brady at 8:04 am, Mar 31, 2021



Draft Minutes

Town of Kent Streetscape Building Sub-Committee
Special Meeting – via Zoom
Thursday, March 11, 2021
5:30 P.M.

Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mike Gawel at 5:36 PM.

Members in attendance: Mike Gawel, Rick Osborne, John Johnson.

Also in attendance: Joyce Kearns, Barbara Herbst, Mike Doherty of the engineering firm of SLR Consulting.

Approval of February 25, 2021 minutes

Mr. Gawel moved to approve the draft minutes as submitted. Seconded by Mr. Osborne. Approved unanimously.

Update from Mike Doherty

Mr. Doherty reported that he still has not heard from Steve Curley, Supervising Rail Officer with CT DOT, regarding planning for sidewalk construction at the railroad crossing.

Mr. Doherty has received a response from Gina Gerlach, DOT, regarding desire for a snow shelf, or 'sign shelf', a non-paved strip between the curb and the sidewalk for DOT to use for installing signs in the future. Providing this strip in the main Village Center section would require narrowing the sidewalk or encroaching on private property with the sidewalk. Mr. Doherty said that he explained this difficulty, and emphasized that we only want to recreate the existing layout, but he reported that Ms. Gerlach remained adamant in her request.

Mr. Johnson moved that the Committee request that the Board of selectmen and the Town Crew Foreman write letters to Ms. Gerlach asking to be relieved of that requirement. Seconded by Mr. Gawel. Approved unanimously.

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Mr. Johnson asked if the finalization of plans would be delayed pending resolution of the 'sign shelf' discussion. Mr. Doherty responded that it would delay the project once all signed easement documents have been received. Ms. Kearns reported that the Town is still waiting to receive signed easements from eight property owners. She said that Selectman Chris Garrity has been assigned to contact those property owners about the easements.

Mr. Johnson asked for an update on the Committee's request that the BOS consider deleting conduits and other considerations for future lamps/lighting. Mr. Gawel reported that the BOS did not make a decision when he discussed it with them at their meeting. The BOS has asked Mr. Osborne to contact Eversource about the possibility of adding lamps to existing utility poles.

Ms. Herbst reported that the Town will have to go through a full State mandated procedure to procure an engineering firm for phase two (south and west of the monument, Lane Street, and Maple Street Extension), which would be funded by the TAP Grant. She reported that the Town has not received final notice awarding the TAP Grant, but she has received a preliminary manual regarding the administration of the grant. She has forwarded that manual to Mr. Gawel.

Mr. Doherty reported that the driveway accessing 11 North Main Street is actually partially on the property of 1 North Main (Episcopal Church). He said that the church is not going to renew that agreement and we will move the curb cut and apron to align fully with 11 North Main. He said that we do not need any action by the property owners or other outside entities to proceed.

Next Step

Mr. Gawel will attend the next possible BOS meeting to the letter to Ms. Gerlach at CT DOT and update the Selectmen on our progress. Ms. Kearns will schedule him on that agenda.

Next meeting date and time

The next meeting has been scheduled for Thursday March 18, 5:30 PM on Zoom..

Adjournment

Mr. Gawel adjourned the meeting. at 6:15.

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Submitted by John Johnson, Secretary

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