

Selectboard Minutes

April 16, 2024

Present: Jenn Jones, chair
Andy Artimovich, vice chair
Jon Morgan
Paul Kleinman
Letty Bedard

At 6pm, Jones called the meeting to order.

The Board signed the payroll and accounts payable summary register.

Artimovich motioned, seconded by Morgan, to accept the consent agenda which consisted of public minutes from 04/02/2024, the recreation manifest, the treasurer's report (found at the end of these minutes), and the following building permits:

- Ronald & Jacquelyn Sullivan, 35 Northrup Drive, Pool
- Curt Rousseau, 90 Prescott Road, Minor Projects – garage door replacement
- Langdon Construction, 6 Stone Creek Drive, Plumbing

All were in favor. Motion carried.

Corey Spetelunas, DOT Highway Safety Manager, was in attendance to present the Road Safety Audit (RSA) results for the Route 125 and South Road intersection. His slide show presentation will be available online at some point in the future.

Spetelunas shared the RSA report was released in February 2024. He explained the audit showed about 12,000 vehicles per day in the studied area. He added there is a 12-foot road width and 10-foot shoulder. Spetelunas explained the timeline of the audit. The application was submitted in January 2023, the audit was conducted July 2023, there was a public hearing held in September 2023, Spetelunas outlined. He added crash data from 2015-2020 was analyzed.

Spetelunas shared the RSA resulted in solutions ranging from near term, intermediate, and long-term solutions. He noted some findings including the lack of a left turn lane on South Road, poor intersection conspicuity, high traffic speeds, passing zone location/conflicts, and safe road markings/signs lacking.

After Spetelunas' presentation, the floor was opened to questions.

Leslie Kleinman, Diane McCain, questioned what would be done for residents attempting to turn left from South Road onto Route 125. Spetelunas responded that there would be a need to address the speed issue and some of the improvements should include South Road.

Kleinman stated his son was in an accident turning from South Road. He questioned why that data was not included. The DOT project lead for the RSA responded that the crash history data was analyzed to provide possible solutions to the problems found in that area. She explained they could only work with data that was provided to them. She added they will look at some additional data they were provided after the RSA was completed.

Lois DeYoung, Crawley Falls, questioned what the timing of the solutions would be and asked about the next steps. Spetelunas responded that the Town of Brentwood would need to respond in writing with their desired plans. He added the long-term solution would be years out. Spetelunas added that the striping would require resurfacing and paving as well, otherwise just covering the existing lines would create the perception there are two sets of lines. DeYoung asked when the road was last paved. Spetelunas responded he was not positive of the date.

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Stef Kizza, Mary Vey, stated she supports the long-term plan with the use of a roundabout. She believes it would alleviate issues for drivers coming from side roads. Kizza questioned if highway safety improvement funds could be used. Spetelunas responded that those funds could be used if the intermediate plan still has issues.

Erin Sterling, Lake Road, suggested the need for people to be “socialized” with the speed limit and its reduction if a roundabout was to be incorporated in the future. She believes it is important to push the speed limit reduction socialization now as part of the short-term solution. Spetelunas responded that Route 125 is a state road and Brentwood as the town does not have the ability to lower the speed limit. He explained it would require a speed analysis and the determination would come from the Bureau of Traffic.

Karen Clement, Town Administrator, stated that North Road is slated for 2 projects (22612 and 23610). She questioned if money could be diverted, from those projects to address Route 125 instead, if the board requested it.

Marie Bahan, a resident of Kingston and relative of one of the fatal crash victims, questioned what was meant by that section of Route 125 “not meeting the signal warrants”. Stephen Haas, Senior Transportation Engineer & Roadway Historian at Hoyle Tanner, responded that the crash experience warrant from the 2009 version requires 5 crashes in a 12-month period. He explained the data from Route 125 does not meet that criterion. Spetelunas added that based on the current standards, the volume is not met.

Morgan asked a clarifying question regarding signal warrants. He asked if it is determined by the state or federal government. Spetelunas responded there is a new version that was recently published by the feds but has not yet been adopted by the NH DOT.

Lois DeYoung, Crawley Falls Road, asked if the newest version would help the situation of Route 125/South Road. Spetelunas responded that if the new guidelines are adopted, there would still need to be other remediation measures before a traffic signal could be installed. He added under the new guidelines, it could be possible that the intersection would meet the criteria.

Becky Dunham, Block Drive, stated there is a lot of information to absorb before a decision is rendered.

Eric Canty, South Road, questioned why the 2021-2022 data was not included. DOT’s project manager responded there is sometimes a lag time for the DOT receiving information from the town and state. Canty asked where the information on Route 125 is coming from. Spetelunas replied that it depends on who responds to the crash. If Brentwood responds, the crash data comes from the town. He added that if State Police respond, that agency would submit the data. Canty asked if it would be possible to get the slideshow from tonight. Spetelunas responded he is working to get the entire project posted online. Canty stated after reviewing the 133-page RSA and tonight’s presentation, he supports the intermediate solution.

Janet Stevens, Executive Councilor, spoke about the safety audit and corridor study. She noted the audit was a culmination of a lot of work on the part of numerous agencies and of 2 months of saturation including 358 hours of patrol, 950 traffic stops which included 245 for speeding. Stevens vows to support and to push ahead as quickly as possible.

Betsy Ibbitson, Scrabble Road, stated she supports a slower speed limit. Spetelunas responded there is legislation in the works. Ibbitson reasoned that if the speed limit was lowered and drivers obeyed that speed limit, it could help make the area safer. Bedard asked if the legislation Spetelunas was referring to was SB417. Spetelunas responded that he was unsure and noted that the Bureau of Traffic has the final say about the speed limit.

Spetelunas explained there would need to be a speed study with tubes or cameras to document the vehicles’ travel. He noted that the 85th percentile would be examined. This study could result in the speed limit increasing based on the speed of 85% of the drivers.

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Dave Walker, Rockingham Planning Commission, recommended the intermediate solution with a push for the long-term solution of a roundabout. He suggested funding it as part of the 10-year plan. Walker stated the town could focus on HISP program which he believes could accelerate the project. He added there is also a federal program called Safe Street and Roads for All. Jones asked if that would be applied for at the town level. Walker responded yes. Bedard asked if it could be applied for even if Brentwood does not own the road. Walker responded yes and the project would be implemented by the DOT. He added applications are accepted annually. The initial round of applications starts now with rolling applications until the money is expended for the year.

Clement asked if the town could apply for Safe Street and Roads for All this year. Walker responded that Brentwood could not because there is not a safety action plan for the region implemented yet. He explained that is one of the criteria for the application. Walker explained that action plan is something being worked on currently by RPC. HISP is run through DOT, according to Walker.

Spetelunas stated that the long-term solutions have similar costs. He explained that there would be design and analysis for both options – the traffic signal and the roundabout.

Robert Rossman, Peabody Drive, stated there is a difficult turn on the eastbound side of South Road. He asked if the intermediate plan would include modifications to South Road to address that curve.

Mary Myers, Crawley Falls Road, stated it is not an easy turn at the current speed limit because of the curve in South Road. Haas responded that the installation of a turn lane gives you space to wait outside of traffic and make the turn at a slower speed.

Eric Canty, South Road, asked if the passing zone would be eliminated. Jones responded that she understood that to be part of the plan. Spetelunas responded it is something that could be discussed with DOT and possibly accomplished ahead of paving, resurfacing, or restriping.

Canty suggested having those in attendance raise their hands in support of the intermediate and long-term plans. Jones asked those in the audience to raise their hands to gauge how the board should move forward. There were no hand raises for the near-term option. There were hand raises for both plans – intermediate and long-term. Jones noted both options had a “hefty amount” of hands raised.

Mary Myers, Crawley Falls Road, asked if any land would be taken by eminent domain to accomplish the long-term plan of a roundabout. Spetelunas responded that there is no predicted plan to have to use eminent domain. Haas added while there is no plan for use of eminent domain, further study and analysis would have to be done.

Jones opened the floor to public comment at 7:26pm.

Deb Laroche, Crawley Falls Road, shared with the board that 62-66 Route 125 is continuing to operate 12-hours per day. She noted there was silica dust coming from the property. Laroche believes it is affecting residents from Lake Road, South Road, and Crawley Falls Road. She requested information on what action can be taken.

Jones responded that the town has been advised by their legal counsel to document the activity. Morgan added that he hears it at his home as well. Bedard asked if the decibels can be documented. Jones responded that counsel asked for video or photo documentation.

Lynn Austin, Crawley Falls Road, stated the noise from 62-66 Route 125 is a noise violation. She stated she intends to call the police department to file a complaint going forward. Austin explained she has read the Planning Board minutes, attended

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some Planning Board meetings, and read the court documents. She questioned if the Selectboard, Planning Board, and Code Enforcement were all on the same page. Austin added that the business is not following the permitted use granted in 2020.

Ken Austin, Crawley Falls Road, stated how upset he is with how the situation is being handled. He feels his concerns are not being taken seriously.

Jones apologized that Austin felt the situation was not being understood. Morgan added that intervention by the Selectboard could compromise progress with the situation.

Deb Laroche, Crawley Falls Road, asked if dust going across Route 125 is a hazard. Lt. Doty, Brentwood PD, responded that there is no proven hazard at this time.

Jones added the next hearing date is May 13. Laroche asked if they could attend and speak on the matter. Jones responded they could attend but would not be permitted to speak. Doty added it is a public hearing, but public input is not permitted.

Kleinman stated these continuing violations should be legally charged to the business owner.

Jones closed public comment at 7:44pm.

Artimovich shared he attended his first library trustee meeting. He explained he is still learning the statistics and acronyms used in the meeting. Artimovich stated there was discussion about a ribbon cutting ceremony for the amphitheater. He added there was discussion about the land use at the library and trustee alternate positions.

Morgan stated the Recreation Commission will be meeting tomorrow at 6:30pm at the Town Hall. He explained it will be livestreamed.

Kleinman shared he attended his first Conservation Commission meeting. He noted they reviewed the by-laws and there was discussion about establishing a subcommittee for the open space bond. Jones asked if there was forward movement on the Swasey property. Kleinman stated the family is still discussing it.

Becky Dunham, Conservation Chair, stated there will be town clean up on April 20th. She added volunteers will be given a handout on hazardous material, along with gloves for use during clean up.

Bedard shared the Planning Board meeting was cancelled due to snow.

Bedard stated the Communications Committee meeting was cancelled due to people not being available to meet.

Doug Finan, Planning Board member, offered an update on the RPC meeting held last week. He explained the 10-year plan was discussed. Finan added the information from the charette was also examined, specifically a walking tunnel, crosswalk, and roundabout near the recreation facility were discussed and added to the 10-year plan.

Finan added there will be 2-3 more meetings before the master plan is updated.

Jones shared that she received an email from Russ Dean, Exeter Town Manager, stating he would like to set up a meeting with her and Clement.

Jones asked the board their thoughts about the letter to DOT. Kleinman stated he was in support of the intermediate option. He added he does not have enough information to decide on a roundabout or traffic light.

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Bedard stated she strongly recommends the intermediate solution and would support the long-term solution of a roundabout.

Morgan responded that he supports a letter regarding the intermediate option. He noted the intermediate plan is more near term than the near-term solution outlined. Morgan added that experts suggest a roundabout and he supports that long term solution as well.

Artimovich voiced his support for the intermediate plan. He requested the letter include diverting funds to this project. He also stated he is in support of the long-term roundabout plan. Artimovich believes there will need to be further study for this option.

Morgan stated he would have liked to hear Janet Stevens offer to help find funding for the project.

Jones noted that experts have stated a traffic light is not what is needed for safety.

Artimovich motioned, seconded by Morgan, to submit a letter to NH DOT supporting the intermediate plan, suggesting diverting funds for the scheduled projects to this project instead, and allowing Clement to draft and sign the letter. All were in favor.

At 8:04pm, Artimovich motioned, seconded by Morgan, to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Tamera Peek

WEEKLY TREASURER'S REPORT				
DATE:			4/16/2024	
General Fund:		TD BANK		
Previous Balance:		4,504,703.11		
Deposits:		87,080.65		
Payroll:		35,865.53	DDP: \$35,611.57	
			CHK: \$253.96	
FICA:		8026.90		
A/P:		397,047.74	Reg A/P Cks \$102,003.77	NHRS \$62,843.97
			Swasey \$232,200.00	CO-OP: \$
Transfer to Impact Fees				
Admin CC Paid				
Transfer to Rec CC		(\$200.00)		
Account Balance:		4,150,643.59		
Interest Earned YTD:		65,509.79		
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Joyce A. Gallant, Treasurer				