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MEETING MINUTES

**Francis O'Brien Meeting Room, Town Hall
Tuesday, March 31, 2015 - 7 p.m.**

Present: John Bethoney, Chairman
James Antonizick, Vice Chairman
Richard Schoenfeld
Mark MacLean
Newcomb Stillwell
Jason Mammone, P.E., Director of Engineering
Joseph Flanagan, Director of Public Works

Mr. Bethoney called meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

Mr. Bethoney – First item on the agenda is decision on Highland Street. Has everyone had the opportunity to review it? I will call our attention to a recent email from Mr. MacLean regarding three points he would like to make.

- Centerline striping
- Sidewalks
- Handling of the Dedham Country Day – vehicles parking along Highland Street in front of the athletic field adjacent to the fence

Mr. Bethoney – does anyone have any comments relating to those three issues?

Mr. Antonizick – I agree with the double yellow centerline – I missed the last meeting I am guessing you discussed this previously. I think it would help slow down cars. I know the concern is other streets will want it but I think in some of the meetings past a lot don't want because it gives them a feeling of a more major thru way. I think that people might not request it as was my first thought.

Mr. Bethoney – anyone else want to be heard on the centerline issue?

Mr. Mammone – Originally we had discussions about this and my recommendation was not to install them and it still remains the same. I have read a bunch of studies about centerline striping as it pertains to speed reduction – it is a 50/50 mix – some say it helps and some say it doesn't help. There currently is no definitive answer on whether it works

or not for reducing speeds. The other aspect I looked at is the existing road width. There are existing sections of Highland Street where the roadway is 19' wide and if you put down a double yellow line you now have about 9' on each side – which is no larger than the width of a parking spot. Typical travel lanes for roadways should not be less than then 10'. Also, when you put down a double yellow line people take ownership of that side of the road therefore increasing their speed. Also, there are no sidewalks on parts of that narrow road putting pedestrians in harm's way walking on a narrow roadway where a motorist is confined to their side of the roadway. When there is no double yellow they have more room and can move over for the pedestrians. Those are the reasons I would not recommend doing it but it is a committee decision.

Mr. Newcomb – are the neighbors in favor of it?

There were a few ladies who were definitely in favor of it. I don't know how the whole street feels.

Mr. Flanagan – when we paved it before, we agreed not to put it in. I agree with Jason – if there is a yellow line people take ownership. It is a cut thru to Legacy place.

Mr. Newcomb – We are going to put all the other signs and other stuff and see how that goes and see how the neighborhood feels like.

Mr. Bethoney – any other comments on the double yellow?

Mr. Antonizick – Jason do you know where it narrows down to 8 feet do you know what the edge treatment is.

Mr. Mammone – There is no edge treatment

Mr. Newcomb – How wide is Greenlodge Street?

Mr. Mammone – That varies – some places it is 35 or 36 and others is 22 - 24 – a lot wider than Highland. Greenlodge has double stripping.

Mr. Bethoney – sidewalks requested but not addressed in the letter. What you are asking is – (we don't have capital for sidewalks) – we can't do land takings – all would cost money. So you want some rational in the letter as to why we didn't consider sidewalks there.

Think it would go a long way the same night they were talking about give us our double yellow back we used to have it – the neighbors said they used to have it and now it is gone. They also said if they had to they would give land frontage for sidewalks.

Little do they know the land is already the Town's.

Mr. MacLean – what is the amount of frontage needed – how wide does it get - how much real estate does the town own? Is there a right of way?

Mr. Mammone – there is a right of way and it is variable in width – 75% of the area where sidewalks are proposed have adequate space. The other 25% is where it encroaches onto private property and would require the Town to do land takings.

Mr. Bethoney – in that 75% is there landscaping, walls, fences and mail boxes?

Mr. Mammone – yes all of those. There will be some adjustments of what people own.

Mr. Bethoney – I have no problem putting in the letter that we considered putting sidewalks in there but because of the land taking, perceived private property and no funding.

Mr. Newcomb – I would leave out the no funding.

Mr. Mammone – The only thing I am going to put in the letter is that the Applicant had some concerns about sidewalks – the town had it on the capital requests since 2011 for Highland St. We are awaiting funding. It is something on our radar and we will continue to pursue it as needed.

What about those 25% that will never get the sidewalks – should define the limits and areas that qualify for the sidewalks.

Mr. Bethoney – So where do we stand with DCD – how would we address Dedham Country Day in the letter? The Committee discussed it and shall send a letter to the DCD that they should enforce the no parking in that area and if they don't the Committee would seek town enforcement. Or seek DCD to enforce.

Mr. Mammone – The Town could have the Town Planner reach out to DCD to remind them of their obligations referring to their certificate of action developed from their site plan review.

Mr. Bethoney – sounds good.

Mr. Bethoney – so are we good with the wording on the sidewalk. Jason you are going to send us another draft? We are ok with the Town Planner having to reiterate with what we need to do regarding DCD then if they don't do it, it will be zoning enforcement. Police might handle. – Code enforcement would call them in.

Mr. Bethoney – Centerline striping - I am not interested in centerline striping personally.

Mr. Antonizick - If there are sidewalks put in do you get edge treatment or berm?

Mr. Mammone – yes you would get a Cape Code Berm.

Mr. Antonizick – I wonder if our committee can suggest things like add that sidewalk so that we can add another yellow line would affect whether it gets funded next year. I

know it has been sitting on the agenda to be funded but if our recommendation would stand for something. Prompt it.

Mr. Bethoney – If the Majority is with it for putting a centerline I am with it. If they are not then we move on.

Mr. Newcomb – my reaction would be to say we recommend Fin Comm. fund the sidewalks because we think it should be there with a re-consideration be given to a double line and the sentiment of the neighbors be solicited. So we can see what the majority view is.

Mr. Antonizick – the neighborhood could vote it down right away and it is a problem.

Mr. Schoenfeld – what would you say the probability of getting the sidewalks is?

Mr. Mammone – In my opinion it would be low with all the projects going on in Town currently. The cost in 2011 was \$500,000 – that doesn't include landscaping, taking of property, council fees for drafting up documents and things that have to go to town meeting.

Mr. Bethoney – so the committee's position is to recommend strongly that the sidewalks be considered by Capital and go forward to Fin Comm. and ultimately to Town Meeting, Once sidewalks are there with reconsideration of striping and getting neighborhood input.

Mr. Mammone – Let's discuss this again later in the year as we approach the next fiscal year budget hearings

Mr. Bethoney – so we resolved the three and the decision and then we are going to review it and approve the decision at the next meeting – is that OK – any other discussion on Highland St. We will move on to the upcoming Calm Traffic Requests. Which one is next?

Mr. Mammone – the next one is Madison Street. I'd like to invite the applicant in to give us more indication of what her concerns are because how she wrote it there are a lot of ways I can interrupt it. I'd like to have her define what the real problem is.

Mr. Bethoney – so we will get a letter to her and have her come in and anyone else that is supporting her position.

Mr. Mammone – Her name is Kate McDermott – I will send the letter.

Mr. Bethoney – when are we meeting again? April 20th – will not work for me. How about May? Next Meeting is May 19th at 7:00 pm. Going to vote on Highland Street decision and have Kate McDermott in.

Old/New Business

Mr. Mammone – Taylor Ave – I want to hold off on that one because we are paving it this year. I will send them an email this month telling them we are going to postpone it until after the road is paved. I may do some pre-evaluations. The McKenna family is the applicant. Nothing else has come in so far.

Mr. Bethoney – do we advertise the opportunity for people to show their concern?

Mr. Mammone – People call into the Town Hall, DPW, Eng and we direct them to proper channels – town website to download a form. After talking to them sometimes they realize that it is just a neighbor causing the issues.

Mr. Newcomb – is the bridge on 109 going to get done this summer? What are you thinking about when it hits Dedham? Like Civic pride put in an island or something?

Mr. Flanagan- not an island but on each side of the roads there will be guard rails.

Mr. Mammone – they are trying to make it narrow to slow people down.
Did everyone get the emails from Mary Beth Cook and Ursuline – of what was going to be distributed to the parents? Yes all received.

Motion was made to adjourn, and seconded. The meeting ended at 7:50 p.m. Next meeting will be May 19th at 7 pm.