

Minutes

Select Board Meeting Town of Coventry Monday May 22, 2023

This meeting was recorded on Zoom and then posted to YouTube. The link to the Town's YouTube channel is at www.coventryvt.org.

Board Members Present

Scott Briere
Scott Morley
Daniel Webster

Town Officials Present

Matt Maxwell, Town Administrator
Praneet Menon, School Director
Stephanie Rondeau, Planning Commission Chair

Public Present

Sheila Morley

1. Order

Matt called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm. Persons present introduced themselves.

2. Changes or Additions to the Agenda

None

3. Allow for public comment

None

4. Sidewalk Scoping Study Discussion

Stephanie R started the meeting by giving the select board a history of the sidewalk project. It was originally envisioned as a way to get pedestrians from Lady Bird Park to the school safely. Praneet M stated that when the town received Village Center Designation from the state grants became available from VTRANS for a sidewalk scoping study. Scott M asked if this has anything to do with the economic development plan presented to the town by Peter Fairweather. Praneet said that it does not and is a separate endeavor. Stephanie explained to the board how the project was broken down in to three sections and that each section has several alternatives. The Planning Commission recommended no action for the first section from Martha's Diner to Conway Court, due to the number of commercial businesses and sizes of the various driveways.

The second section from Conway Court to the Cleveland Meeting House is the section that the PC feels should be the focus. It would include sidewalks on both sides with two cross walks. Praneet mentioned that there are some historical markers associated with this section of the project including a rock wall on Conway Court and Common in the middle of the village. Scott M asked what would happen to the current sidewalks. Stephanie said that they would be removed and replaced. Scott M stated that the deed to the commons was lost in the fire of 1913 and we would need to go through the court system for a new one. Scott M and Scott B discussed various layouts for sidewalks in the village proper around the commons.

The third section discussed would be from the Common to the school across Route 5. Praneet explained some of the difficulties of this section one being that the speed limit on Route 5 near the school would need to be reduced to 40mph in order for the town to install a cross walk. Stephanie said there is a grant available that could help connect the village and school via sidewalk and that the PC should apply for the grant first before focusing any town resources on this section.

There was discussion between the select board and Praneet and Stephanie on how many kids actually walk to the school and how the best way to get kids across route 5 on foot safely. The next round of discussion centered around the financial aspect of the project and how and where the funding would come from. The PC received a grant for the scoping study with a 20% match from the town. The total for the study was \$35,000. Going forward VTRANS will fund 80% of any option the town decides on as long as it is one of the options presented in the scoping study. The Planning Commission would like to accomplish the section 2 part of the project first, which would be the sidewalks for the village. The

PC would apply for the grant that would enable them to do that and the select board would create a line item in the budget to be voted on at Town Meeting Day. This line item would be the 20% of the project cost that the town would be responsible for. The project itself would not commence until 2027, but the money can be approved at the next town meeting.

5. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 6:22pm.

DRAFT