

**RYE TOWN CENTER COMMITTEE
MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 08, 2020
5:30 P.M. TOWN HALL**

Members Present: Chair Karen Stewart, Vice Chair Nina Parrott, Mae Bradshaw, John Mitchell, John Loftus, Secretary Kaitlyn Coffey, Victor Azzi and Selectmen's Rep; Phil Winslow.

I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Stewart called the meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance at 5:30 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes:

1. Meeting, Wednesday, November 6, 2019, 5:30 p.m., Town Hall

The following corrections were noted:

- Page 5; Section 4, RTTC Survey Update; 2nd Paragraph, 2nd sentence reads: The committee is obviously proceeding ~~on~~ with the safety and traffic issues, there are still items to be discussed, including round-a-bout feasibility and desirability; bike lines and raised crosswalks.
- Page 5; Section 4, RTTC Survey Update; last sentence reads: She stated that she will collate the comments and ~~do up a proposal of discussion items for the next meeting.~~
- It should read: She stated that she will collate the comments and bring results to the next meeting.

Motion by Phil Winslow to approve the meeting minutes of November 6, 2019 as amended. Seconded by John Mitchell. All in Favor.

2. Meeting, Wednesday, November 20, 2019, 5:30 p.m., Town Hall

The following corrections were noted:

- Page 2; Paragraph 2, 7 lines down reads: Mr. Philbrick has stated that he needs a ~~contact~~ will the Town, that would go to the voters in March.
It should read: Mr. Philbrick has stated that he needs a contract will the Town, that would go to the voters in March.
- Page 3, RTTCC Survey Update; 7th bullet reads: Two of the eight responses thought that there is a need for more signage in Parsons Field and the Town Forest ~~was important.~~
It should read: Two of the eight responses thought that there is a need for more signage in Parsons Field and the Town Forest.
- Page 3; RTTCC Survey Update; next bullet reads: No one was against this and there ~~were~~ ~~also good~~ additional comments regarding phasing it in.

It should read: No one was against this and there were additional comments regarding phasing it in.

- Page 3; RTTCC Survey Update; 8th bullet reads: A near consciences that the Village Path Loop is a nice idea, but ~~should~~ be phased in later (no clear priority there now) Chair Stewart clarified this: A near consciences that the Village Path Loop is a nice idea, but, contingent on property ownership, could be phased in later (no clear priority there now)
- Page 4; Next Steps reads: Additional consideration should be given to the bike lines and the costs of appropriate landscaping (tree grates), lighting (~~gas~~), pocket park at Central and Washington and about eliminating the right turning lane on Lange Road. It should read: Additional consideration should be given to the bike lines and the costs of appropriate landscaping (tree grates), lighting (historic in nature), pocket park at Central and Washington and about eliminating the right turning lane on Lange Road.

Motion by Karen Stewart to approve the meeting minutes of November 20, 2019 as amended. Seconded by Nina Parrott. All in Favor.

3. Meeting, Wednesday, December 4, 2019, 5:30 p.m., Town Hall

- Page 3; Paragraph 2, Line 2 reads: Amenities such as benches, bike racks and ~~trash~~ receptacles should also be part of the overall project. A landscaping budget should be included. It should read: Amenities such as benches, bike racks and trash receptacles should also be part of the overall project. A landscaping budget should be included.
- Page 3; Paragraph 3, Last sentence reads: She asked Mr. Corbett if he ~~have~~ any recommendations about that. It should read: She asked Mr. Corbett if he had any recommendations about that.

Motion by Karen Stewart to approve the meeting minutes of December 4, 2019 as amended. Seconded by Nina Parrott. All in Favor.

III. Survey Update

- Board of Selectmen approved the RTCC's recommendation to hire James Verra as the surveyor.
- Member Azzi has been in contact with Mr. Verra.
- There are three proposals that the RTCC must decide on in order to sign a contract with Mr. Verra.
 - Option A: Right-of-way, topographic survey from the northerly side of the Public Safety Complex to the southerly property line of the Rye Junior High School and two hundred feet northwesterly of Lang Road; approximate length of the survey is seven hundred feet.
 - Option B: Right-of-way, topographic survey from the driveway entrance of the town office, northeasterly to a point opposite the southerly property line of the Rye Junior High School for a proposed sidewalk. The topographic survey will be from the edge of the right-of-way to the center line of the road; approximately 1,600 square feet.

- Option A is critical to getting the project to the point of knowing if it is possible to apply for the TAP Grant. There are funds to proceed with Option A. \$7,800.
 - If Option A has a positive result, the warrant article will be placed on the ballot for a vote from the Town.
- Funds available for the survey work: \$11,275
- Option B: \$12,800

There was discussion regarding if option B is needed for the application of the TAP Grant.

Selectman Winslow stated that Option A is what is needed for the full schematic for the deliberative session. He asked that RTTC verify this with CMA. He also stated that if RTTC wants to go forward with additional funds for Option B, they need to go back to the Select Board in order to spend the money.

There was discussion on asking Mr. Verra to work as far as he can with the \$11,275 that has already been approved. Chair Stewart and Member Azzi will work together with Administrator Bergeron to get a contract drawn up with Mr. Verra.

IV. Finalize Grant Funding Request

Vice Chair Parrott presented RTTC with an updated schedule of work to be done.

Chair Stewart stated that the RTTC needs to decide the final amount for the project, which will be placed in the warrant article. She will communicate the amount to Mr. Corbett at CMA so that he can start work on the schematic design to take to the Town. The first draft of the schematic design will be given to RTTC on January 22nd to be reviewed. The final draft will be on January 29th. Deliberative Session is on February 1st.

Chair Stewart read correspondence from Scott Bogle of Rockingham County Planning Commission regarding funding request to TAP:

Regarding the TAP project. I had a good conversation with Karen Stewart the week before Christmas. The max project size for TAP is \$1,000,000, meaning an \$800,000 federal grant plus \$200,000 in local match. While a big project like that is eligible, I suggest keeping in mind there is typically only about \$5.5 million available state-wide for the two-year funding round and there is always interest in spreading those funds around the State as much as possible. The smaller project will be somewhat more competitive. A couple of other strategies to improve competitiveness include:

- A. Having your match already approved and in-hand, in a Capital Fund, rather than being contingent on the vote at the next Town meeting. There are additional points in the selection process for municipalities that already have their match, as there is some history and other towns of match warrant articles failing and projects sitting in limbo. That unfortunately favors cities or towns with council form of government. I believe that Rye could put forward a warrant article this winter that provides for the Town's share contingent on the receipt of the federal grant. The other thing to keep in mind for the warrant article is that it needs to gross appropriate the full project budget and specify the 80% that will be covered by the proposed grant and the 20% by the Town.*
- B. Over matching has always been a helpful strategy as it indicates strong local commitment to the project. For an \$800,000 project, a town could apply for a \$500,000 grant and commit \$300,000 in local share. NHDOT likes this as it allows federal funds to be stretched further around the State.*

Already having the conceptual designs and first order cost estimates developed by an engineer will be a “leg-up” for Rye, as will having a clear understanding of any natural or history impact. I would be happy to talk about this further as planning advances.

Selectman Winslow recommended that RTTC ask for a grant of \$500,000 and ask the Town for \$300,000 and trim down the project.

Chair Stewart pointed out that there are factors in favor of Rye getting the TAP Grant. One would be the prior commitment from the Town by the vote. Second is that Rye is a Certified Local Government. Third, there are very clear transportation alternative priorities in the project. However, Rye is a well-resourced town. With these grants, they try to diversify and fund as many communities as possible. They like to look at communities that don't have the resources that Rye has, so that works against Rye.

Member Loftus reminded the members that Mr. Bogle stated that Rye has an advantage because the project is in the Historic District.

V. Schematic Request Finalized

There was discussion on cutting the cost of the project.

Member Loftus recommended cutting the raised crosswalks of \$80,000 and to cut out the sidewalk to the Town Hall, so that the pedestrian path would end at the Library. This would cut the costs substantially but allow for the historic lighting for the complete area.

Members Bradshaw, Parrott and Mitchell all agreed with Member Loftus.

There was discussion on the most effective and least expensive way to slow traffic without the raised crosswalks. The focus was on either having a different material on the road as the crosswalk or placing stop signs before the crosswalks. There could also be a change in the speed limit through the town center.

Member Bradshaw suggested that for the historic lighting, maybe the RTCC could apply for another type of grant and not give up on the idea of having it but just look for another source of funding.

Motion by John Loftus to eliminate the raised crosswalks. Seconded by Mae Bradshaw. 6, in favor; Chair Stewart abstained.

Motion by Mae Bradshaw to eliminate the sidewalk from the Church to the Town Hall. Seconded by Karen Stewart. 6, in favor; Member Azzi abstained.

Member Loftus made further suggestions regarding ways to cut the costs. They included lighting fixtures, park benches, bike racks, trash containers, some landscaping and the curb.

Motion by Mae Bradshaw to eliminate the \$12,700 for the park benches and bike racks. Seconded by Nina Parrott.

After further discussion and review of the numbers, it was discovered that the elimination of the raised crosswalks and sidewalk to the Town Hall brought the total project to the \$800,000 that RTTC was in agreement on. Member Bradshaw withdrew her Motion to eliminate the \$12,700 for the park benches and the bike racks. Member Parrott withdrew her second.

The warrant article will be for \$800,000 total project cost with \$500,000 coming from the TAP Grant and \$300,000 being the Town's share.

Selectman Winslow stated that this needs to go back to the Board of Selectmen's meeting for a vote.

VI. PR Strategy

Chair Stewart reminded the members that at the beginning of this process they had discussed holding presentations at different locations around town to get the work out to the residents about the project. She recommended that the more people that know about the project the more support they will get.

Member Bradshaw recommended writing a detailed report of the project for the Town Newsletter.

Member Parrott reported that there has been a report of the Plan NH findings submitted to Rye Magazine for the February issue.

Member Coffey is putting together a brochure to be handed out at the Transfer Station.

Member Azzi stressed the importance of letting the public know that this is just a piece of a bigger vision.

Member Bradshaw agreed and stressed the importance of letting the public know that the TAP Grant is only available every two years. This first phase is addressing things that would be covered by the TAP Grant.

Selectman Winslow recommended putting an article in the March Rye Reflections, which comes out March 8th or 9th just before the vote. The March Rye Magazine will be coming out too late.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mae Bradshaw to adjourn at 6:50 p.m. Seconded by John Loftus. All in Favor.

Respectfully Submitted.
Dyana F. Ledger