



NORTHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

Minutes of the meeting of August 26, 2019

Present: Chairman Wayne Crowley, Sel. Brown, Sel. Haskins

Also Present: Dr. Tracey Hutton, Town Administrator and Andy Buteau, DPW Director

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 am by Chairman Crowley.

- **Shaker Road Culvert**

Chairman Crowley explained that he had met with Dr. Hutton and Lisa Martin last Friday to discuss the need for environmental studies and permitting. Estimates were given from Quantum Construction Consultants for the permitting that are in front of the Board. Two engineers had been contacted; HEB and Lisa Martin.

Both engineers indicated that if the culvert is altered or there is work in the water, then a wetlands permit will be required. This permit will cost approximately \$30,000 - \$40,000 in engineering costs. Both firms contacted indicated that a in-kind or slip type repair is unlikely to be permitted by NH DES. As an area in the 100-year floodplain of the Winnepesaukee River, it requires a tier 3 wetlands permit (which can be requested to be waived down to a tier 2).

NH DES has not been succinct in their answers regarding the permitting. The Town would have to submit a completed application for NH DES to review. There is up to 120 days of wait time for the review. Selectman Haskins asked why this was not an "emergency." It was explained that emergency actions are for temporary measures only and have to be commenced within five days of the event or discovery of the deficiency.

HEB and Ms. Martin both feel that an open bottom solution would be desired by NH DES. This could cost upwards of \$400,000 - \$500,000 for construction. This scenario would mean the road would be closed until after funding could be secured at Town Meeting. The Town could challenge NH DES and fight the ruling, but this would cost time and money.

On August 6, 2019, a contract was signed with M.A. Bean Associates. At that time materials were ordered, shop drawing begun, and production schedules altered.

Nicole Polish asked if other contractors were pursued. Chairman Crowley responded that Ms. Martin had brought Mr. Bean to the Town because he has been successful in the past with a quick turnaround. Ms. Polish also asked about Underwood Engineering's agreement with the Town. Dr. Hutton explained that this agreement with Ms. Martin was as a subcontractor of Mr. Bean and even if she was working for the Town, the Underwood agreement is not an exclusive one. Chairman Crowley reiterated that the goal is to have the bridge complete and road open by October 1, 2019.

Tim Rose inquired why the meeting was not held later in the day. Mr. Rose added that it would be difficult for people to attend during the day and some of the people at the meeting last week would have liked to be at this meeting. Chairman Crowley explained that one of the goals of the meeting was to decide if Mr. Buteau and Dr. Hutton should meet with NH DES as scheduled for Tuesday. This meeting was scheduled to gain advice on alternatives and they did not want to wait until the last minute to make the decision about the meeting.

Ms. Polish asked about starting the process to remove the culvert now as opposed to waiting. Chairman Crowley and the other Selectmen discussed making the cost a separate warrant article at the March 2020 Town Meeting. Ms. Polish asked about increasing public notification and involvement. Dr. Hutton was directed to look into the contract with the emergency notification contractor regarding e-mail blasts.

Mr. Buteau inquired why there were no site drawings. Dr. Hutton responded that the Town did not contract for them. Mr. Buteau also had questions about the total weight of the bridge and the force being applied to the abutments. Ms. Polish inquired about the details on the abutments that appeared to be missing. Mr. Buteau also had questions about how the abutments were pinned together and if the structure was to be centered in the roadway. Dr. Hutton was directed to pass these questions along to Mr. Bean and set up a future public meeting with Mr. Bean and the Board.

Chairman Crowley asked the Board if they were satisfied that this is the direction the Town would continue in. Selectmen Haskins and Brown agreed. The Board directed Dr. Hutton to cancel the DES meeting.

- **Adjournment**

There being no other business the meeting adjourned at 8:49 am.

Respectfully submitted by:
Dr. Tracey E. Hutton

Minutes approved September 3, 2019