

Minutes
Williamsburg Board of Selectmen
February 18, 2021

The members of the Board of Selectmen met in a special session on Thursday, February 18, 2021, by video conference call. The chair called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

Present: William Sayre, David Mathers, and Denise Banister

Also present: Gaby Immerman and Nick Dines (Mill River Greenway), Jim Hyslip (Mill River Greenway & Water and Sewer Commission), Matt Chase and Christine Champeau (VHB), Mark Moore and Michael Trepanier (MassDOT), Charlene Nardi (Town Administrator)

VHB is under contract by MassDOT for the Mill River Greenway project. Matt Chase and Christine Champeau from VHB stated that the project was at 10% design and is expected to be at 25% design by next calendar year, 2022. There are many different parts of the project. The Greenway along Rte. 9 will be done in connection with the Rte. 9 road reconstruction scheduled for FY26. VHB is also doing the design for the two bridge repairs in Haydenville (under contract by MassDOT) and the southeast section of South Main Street (under contract by the town), which will connect the Greenway to the Mass Central Trail.

Ms. Champeau walked the Board through the plans for the Greenway. She said that every effort had been made to stay within MassDOT's layout of the highway. The attendees discussed the best location of crosswalks and how the location of the crosswalks is affected by the location of the passing zone. The most logical location for the crosswalks is near the Village Green / Family Vet area and the proposed bridge to the future park; however, that is the location of the only passing zone so a secondary location was chosen. Concerns were raised regarding the maintenance of the Greenway and who is responsible. MassDOT is grappling with this issue; however, it was noted that it is not unlike sidewalks along state highways that become the responsibility of the town under the town bylaws. Maintenance of the Greenway is a concern for the town.

It was noted that Senator Hinds got funding in the most recent Transportation Bond for engineering the east portion of the South Main Street portion of the project. The Board just recently sent a letter to Jose Delgado, Director of the Governor's Western Mass. Office. The letter will be shared with everyone.

The Board thanked MassDot, Gaby Immerman and Nick Dines for all their work in moving this project forward. The Board would like to be kept up to date as the project hits each of the milestones.

Adjourned at 11:23 a.m.

Approved:

Clerk