

Minutes
Williamsburg Board of Selectmen
August 31, 2017

The members of the Board of Selectmen met in a special meeting with Highway Superintendent Bill Turner to discuss the South Main Street sidewalk and concerns expressed by businesses owners on Thursday, August 31, 2017. The members met on the west end of South Main Street. The chair called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

Present: William Sayre, David Mathers, and Denise Banister

Also present: William Turner (Highway Superintendent), Jennifer Westlake (Highway Dept.), Ned Jalbert (resident), and Charlene Nardi (Town Administrator).

In 2016, the Highway Department replaced the old asphalt sidewalks with raised concrete sidewalks to delineate the sidewalk from the roadway and provide better protection for pedestrians. In doing this work it made the utility poles, which were formerly surrounded by a dirt berm, appear to be in the roadway area. Therefore, a concrete berm is being installed this year to protect the poles and clearly define the roadway. It was planned to put in loam and seed for grass between the berm and new sidewalk. The new height of the sidewalk and the small reduction in width of the roadway impacting parking created some concern with a few businesses. The Board members met with Bill Turner to discuss these concerns. After reviewing the physical conditions, the Board members felt it was appropriate to move forward with the initial plan as the sidewalk needs to be higher than the roadway, it is not meant to be driven on, that the height of the road in the end will be slightly higher and slightly wider for the shared bike path when all the proposed work is done. The Board agreed with Bill Turner to offer the abutting landowners the opportunity to request an alternate fill between the berm and sidewalk, which depending on the request may be authorized but at the owner's expense. The requests for something alternate to the loam and seed, need to be made directly to Bill Turner no later than September 15, 2017 and he will be the final authority for authorizing any. Charlene will draft and send a letter offering that option to all the South Main Street landowners abutting the sidewalk.

Mr. Jalbert discussed a concern he had with the sidewalk and his ability to get in his driveway. Bill Turner noted that they have to raise the area otherwise it would create a puddle and that ill correct the problem.

Adjourned at 12:14 p.m.

Approved:

Clerk