

PRELIMINARY MINUTES

**TOWN OF LUDLOW
BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

LOCAL CONCERNS MEETING

AND

REGULAR MEETING

May 2, 2011

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Howard Barton, Jr., Chairman	Brett Sanderson
Douglas Ficken	Bruce Schmidt

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

John Neal

STAFF PRESENT:

Frank Heald

OTHERS PRESENT:

Christian Avard	Marji Graf	Katharine Otto
Scott Burbank	Patty Greenwood	Ralph Pace
Michael Chenette	Aaron Guyette	Ted Reeves
Liz Crowley	Glenn Heitsmith	Richard Russo
Arlene Dowling	Cecilia McMillen	Ron Tarbell
Donald Dowling	Martin Meaney	Terry Thane
Ann Gardner	Julie Nicoll	Patrick Cody (LPC-TV)
Mark Gauthier	Mary Jane O'Hara	

**LOCAL CONCERNS MEETING
BRIDGE #25 – WALKER BRIDGE**

1. Howard Barton called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. He explained that the purpose of the meeting is to discuss plans for replacement of the Walker Bridge. He advised that the public would be permitted to present questions and comments after the presentation.
2. Aaron Guyette advised that he is the project manager from Vanasse, Hangen and Brustlin and introduced Mike Chenette from VTRANS and Scott Burbank, also from VHB. He asked people to also sign the attendance sheet provided by VHB. He advised that this project will have 3 phases. Phase A will be to define the project. They will collect data on the environment, historical and architectural information and hydraulic data and take input from the public. After this initial meeting, they will determine the scope of the project and determine alternatives. A second public meeting will then be scheduled. Phase B will be the design and engineering phase, including all calculations and contract documents for the bidding process. Phase C is the actual construction and the state will take over the responsibility of oversight of the project. There will be a resident engineer from the state present.
3. Aaron Guyette continued, discussing the existing structure. He said that the bridge is 23 feet wide from curb to curb and is narrow. He said they would probably widen the bridge to about 26 feet. He said that the approaches are a little wider and decent. There are some deficiencies in the railing, but is it sufficient. The existing concrete and T-beams are showing wear and deterioration. The abutments are in worse shape and the concrete is deteriorating. The piers are in rough shape, with exposed rebar and falling concrete. The channel is adequate. He further explained that this is a public meeting to introduce the project to local and regional people and receive input. Areas of concern are the alignment of the bridge (currently S-curve), traffic control, pedestrian access, ROW impacts, historic impacts and hydraulics. This location is a rough site for a temporary bridge. The cheapest and most expedient process for this would be to close the bridge during construction and possibly put in a temporary pedestrian bridge. The buildings on the 4 corners are historic. The channel seems to be okay. They will need enough hydraulic area to avoid floods.
4. Howard Barton asked if the bridge were closed, how much faster would the project be.

5. Aaron Guyette said that is hard to say. If they have to do staged construction, it would take at least 2 seasons. They would have to build the temporary bridge and that would add time.
6. Howard Barton asked if the bridge were closed, would they be able to complete it in one season.
7. Aaron Guyette said most likely. The AOT is in favor of closing the bridge and may give incentives for speedy completion.
8. Howard Barton asked what the season would be considered.
9. Aaron Guyette said April 15th through October 15th is typical.
10. Liz Crowley expressed concerns about the schools, summer and fall foliage. She asked if there are plans for rerouting traffic.
11. Aaron Guyette said they have looked at High Street and Depot Street, but not in great detail. They are looking for local input.
12. Liz Crowley asked about walkers.
13. Aaron Guyette said there is enough room for a pedestrian bridge.
14. Donald Dowling asked what would be the plans to protect the river from construction debris.
15. Aaron Guyette said there would be a VTRANS engineer on-site to make sure that measures are taken to protect the river and it will be closely monitored by ANR.
16. Donald Dowling asked who would be responsible to clean up if there were a problem.
17. Aaron Guyette said the contractor would be responsible and the state would enforce the cleanup.
18. Mark Gauthier said that he owns the building at 101 Main Street and there is damage to the foundation on the bridge side of the building that he noticed after the last repaving. In the past, he could feel the bridge shake. How can that be prevented.
19. Aaron Guyette said that a lot depends on the condition of the road and bridge. New bridges have different approaches and that helps. Not much can be done about the impact of traffic on the bridge. When this bridge is constructed, it will have to meet specifications for smoothness of the deck. Bridge now usually have paved surfaces, not exposed concrete.
20. Mark Gauthier asked if his building has further damage, what recourse does he have.
21. Aaron Guyette said that the contractor is required to monitor the buildings with foundations within a certain distance of the bridge. He added that he does not know if 101 Main is within that distance.
22. Mary Jane O'Hara asked if Aaron Guyette would be back.
23. Aaron Guyette said he would be at the 2nd meeting.
24. Mary Jane O'Hara said that she has pictures of the 1927 flood that may be of interest.
25. Aaron Guyette said that part of the hydraulic study is to look at past FEMA studies.
26. Liz Crowley said that there are 4 lamp posts on the bridge and the concrete is tinted green. Should that be considered in the design phase? She also asked about the railing.
27. Aaron Guyette asked if there is a general feeling for what the town wants.
28. Liz Crowley said they should look at green. She also asked what the plans are for dismantling the lamp posts and replacing them.
29. Aaron Guyette said that some towns want black anodized railings and said they would bring pictures to the next meeting.
30. Mark Gauthier noted that the bridge is in the Preservation District and the bridge should be attractive as well as functional.
31. Liz Crowley also voiced concerns about the sidewalks on the bridge and suggested using brick pavers. She asked how this is financed.
32. Aaron Guyette said that could be considered. He said that 80% is federally funded, 10% state and 10% town. He said that sometimes with the brick pavers, after a few years, the mortar starts to breakdown and they require maintenance.
33. Liz Crowley said that she would still like them to look into it. She said that some research shows that the brick pavers last longer than concrete.
34. Rich Russo asked if the construction were completed in one season, would there be one lane of traffic crossing the bridge.
35. Aaron Guyette said that would be a 2-stage project. The bridge would be closed both ways for one season.
36. Liz Crowley asked if the project were 2 years, what would happen in the winter.
37. Aaron Guyette said maybe single lane.
38. Howard Barton said that would not work here.
39. Bruce Schmidt asked the estimated time the bridge would be closed. What would the preparation time be and the total construction time.
40. Aaron Guyette said they have not gotten that far yet. They have not designed the bridge. They could look at accelerated construction and possible fabrication of elements prior to construction.
41. Bruce Schmidt said that is important information and he would like to have it for the next public meeting.
42. Aaron Guyette said more information would be available at that meeting.
43. Patty Greenwood asked when construction would begin.
44. Aaron Guyette said that is largely undetermined. VTRANS says the money will be there when the design is complete. It is likely it would be in the 2014 construction season.

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45. Liz Crowley asked why the Bridgewater bridge is taking so long.
 46. Aaron Guyette said that he is not working on that project and not really familiar with it.
 47. Frank Heald said that the real bridge was condemned and nothing was in place to start construction. He said that ultimately, if we don't do something, the Walker Bridge will fail.
 48. Glenn Heitsmith asked how bad the Walker Bridge is.
 49. Aaron Guyette said that, presently, there is no danger of the bridge collapsing. VTRANS inspects bridges every 2 years.
 50. Patty Greenwood said that we get a lot of big trucks coming across that bridge and asked if there would be a weight limit set to divert trucks around it.
 51. Aaron Guyette said that was undetermined at this time.
 52. Patty Greenwood said that area is mainly residential. She asked about a weight limit on Pleasant Street Extension.
 53. Aaron Guyette said that they would look at all situations.
 54. Liz Crowley asked if the hole in the sidewalk is any indication that the bridge is next.
 55. Aaron Guyette said they look at all of the reports and the bridge is safe now.
 56. Don Dowling said the new bridge should be built maintenance free and that the underneath parts of the bridge are more important than aesthetics.
 57. Aaron Guyette said that most bridges today are being built with a life of 50 – 75 years.
 58. Mary Jane O'Hara said that the period from April 15th to October 15th is the best time for businesses on Main Street and asked if they could change those dates. She asked if it could be speedier with incentives.
 59. Aaron Guyette said that VTRANS allows contracts that particular window and number of days. The period may be less if there is accelerated construction. He added that contractors that come in under that time may possibly get incentives and penalties if they go over.
 60. Rich Russo asked if the contractor could extend the work day.
 61. Aaron Guyette said that the contractor is given a specific number of days and they set how they will use them. He said that typically the work day is 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and the contractor would discuss this with the town.
 62. Patty Greenwood noted that consideration should be made for the Memorial Day parade and other traditions. She said that a pedestrian bridge would be welcomed. She added that Elm Street should be kept open. She asked if the state puts up signs that shops are open and how to get to them. She noted that when the work was done in Springfield, traffic was routed around the downtown and businesses suffered.
 63. Aaron Guyette said the intent is to keep Elm Street open as much as possible.
 64. Patty Greenwood added that construction equipment should not be parked on people's lawns and property owners should be notified.
 65. Aaron Guyette said that is not part of the design phase. He said there usually is a project demarcation fence required and the contractors usually talk to the property owners. There are restrictions as to where the contractors may park.
 66. Patty Greenwood asked who people would contact if there is a problem.
 67. Aaron Guyette said there would be a resident engineer.
 68. Liz Crowley asked if there was a traffic survey.
 69. Aaron Guyette said that data is available through the state.
 70. Glenn Heitsmith said that when the Woodstock bridge was done, they had 24-hour construction and asked if Ludlow could get that.
 71. Aaron Guyette said it is hard to say at this time. There was less construction there. Here the intent is to do it as fast as possible.
 72. Marji Graf said that the Chester project is on an accelerated time frame. She said that her concern is the businesses. If traffic is re-routed, there should be signs to get people downtown.
 73. Aaron Guyette said that traffic control and timing are always two of the biggest concerns.
 74. Liz Crowley said that mud season would be the best time for construction because there are less visitors to town.
 75. Aaron Guyette said that March poses environmental concerns for construction. He said that the Chester project is maintaining quite a bit of the substructure. That is not the case here. He said that he does not know the complete scope of work for the Chester project and cannot really make a comparison. He said there is less scope there, but there are 2 bridges there. For the Walker Bridge, we need to remove the substructure and start from new.
 76. Liz Crowley said that in addition to a pedestrian bridge, she would like to see a dedicated land for bikes that would not impede foot traffic.
 77. Glenn Heitsmith said that he would like to make sure that the river will be open for the Duck Race in August.
 78. Patty Greenwood added that there is also the Chili cook-off in October over Columbus Day weekend. She asked when Aaron Guyette would know what needs to be done here.
 79. Aaron Guyette said that this meeting is to introduce the project and get input and concerns. They will develop 3 or 4 alternatives and hold a second meeting. They need to look at substructure, superstructure, railings and lighting

80. Glenn Heitsmith asked if they had spoken to the ski resorts (Okemo and Killington.)
81. Aaron Guyette said that sometimes there is some outreach, but everyone is invited to the public hearings and can voice their concerns.
82. Howard Barton said that everywhere you go now, infrastructure is being built and the time frame is usually Aaron Guyette said that sometimes there is some outreach, but everyone is invited to the public hearings and can voice their concerns.
83. Howard Barton said that everywhere you go now, infrastructure is being built and the time frame is usually April 15th to October 15th. He said that the bridge may not be closed that entire time.
84. Aaron Guyette said there are ways to help mitigate that. The bridge could possibly be open during part of the construction. He said that anyone wishing to make further comments should contact his company as soon as possible – while VHB is still formulating the project scope.
85. Howard Barton closed this meeting at 7:57 p.m.

SELECT BOARD
REGULAR MEETING

1. **Call to Order**

- A. Chairman Howard Barton called the meeting to order at 7:58 p.m.
- B. All members present, except John Neal.

2. **Approve Minutes of Previous Meetings**

- A. Howard Barton advised that the minutes to be approved are from the regular meeting of April 4, 2011 and the Special Meeting of April 8, 2011.
- B. **MOTION by Doug Ficken and seconded by Bruce Schmidt to approve the minutes of April 4 and April 8, 2011 as indicated above. Motion passed unanimously.**

3. **Comments from Citizens**

- A. Transfer Station
 - i. Julie Nicoll asked how the town could get running water up to the transfer station
 - ii. Frank Heald said it would have to be budgeted.
 - iii. Julie Nicoll said that she understood that the plumbing line was in place.
 - iv. Frank Heald said that it was off the old water line, but that line was replaced. Also, that line was too shallow. It would be major construction to run a line up there and very expensive.
 - v. Julie Nicoll asked when the transfer station employees stopped getting the money from the returnables.
 - vi. Frank Heald said about 5 to 6 years ago. It was decided that the town does not pay employees to sort them on town time.
 - vii. Julie Nicoll said that she was sad to hear that they were no longer getting that money. She asked how to get it back to them and could the town reconsider.
 - viii. Howard Barton said that he was not aware they had ever been getting the money.
 - ix. Julie Nicoll said it is a messy job and she thought they were still getting the money.
 - x. Bruce Schmidt asked Julie Nicoll if she thought they were being underpaid. He did not see the difference between them doing their job and a police officer ticketing a speeder. That is their job and they are getting paid to do it. They are doing a great job. He believes that employees should not get additional profit because of this and it is a slippery slope. The town provides insurance and space and he does not think they should get the money from the returnables.
 - xi. Frank Heald said that about 5 to 6 years ago, they looked at this and it did not make sense. The town pays them to do the job. He said that anything that is recycled or recovered provides funds that defer the costs of running the transfer station.
 - xii. Mark Gauthier asked when we will be able to recycle e-waste.

- xiii. Frank Heald said effective July 1st, it will be free and the contract is being negotiated by the state. They still have not determined where the receiving centers will be, possibly Springfield or Weathersfield.
- xiv. Bruce Schmidt said that he encourages Frank Heald to look into the costs of providing running water to the transfer station.
- B. Mill Street Bridge
 - i. Don Dowling asked what is going to be done with the Mill Street Bridge. He said that in the winter there was ice on the bridge, it is an eyesore, the town plows go on it, it is dangerous, and kids go on the bridge. He suggested making it a covered walkway.
 - ii. Frank Heald said the bridge was closed because it could not bear the weight of trucks and the town decided to close it. He added that the town plows do not go there. They send the sidewalk plow there. The bridge should be torn down. The state declared the bridge historic and in order to get state or federal funding, the bridge has to be replaced to historic nature. The cost to do this was about \$1,000,000.00. We could put a simple structure there for significantly less.
 - iii. Howard Barton said that this board has discussed this bridge several times.

4. **Open Highway Pickup Truck Bids**

- A. Howard Barton advised that 3 bids were received.

Company	Price
Benson Chevrolet	\$26,283
John C. Stewart & Son	\$23,256
Alderman's Chevrolet	\$27,315

- B. Howard Barton gave the bids to Ron Tarbell.
- C. Frank Heald advised Ron Tarbell to carefully look over the warranty.
- D. Ron Tarbell reviewed the bids, returned and recommended John C. Stewart.
- E. **MOTION by Brett Sanderson and seconded by Doug Ficken to award the bid to John C. Stewart & Son. Motion passed unanimously.**

5. **Open Bus Bids**

- A. Howard Barton advised that 3 bids were received.

Company	Price
DATCO, New Britain, CT	\$95,396
O'Connor Motor Co., Portland, ME	\$95,531
School Lines, Inc., Durham, NH	\$94,566

- B. Frank Heald advised that School Lines owes the town money for repairs that were needed with the last bus. He added that DATCO uses diesel and the others use diesel and urea. He said that he would review the bids carefully.
- C. Howard Barton said that since the 3 bids are so close, he would suggest allowing Frank Heald to make the decision.
- D. **MOTION by Brett Sanderson and seconded by Doug Ficken to allow Frank Heald to review the bids and make the award decision.**
- E. Bruce Schmidt asked if there had been a problem with the School Lines bus.
- F. Frank Heald said the last bus was delivered and they had to take it back and when they brought it back, there were still problems. We had to fix them and we sent them a bill which they have not paid. He said he feels that the DATCO diesel is the best way to go.
- G. **Motion passed unanimously.**

6. **Update on Mountain District Reappraisal**

- A. Terry Thane said that they are 100% done with crunching the numbers. He said that 1,300 parcels are affected. Bill Krajieski will be here on 5/5/11; notices will be printed on 5/6/11 and posted on 5/10/11. Hearings will be on 5/19, 5/20 and 5/21 and the GL abstract will be on 6/6/11. He added that only owners of properties that have been reappraised in this recent re-appraisal will be heard at these hearings. They will not hear people from other zoning districts. About 6-7% of the GL will be reduced. He said that

- Bill Krajewski recommends that all other districts be re-appraised next year. There is still \$160,000 in the budget for more reappraisals. We would like to make sure that everyone is treated fairly. The listers did all of the input.
- B. Mark Gauthier said that the overall median CLA is about 95 and the COD is about 20.
 - C. Bruce Schmidt asked how this would affect the town's budget.
 - D. Frank Heald said that the town GL is \$1,400,000,000 – this would be 2-3¢. Last year, we brought the tax rate down with the surplus. The non-residential rate will not be affected and should be stable. The state sets the residential education rate and our schools have stayed flat.
 - E. Mark Gauthier asked if we could assume the state would raise the education rate due to declining values.
 - F. Frank Heald said the legislature has done that, but he thinks our school rate may stay flat. He added that any numbers mentioned tonight are speculation. He continued, saying that the listers have recommended an RFP to continue the re-appraisal.
 - G. Howard Barton asked if that could be discussed at a later meeting.
 - H. Bruce Schmidt said that this board is not going to have a choice once the rest of the town finds out that some values have decreased.
 - I. Terry Thane said that putting out an RFP doesn't cost anything. It will give you an idea how much it will cost and we have \$160,000 to start.
 - J. Bruce Schmidt said that he is concerned and does not like spot reappraisals.
 - K. Mark Gauthier said that the largest inequities were on the Mountain.
 - L. Terry Thane said that there are some properties out of line in the town, but the village is in pretty good shape.
 - M. Frank Heald said that the problem is not the CLA, but the COD and we are at about 20. This reappraisal should bring it down some.
 - N. Howard Barton asked why the Mountain is not at "0" since the properties were just reappraised.
 - O. Frank Heald said it is based on sales.
 - P. Mark Gauthier said a "0" is perfect and never happens.
 - Q. Howard Barton said when property values go back up, we will have to reappraise again. We have never had this problem until the last 3-4 years.
 - R. Mark Gauthier said that it started with Act 60.
 - S. Bruce Schmidt said we should go through the process.
 - T. Doug Ficken agreed that we should get the numbers for the RFP.
 - U. Howard Barton asked Terry Thane and Frank Heald to get the numbers from an RFP for the next meeting.

7. **Liquor Control Board**

- A. Howard Barton advised that the application is from Frank's Tavern.
- B. Frank Heald said that everything has been contracted and the water/sewer is current. Taxes have been paid by the tenant.
- C. Bruce Schmidt asked if Chief Billings has approved it.
- D. Frank Heald said yes.
- E. **MOTION by Bruce Schmidt and seconded by Brett Sanderson to approve the liquor license for Frank's Tavern. Motion passed unanimously.**

8. **Department Head Reports**

- A. Bruce Schmidt advised that he and Doug Ficken attended the last Recreation Committee meeting and discussed fee schedules. He said that he encouraged Recreation Committee members to attend a Select Board meeting to discuss the dog park. He asked if a Thank You had been sent to Marcia Dockum.
- B. Howard Barton agreed that a thank you should be sent to Marcia Dockum.

9. **Other Business**

- A. **Green Up Day**
 - i. Frank Heald said that Green Up day will be Saturday, May 7, 2011. People will meet at the Community Center at 9:30 a.m. This year the Rotary is helping. There will be a barbecue.
- B. **Senior Center and Superintendent's Office**

- i. Frank Heald explained that it was the new people. The AC had always been left on to circulate air in the winter. The new people in the Superintendent's office stopped doing that and we sealed up the building. They were getting stale air. We replaced the filters in the AC and will get a quote for an Air Exchange System next summer. The inspector said there was no issue except CO₂ and dust. He suggested a different vacuum cleaner. I have not received his report yet and hope there is a simple fix.

10. **Set Date for June Meeting**

- A. Howard Barton noted that the date for the next regularly scheduled meeting is June 6, 2011.

11. **Sign Warrant Orders**

- A. Warrant orders have been signed.

12. **Possible Executive Session/Personnel/Legal Issues**

- A. Frank Heald advised that a short Executive Session is needed.
- B. **MOTION by Doug Ficken and seconded by Brett Sanderson to enter into Executive Session. Motion passed unanimously.**
- C. Board entered into Executive Session at 8:58 p.m.
- D. Board exited from Executive Session at 9:34 p.m.
- E. No action taken.

13. **Adjourn**

- A. **MOTION by Bruce Schmidt and seconded by Doug Ficken to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.**
- B. Meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisha Klaiber

Howard Barton, Jr., Chairman

Brett Sanderson

Doug Ficken

Bruce Schmidt

John Neal