

Public Hearing
Sidewalk Scoping Study
Monday, Feb 8, 2016
6:15 pm

Present: Doon Hinderyckx, Robert Meagher, Jim Bowen

Guests: Lucy Gibson and Matt Murawski-Dubois & King, Joan Allen, Joanne McDonnell and community members (see sign in sheet attached)

Doon called the public hearing to order at 6:15 pm. Lucy Gibson of Dubois & King started with the presentation for the Village Sidewalk Study. She noted that this is the early stages of the project, and they are gathering community input. This grant is funded by VTRANS and the town has a matching portion of 10-20%. Lucy noted that this meeting will present options for discussion. The study area is the Rochester Village Center. Currently in the Village, there is no separation between cars/sidewalks/edge of road and where people walk. Sidewalks are showing erosion, ponding and sediment deposits, and our crosswalks in the village cross to more pavement, not a sidewalk. Parking is not well defined. Lucy gave several alternatives for parking and sidewalks within the village center. New sidewalks can be added, new crosswalks, possibly a gateway into town from the north end of town that may help deter speeding into town. They would like to see sidewalks that continue beyond the school parking lot, and possibly a new crossing area crossing Rt 100 near the Health Center. Short discussion ensued regarding some homeowners losing part of their front yard to sidewalks, the handicap parking area at the Library and the ponding in front of the main steps. Rob Gardner noted that students walk to school from the southern end of town, and many people who live there walk into town. Question asked about grassy strips between sidewalks and road, and Lucy noted that there has to be some delineation, but could be granite curb or grassy strip. Discussion continued. Lucy showed photos of what it would look like using islands with plantings for definition and safety. Street lighting for sidewalks was mentioned as well, although it can be expensive. Stormwater design was also discussed as ponding on sidewalks is a problem now with less than adequate drainage. The possibilities mentioned were to reduce the area of the "Little Park" and create a "driveway" along the Inner Tradition side, also to combine the "Little Park" with the Park and have all Bethel Mtn Rd traffic go down Park Row toward the Post Office and Skip Mart. All these options have a planting area that would separate the Skip Mart from the lower part of Bethel Mtn Road. Lucy showed examples of "green gutters" which are raised planting areas that collect water and drain underground. Lengthy discussion ensued, and questions were asked and answered. At the end of the hearing, Lucy asked people to use red and green dots to show their likes or dislikes on the option plans that she had in the back of the room.

Public Hearing
New Park Design
Monday, Feb 8, 2016
7:30 pm

Present: Doon Hinderyckx, Robert Meagher, Jim Bowen

Guests: Lucy Gibson and Matt Murawski-Dubois & King, Joan Allen, Joanne McDonnell and community members (see sign in sheet attached)

Matt Murawski of Dubois & King showed the public the latest design for the “New Park” which is located at 205/209 North Main St. He introduced John Steele, landscape architect for D&K, and Greg Russ of White River Partnership. Matt noted that this project started before the sidewalk study did. He gave an overview of the conceptual design for the park. This property is directly north of the new Firehouse, and is the FEMA buyout site of the Lillard properties that were washed out by Irene. A small parking area will be near the front of the area, with overflow parking behind the firehouse. There is a wooden shelter structure to cover a couple of picnic tables and a timber framed sign for welcome information. Also there will be a wooden screen surrounding a portable toilet. There is a site for river access, bench for viewing and riparian plantings along the bank of the river. Extra picnic tables and several stand up barbeques have also been discussed. Matt noted that FEMA buyout projects have restrictions as to what can be placed on the property, so they have been careful to add structures that would stand up to another flood yet not be overly expensive. Suggestions were made as to where the structures should be placed to keep a nice open space, and Matt noted that this will depend on where the flood zone lies. No structures can be in the actual flood zone. Many suggestions were made about the possibility of using a composting toilet instead of the ongoing expense of a portable toilet, or possibly the “sweet toilets” used by the USFS. After discussion, the following possible names were given for the “New Park”:

Riverside Park, Ice Pond Park, Firehouse Landing, Creamery Park, Gateway Park, North End Park, Green Mtn Park, Riverfront Park, Riverview Park, Riverbrook Park, Brook St Park, Green Valley Park and Old Lillard Pond Park. No decisions were made, and again, we hope that construction will happen this year.

Public Hearings closed at 7:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne McDonnell