

Town of Moretown Development Review Board P.O. Box 666, Moretown, Vermont 05660

Minutes of hearing Held August 27, 2015

John Riley called the meeting to order at 6:30

Doug Henson, land surveyor for Lamoureux & Dickinson presented the Town's plan for the village sidewalk replacement. Board members received in advance a copy of the application for conditional use approval for sidewalks; a reduced copy of plans; and a letter from the Department of Environmental Conservation signed by Sacha Pealer. The board accepted the letters and documents into evidence.

John Weir received a letter dated August 26th, and it was accepted into evidence.

Mr. Henson began with an overall project presentation for the sidewalk on the easterly side of Route 100B in the village of Moretown. It is to start at the easterly entrance to Hurdle Road, and continues to the intersection of Moretown Mountain Rd. A striped 4' shoulder, keep and new sidewalk will replace existing one where it is now located except for a few spots where more alteration will need to be done.

John Riley asked if the travelled lane would remain the same and Henson replied it was hard to say at this point as there presently is not a clearly established travelled way.

The discussion focused on the structural integrity of the new bridge to be built next to the existing road bridge over doctor's Brook as a pedestrian walkway over the stream. The new bridge will have to be completely removable as per VTrans requirements. The road bridge will need repair in the near undetermined future. VTrans pays 80% of the project.

The sidewalk bridge will be designed and built to stay put in the event of another hurricane like Irene.

Dave Russo asked if it is typical to approve a plan with so little information at hand and are there railings on this new bridge that could potentially trap debris and cause flooding?

No utilities will pass through the bridge, no lighting. It is a challenge to estimate to what extent placement of 140 yards of fill will raise a base flood. Some preliminary analysis indicated it might change the overall flood level by 1/4". Sacha Pealer stressed that the bridge must be adequately anchored with materials, methods and practices that are resistant to flood damage. She was happy that the sidewalk bridge will be 50' in width.

The Stream Alteration Permit has not been obtained yet. The permit will be issued with conditions that it must pass inspection within all the guidelines of the design.

Approximately 140 cubic yards of fill is the least amount of fill to do the job under the State sidewalk development guidelines. The standard sidewalk per the American Disabilities Act is 5'.

Could wood for the bridge be constructed to be as strong as steel? Yes, said Doug Henson. Both materials meet the specifications.

How long is the permit good for? 2 years. The town can to renew it if the project is delayed. Construction is expected to begin in the Spring /Summer of 2017.

John Riley made a motion to approve the application with the conditions:

The project is completed in accordance with plans submitted.

The proposed bridge be anchored to resist floatation, collapse or lateral flooding during a base flood as set forth in Section 5.2 E(3) of the ordinance. This condition incorporates the recommendations Sacha Pealer made.

Tom Badowski suggested that the State Stream Alteration Permit once obtained be recorded in town land records.

90 days within project completion a certification by a professional engineer or a land surveyor to establish that the project is completed according to specifications.

Tom Badowski seconded the motion.

Doug Henson suggested that the liability insurer for the certifying professional might have a problem with the condition of a structure being verified being "as built" whereby work is inspected and overseen generally as opposed to a project where every detail was personally witnessed and recorded built.

The bridge construction is being subcontracted. It's strength will be certified by the manufacturer's certification. What it is capable of withstanding is not possible to determine without destroying it. Everything has been done to check the strength down to the tension test on the power bolts.

Erick Titrud moved to amend the motion adding that during construction and until a vegetative cover is established, that construction comply with 4.11 Protection of Streams and Wetlands.

After discussion, Erick withdrew the motion. Tom withdrew his second.

A vote was taken to approve the plans as presented by Doug Henson for the Town of Moretown with the conditions above stated. The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.