

Selectmen's Meeting
Wednesday, February 28, 2018
Sunderland Town Office Building

Present: S. Bergeron, T. Fydenkevez, D. Pierce, S. Patch, DOT representatives Patrick Paul, Doug White, Richard Masse, FRCOG: Maureen Mullaney, Beth Giannini, John Morgan from CHA

Others: Residents North and South Main Street

Meeting called to order at 5:00 PM.

North Main Street Reconstruction Project

John Morgan Project Engineer for CHA Engineering gave a brief overview of the project. The project initially was started in 2012, design for the project stated in 2015. Conceptual designs were presented. The initial concept called for widening the road from 26' to 32' to provide 5' paved shoulders for bicycles and reconstruction of sidewalks and drainage improvements. Feedback received from public meetings held resulted in preference to look at alternative design concepts as there was concern over widening the road. One of the alternatives presented was to provide a shared use path to get bicycles off the road. The shared use path would be used by bicycles and pedestrians. The decision was to go with the shared use path. This design was progressed to 25% design level and submitted to DOT. DOT has reviewed with some minimal concerns. Recently, more feedback from the town was received. An informational meeting was held in December to update the public on the project. Residents attending this meeting expressed their preference to go back to the original design to widen the road. Residents continue to express concern with widening the road, which would ultimately result in increased traffic speed and public safety concerns. However, residents prefer this option to the shared use path option. Other concerns expressed were the historical integrity of North and South Main Street as well as the aesthetics of the area. It was further noted that North and South Main Street are National Scenic Byways. Doug White noted the state has minimum standards especially related to safety. Mr. White further advised that it is a statewide policy to make sure that bikes and pedestrians have accommodations. Discussed possible design exception for 4ft. shoulders. Mr. White advised that this exception has been approved on other jobs and may be a possible compromise. District 2 Reps will reach out to MassDOT to see if they are amendable to 4ft shoulders. Additional funding for design exception will be required. This will be addressed at the Annual Town Meeting.

Motion: Mr. Bergeron to adjourn. Second: Mr. Fydenkevez, Vote 3-0.

Meeting adjourned at 6:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Sherry Patch,
Town Administrator