

Sunderland Village Center Committee (SVCC) Zoom meeting

Minutes of Meeting August 24, 2022

1. In “attendance”: Lorin Starr, Chair, Christyl Drake-Tremblay, Jessica Skibiski, Liz Sillin and Rock Warner. Geoff Kravitz, Town Administrator, and guest Cindy Bennett were present as well.
2. Meeting called to order 7:03 PM by Lorin.
3. Minutes of November 3, 2021 were approved as amended.
4. North Main Street project. Geoff reported that the project is now complete.
5. Sanderson Place. The elderly housing project is due to open in October or November. The lottery was successful – 9 local applicants made the first cut (13 to 16 applied). There were 60 eligible applicants overall, but they have not announced the final list.
6. Riverside Park/Kayak shed. The project bids came in over budget for the kayak shed. The sidewalk connecting the boat ramp to the Riverside walkway has been completed. A CPA grant will fund the restroom for spring construction, and the Library is looking for a donor for the kayaks. The project may need to be scaled back.
7. School Street. Need to find way to pay the work that needs to be done. MassWorks funding requires 75% plans, and we have 25% plans. So Geoff will continue to explore the possibility of obtaining funding for same, as well as for signage.
8. MA DOT Rt 116 sidewalk project. The Rt 116 sidewalk has been installed. The grass divider between the sidewalk and the roads is not as wide as initially indicated – we were told there would be 3’, but the average is more like 22”. There is also supposed to be a delineated bike lane, but as of yet no lines have been painted. The Garage Road sidewalk is also complete.
9. Intersection project. With respect to Mass DOT plans, Geoff indicated that the roundabout is still not on its “current list” and therefore our committee should explore options and provide consensus input to DOT. We discussed the idea of an open forum with DOT present. We need to understand what the public opinions are. We would like to see alternate solutions offered so that the public can have options presented. The intersection seems to be working better now that the light timing has been modified, so there was a question as to whether there was still a problem that needs to be solved. It was suggested that we hire a traffic expert but also someone who understands that we want a safe intersection but also to preserve the village center. A general discussion followed regarding the pedestrian crosswalks and options to suggest to DOT to make them more visible.

Meeting adjourned 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Sillin