



Town of Brewster

2198 Main Street
Brewster, MA 02631-1898
Phone: (508) 896-3701
Fax: (508) 896-8089

Office of:
Select Board
Town Administrator

MINUTES OF THE MILLSTONE ROAD PUBLIC OUTREACH FORUM

DATE: August 16, 2018

TIME: 8:00 AM

PLACE: Brewster Town Office Building, 2198 Main Street

PRESENT: DPW Director Patrick Ellis, Interim Town Manager Mark Forest, Assistant Town Administrator Donna Kalinick, Selectperson Chaffee, Selectperson Bingham, Many Public Residents

Patrick Ellis introduced himself as well as other Town staff and other various members of Town's Boards and Committees that were in attendance. Mr. Ellis noted the tremendous success of the sidewalks on 6A, but that the purpose of this meeting was for the public to give their recommendations to the Town on what they would like to see occur on Millstone Road. This could potentially include introducing pedestrian and bicycle traffic, or leaving it an auto corridor only. Additionally, sidewalks in Brewster can be treated as a shared space for bicycle and pedestrian traffic. Millstone connects Route 6A to Route 137. He reiterated that the forum tonight was for public input, and if a member of the public was not comfortable with addressing the forum they could call or email him, and he would also meet residents on site. Steve Roads and Griffin Ryder of VHB were the consultants chosen to create the design and oversee the construction. A brief presentation was given highlighting what has been done to date. Conceptual plans were generated based on recent surveying of the road by J.M. O'Reilly and were displayed at the forum. Signage was recently installed at the Rail Trail crossing. The pavement testing and design was near completion. Mr. Ryder reviewed the short term project schedule; concept plan development late July to September, public outreach meeting in August (this meeting), Town and VHB to coordinate based on public feedback, second public outreach meeting September/early October. The long term project schedule includes; preliminary design plans November to February, final design plans April to July 2019 and bid project in fall 2019. The forum was then opened to public questions and comments.

A resident asked about the thickness of the pavement, and the heavy duty traffic on the road. The pavement thickness will accommodate all vehicles. A resident asked about the sidewalks, and if they would be down one side of the road. The sidewalks will need to alternate on each side of the road to accommodate the Town's right of way. It was asked if Millstone Road could become a "no truck route" encouraging large trucks to use Underpass Road instead. A citizen asked about the zoning of Millstone Road and what types of variances are needed to do this project in a residential area. A resident asked about land that would be taken from the homeowner for the sidewalk. Mr. Ellis described the right of way layout, and that the Town would pursue an easement from a homeowner for the property to install the sidewalk, if needed. The right of way is typically 40 feet wide, and the paved travel way is typically 20-22 feet wide, leaving a lot of room for road

www.brewster-ma.gov



Town of Brewster

2198 Main Street
Brewster, MA 02631-1898
Phone: (508) 896-3701
Fax: (508) 896-8089

Office of:
Select Board
Town Administrator

widening and sidewalk installation. The next resident that spoke was in favor of sidewalks, the quality of life it would provide and would be in favor of reducing the vehicle weight limit on the road. A citizen was concerned with the crossing of bicycles and pedestrians as the sidewalks were not all on one side of the road. Mr. Ellis does not recommend widening the road. As this is not a DOT project, the design does not have to automatically incorporate any design element that is not overall favored. A general consensus of the group was to avoid granite curbs, and to have as little cross walks as possible. A resident was concerned with the potential blind spot at the location to the entrance of the new affordable housing on Millstone Road. A resident was in favor of the project, asking for a sidewalk along with a bike lane and new roadway. A resident was concerned about the new housing project behind her home, as well as a new roadway project in front of her home. She is concerned about how this is going to impact her and her neighbors. Lighting along the road way, over grown shrubs, increase of large truck usage, drainage, and the re-location of fire hydrants were discussed. A resident was very concerned with the lack of safety while walking on Millstone, and the disregard of the bicycle crossing by bicyclists. A citizen asked where the money for this project was from. This project was funded by the road bond, as a major road in Town. Wider shoulders as opposed to curbing was suggested. The speed limit will be considered. A prior Town Meeting declared Millstone a scenic road, which is based on the contour of the road. This typically reduces the traffic speed limit. A majority of the residents attending the meeting are supportive of the project. The next resident to speak was against this project, referring to the new construction projects in town and new road design on Route 6A and Underpass Rd. She was concerned about maintaining the character of the Town. It was confirmed that the town would be responsible for snow maintenance on sidewalks if constructed on Millstone Road. A resident who lives near the bicycle path was very concerned with the traffic speed and lack of safety on the Millstone Road as it is now. A resident who lives on the corner of Millstone and 6A is in favor of the sidewalks, and asked if the sidewalk could be taken to the entrance of 6A. A crossing agreement, integration issues and sightlines would have to be discussed with the State. A citizen advocated for a bike lane in addition to a sidewalk for safety. The Millstone Housing project was brought up, noting there will be a considerable increase of usage of the road. Drainage improvements along the road will be considered and potentially upgraded. Additional residents spoke, reiterating the points previously made regarding; the need to slow speed of vehicles, the concern of increased truck use on the road, sidewalks being inconsistently located on either side of the road, maintenance of the roads and sidewalks, and the use of a softer curb other than granite. Mr. Ellis explained to the group that at certain times the cross walk will need to alternate the side of the road given the right of way layout. The Planning Board will need to hold a hearing for certain alterations such as tree and wall removal and relocation. Mr. Ellis will take the feedback from the public, and give a recommendation to the Select Board for the project for approval. A conceptual design will then be created using the data and logistics. Another public forum will be held once the design is generated for review.

Respectfully submitted,
Robin Young

Approved: _____ Signed: _____

www.brewster-ma.gov