

**Town of Mount Desert
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
Meeting Room, Town Hall
6:30 PM, September 16, 2019**

Board Members Present: Chairman John Macauley, Selectmen Rick Mooers, Matt Hart, Martha Dudman, and Wendy Littlefield

Town Manager Durlin Lunt and Public Works Director Tony Smith were in attendance.

Members of the Public in attendance: Sam McGee, VHB Representative Tony Grande, DOT Representatives Patrick Adams and Nate Howard

I. Call to order at 6:30 p.m.

Chairman Macauley called the meeting to order at 6:30PM.

II. Minutes

A. Approval of minutes from September 3, 2019 meeting

MOTION: Selectman Dudman moved, with Selectman Hart seconding, approval of the September 3, 2019 Minutes as presented. Motion approved 4-0-1 (Mooers in Abstention).

III. Appointments/Recognitions/Resignations

None presented

IV. Consent Agenda *(These items are considered routine, and therefore, may be passed by the Selectmen in one blanket motion. Board members may remove any item for discussion by requesting such action prior to consideration of that portion of the agenda.)*

A. Department Reports: Public Works

B. Planning Board Minutes of August 14, 2019

C. Thank you letters from Families First Community Center, LIFEFLIGHT Foundation, Downeast Horizons, Island Connections,

D. ADD's FY-19 successful financial audit provided in accordance with the ADD interlocal agreements signed by the member towns

E. Hancock County Commissioners Meeting Minutes from August 20, 2019

MOTION: Selectman Littlefield moved, with Selectman Hart seconding, acceptance of the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion approved 5-0.

V. Selectmen's Reports

Selectman Dudman reported that concern was voiced at an Economic Development public forum about the lack of broadband internet in some areas of the Town. Ms. Dudman hoped that if people were having issues with broadband, they would let the Town know. Town Manager Lunt suggested there could be a few residents living too far away to receive the signal, and there could be some areas that were topographically challenged making reception difficult. If enough people voice concern, the Broadband Committee could be brought together to discuss it. Mr. Lunt reported receiving one call and offered some advice and asked the caller to call again if they were still having issues with reception. They never called back. Selectman Hart wondered if some of the reports were anecdotal, or the concerns were old enough to have since been corrected.

1
2 **VI. Unfinished Business**

3 *A. Progress report on the Route 3 Safety Improvements Study*

4 Public Works Director Tony Smith explained this study spanned from the 198/Route 3
5 intersection to the Seal Harbor fountain.

6
7 VHB Consultant Tony Grande reported on the findings.

8
9 The length of the road studied is approximately three miles. Issues include deteriorating
10 pavement, drainage facilities in need of repair, parking issues, blind driveways, sign overgrowth,
11 pedestrian crosswalks, and falling rocks and other conditions on the roads with steep-slope
12 sides.

13
14 The road safety assessment was conducted on July 30/31, and participants included Town
15 personnel, DOT personnel, and VHB personnel. There was an informational meeting where
16 some problem locations were identified, followed by a drive-through assessment, and a more
17 detailed assessment of several locations.

18
19 The average-per-year traffic count is 2600 to 2900 vehicles on that corridor per day. The speed
20 zones within there are 30, 35, 40. There are 25-mile sections adjacent to the corridor as well.
21 Vehicle counts and speed checks were conducted. A speed assessment was made July 25
22 through July 27 and included three 24-hour counts. The peak vehicle count at that time was
23 4000 – 4600 vehicles per day. Speed monitoring during that time show that most people drive
24 at or below the posted speed limits. Setting speed limits requires using an 85th percentile speed.
25 The area assessed is not a high-accident area. There were 18 accidents along the corridor in
26 2014 to 2018, and an additional four accidents at the intersections themselves. Most of these
27 accidents were without injury. Most of the accidents were deer related, with weather causing
28 another sizable portion of accidents occurring there.

29
30 Existing positive safety features include the crossing and parking enhancements made at Seal
31 Harbor. The narrow lanes actually help to keep speeds down. Road lines are easily visible at
32 night.

33
34 The narrow roads, while keeping speed down, also create problems as well. Other problems
35 found include traffic pinch-points along the road, rock faces and trees immediately adjacent to
36 the roadway, parking and the lack thereof, and the lack of biking and pedestrian facilities.

37
38 Five locations were selected to review in more depth:

39
40 **1 – Asticou Inn Area** – positive features include the lighting over the crosswalk, and the
41 pedestrian warning sign on the corner was visible. There is a second pedestrian warning sign
42 currently hidden by vegetation overgrowth. Regular maintenance around signs would be
43 helpful. Concerns and suggestions include perhaps making the Asticou driveway accesses
44 designated as Exit and Entrance only. The lack of a clear-zone where the shoulder is right up
45 against the curb is a problem. Pedestrians cross the road at the driveway and not at the
46 crosswalk.

47

1 **2 – Rock Wall Area** – Positives include the DOT conducted a rock scaling project recently. The
2 crosswalk at the gardens is clearly marked, however it is challenging to see. There are reflective
3 strips on the guardrail making it more visible. Negatives include the roadway stability along the
4 retaining wall is a concern and the integrity of the guardrail there is in question. The DOT is
5 currently working to determine how best to replace it, either this year or next. Stability on the
6 shore side shows some large stones have fallen from the wall. Falling rock is evident on the land
7 side of the road as well. The road width varies as you travel the road. The road is narrower on
8 the Asticou Inn end.
9

10 Director Smith noted that the crosswalk there is currently scheduled for work.
11

12 **3 – Off Road Parking Area Recently Installed** – the site distance for this parking area was good.
13 Regularly trimming vegetation will ensure it remains good.
14

15 **4 – Little Long Pond Area** – There is some designated parking in the area. There are also No
16 Parking signs where parking is not wanted. Parking is a big concern; a lot of people want to visit
17 this destination. Lack of sight distance is a problem and due to the curve of the road, there's not
18 much that can be done to improve it. The pedestrian crossing is unexpected. There is very little
19 shoulder.
20

21 **5 – Stanley Brook Area Parking** – The parking area recently had some improvements made
22 along with the bridge work done in the area. Connectivity work recently done also helped.
23 Director Smith added that the parking lot enhancement work done resulted in five parking
24 spaces lost. The bus stop is currently located on the crosswalk. If the bus is in the crosswalk
25 area, pedestrians wanting to cross will cross wherever they can. Advanced pedestrian warning
26 signs are missing from the area. And the crosswalk is missing an accessible landing on the shore
27 side of the road.
28

29 Next steps in the assessment include looking at conceptual design. The ideal would be two
30 eleven-foot travel lanes with five-foot shoulders spanning the corridor. It will be a challenge to
31 find that much available space the entire length of the corridor. Mr. Grande pointed out that
32 the original concept even through the rock wall area included space for the proposed eleven-
33 foot lanes and four-foot shoulders. The width is possible there for the lanes at least. However,
34 it becomes more of a challenge on the shore side, as rock there has deteriorated. Any work
35 done in this area will be costly.
36

37 Mr. Grande suggested that perhaps a private-public funding partnership could be reached to
38 cover the costs. Such a partnership would also be looked into as a next step. Discussion would
39 continue between the Town and the DOT on conceptual designs and costs. Additionally, a
40 concept cost for rebuilding the rock wall would be wise to have as well.
41

42 Mr. Grande noted the proposal will be for two eleven-foot lanes with five-foot paved shoulders.
43 Previously, there have been unpaved shoulders with surface treatment. When a shoulder is not
44 paved, it tends to become part of the ditch. The shoulders would be designed for both
45 pedestrians and bike traffic.
46

47 Director Smith felt sure the DOT would look to the Town to share the cost. He has been in touch
48 with the bicycling groups about such a cost share. Director Smith envisioned the work being

1 three projects – a mile at a time over three years. DOT representative Patrick Adams noted that
2 a cost-shared project would more likely receive funding from the DOT.

3
4 Selectman Hart noted there is a section of road on that corridor with a good paved shoulder. In
5 summer months that shoulder is full of parked vehicles, rendering the shoulder useless to
6 pedestrians and bikes. Mr. Adams felt that at that point, parking would become a local
7 ordinance.

8
9 Mr. Grande concluded that a draft report would be submitted to the Town listing what was
10 found, recommendations, costs broken out by both short-term and long-term. A Public Meeting
11 will be held. And a final report will be produced after that. Mr. Grande estimated the report
12 would be completed before the end of the year.

13
14 Chairman Macauley inquired whether towing cars from no parking zones was an option. It was
15 agreed that the area is beautiful and a popular spot for people to want to pull over the look.

16
17 Resident Sam McGee pointed out that the parking of vehicles on the one section of paved
18 shoulder is due to estate employee parking. If private funding is sought, such an issue will have
19 to be handled carefully, as the owner of that estate might be a potential funder.

20
21 Mr. Grande mentioned that utility poles throughout the corridor are another constraint for
22 shoulders.

23
24 Selectman Littlefield wondered if the Town could look for advantageous areas along the road
25 where parking could be built. Mr. Adams noted the off-road parking noted in item #3. If areas
26 like that could be found it would be a great benefit to the Town. Talking with Acadia National
27 Park and the Land and Garden Preserve was also discussed. It was suggested that perhaps the
28 estate owners along the corridor might welcome road improvements and be willing to work
29 with the Town with regard to parking.

30
31 **VII. New Business**

32 *A. Request from MDIHS students to sponsor their 2020 yearbook by purchasing an ad*
33 Town Manager Lunt noted that the Town of Bar Harbor takes an ad out every year. Their ad
34 could be used as a model for Mount Desert's. The money for the ad could come from the
35 discretionary fund.

36
37 MOTION: Selectman Hart moved, with Selectman Mooers seconding, to approve the request
38 from the MDIHS students to sponsor their 2020 yearbook by purchasing an ad, as presented.

39
40 Selectman Dudman wondered if this were a necessary expense.

41
42 Selectman Hart compared it to the Town's support of the recycling group at the elementary
43 school. Selectman Littlefield noted the ads help keep the cost of the yearbook down for the
44 students purchasing it. She reminded the Board of the high school students who have worked in
45 the Town. There are adequate funds in the discretionary account. The ad can be designed to
46 say anything the Town might want. The ad does not need to be submitted till January.

47
48 Motion approved 5-0.

Town Manager Lunt suggested having ideas submitted by the end of November. It was decided that Selectmen Littlefield would ask students to put some of the ideas shared together in a form to be presented at the next meeting.

VIII. Other Business

A. Such other business as may be legally conducted

Board Members asked about the Route 198 project. The new guardrails appeared to leave little room for the promised shoulders. Public Works Director Smith assured the Board that once the lines were painted, the shoulders would be apparent and a width of four feet from the edge of the pavement. Additionally, it was noted off-road parking has been created around the Giant Slide Trail trailhead, so those using the trail can park off the street and shoulder.

IX. Treasurer's Warrants

A. Approve & Sign Treasurer's Warrant Accounts Payable (AP) AP2017 in the amount of \$943,883.96

MOTION: Selectman Mooers moved, with Selectman Littlefield seconding, approval and signature of Treasurer's Warrant Accounts Payable (AP) AP2017 in the amount of \$943,883.96, as presented. Motion approved 5-0.

B. Approve Signed Treasurer's Payroll (PR), State Fees, & PR Benefit Warrants AP2015, AP2016, and PR2005 in the amounts of \$2,849.00, \$30,059.15, and \$114,412.20, respectively

MOTION: Selectman Mooers moved, with Selectman Hart seconding, approval of signed Treasurer's Payroll (PR), State Fees, & PR Benefit Warrants AP2015, AP2016, and PR2005 in the amounts of \$2,849.00, \$30,059.15, and \$114,412.20, respectively, as presented. Motion approved 4-0-1 (Littlefield in Abstention).

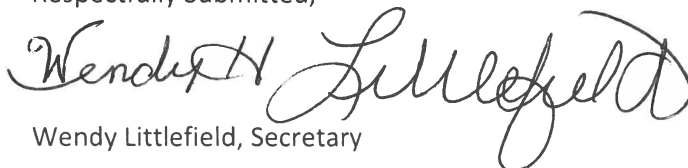
C. Acknowledge Treasurer's School Board AP/PR Warrants 03 and 06 in the amounts of \$42,815.55 and \$86,449.37, respectively

MOTION: Selectman Mooers moved, with Selectman Littlefield seconding acknowledgement of Treasurer's School Board AP/PR Warrants 03 and 06 in the amounts of \$42,815.55 and \$86,449.37, respectively, as presented. Motion approved 5-0.

X. Adjournment

MOTION: Selectman Mooers moved, with Selectman Littlefield seconding, the meeting adjourn. Motion approved 5-0. The Meeting adjourned at 7:12PM.

Respectfully Submitted,


Wendy Littlefield, Secretary