

**Plainfield Select Board Meeting
June 8, 2021
Minutes - Approved**

Agenda

Approval of/changes to agenda

Pedestrian Bridge traffic control plan (for construction estimated to start in July)

- Review traffic control plan
- Hear concerns/coments regarding the Pedestrian Bridge construction trafficcontrol plan
- Approval of Pedestrian Bridge construction traffic control plan
- Options for communicating with the community on Pedestrian Bridge project details and progress

Present via Zoom: Select Board members Jim Volz (chair), Tammy Farnham, and Sasha Thayer, **Community Members** Liz Bicknell, Tom Blachley, Leon Cookson, Suzanne and Jim Jamele, David Strong, and vhb Engineering engineers Evan Detrick and Jason Keener.

The meeting commenced at 5:30 PM.

Approval of/changes to agenda No changes were made to the agenda.

Public Comment: Public comment occurrec throughout the meeting. During discussion the draft traffic control plan was shared on the screen to facilitate discussion.

Pedestrian Bridge traffic control plan – Jim Volz introduced the topic of the meeting being a public hearing on the Pedestrian Bridge Project in particular the Pedestrian Bridge traffic control plan for construction starting in July and any comments or concerns that people may have.

Tammy Farnham noted that the Traffic Control Plan has been on the town website and that the Board is here to answer questions and hear any concerns. She also noted that the Board has to do the approval of the Traffic Control Plan and then it goes to the State for final approval.

Leon Cookson of the 15 School Street building on the northside of Rt. 2 expressed concern about access to his property both from the western side off of Harvey Hill and for a tenant who uses the driveway on the eastern side of the building. He is concerned that the temporary fencing shown in red next to Rt 2 will take up an unreasonable amount of the parking lot at the west end of his building. He stated that the parking lot on the west side of his building is only about 20 feet long and with the fencing a car wouldn't be able to pull in, and back up, and drive out. He couldn't see any purpose to the fencing as there is no construction on his side of the road and asked why the

fencing would have to be there. Evan Detrick of vhb Engineering explained what we are looking at is the suggested traffic control plan proposed by the contractor. Re the intent of the fencing, Detrick said that it is to force cars to go onto Harvey Hill, rather than directly onto Rte. 2, that is to prevent vehicles from entering and exiting the parking lot directly onto Rt 2 rather than going onto Harvey Hill and entering Rt 2 from Harvey Hill. He said that the contractor will be putting in temporary traffic signals and on Main Street to restrict traffic to one lane, one west of Harvey Hill and another west of the hardware store. The design engineer had put together the concept plan and it is not on the contractor to prepare a plan to assure safety during construction. Detrick said that it won't be easy for folks once they start construction and will be painful during the ninety days in which construction must be completed.

Leon Cookson stated that those leaving his parking lot already do so from Harvey Hill because of the poor sight lines to the east of vehicles coming from the Marshfield direction, He also raised the concern that the temporary fencing will make receiving deliveries difficult as vehicles won't have the space to drive in and turn around. Leon also mentioned that he needs to be able to access his front porch and his motorcycle and mower which are stored below the porch area at the front of his building and a tenant accesses the building from the east side of the building.

Tammy said that she thinks those changes that Leon expressed needing. Leon also noted that he's had deliveries from tractor trailers which have pulled up in front of the porch on Rte 2 to unload. Evan Detrick stated that if they were informed ahead of time when a delivery were coming that it would be possible to work with the contractor to temporarily move the fencing away.

Sue and Jim Jamele expressed concern that the Town Hall parking lot is designated as a staging area for the Pedestrian Bridge contractor. She said that they are trying to figure out how their clients are going to be able to access their office during the constructino both on foot and by car.. They are also wondering how the mail delivery will occur as the mailbox is right in front of their office. She noted that the mail delivery would have to go through the cones shown on the map and that it's not just them that receives mail there, there being about 5 mailboxes there. She clarified for vhb engineer Jason Keenen there is only a paved portion of the road in front of their office, and no driveway. Sue said that their driveway isn't accessible any more because the Town put signs up that block the driveway, so nobody can drop thing off by going in a driveway. Jason said he'd have to talk with the contractor about how they are going to allow access, the contractor may have to provide a gap in the cones and signage to show that access is restricted to deliveries only She also said that they do real estate closings all the time and have FEDEX and UPS deliveries regularly. Leon Cookson noted that his mailbox is over there as well.

Evan noted that the Town Hall parking lot has been designated as the staging area for the contractor, but wondered whether it may be possible for them to have enough room to maneuver and have a space for vehicles. Sue wondered whether there could be a

line of spaces in the Town Hall parking lot where clients or delivery people could park, which will not be available to them now. She and Jim said that they can walk to the office from their home so parking won't be an issue for them. Sue also mentioned that they get oil deliveries and have cleaners come in a couple times a month. Sasha raised the possibility of seeking approval from the Friends of the Town Hall/Opera House for parking on the Gallison House property during the construction. Sue also mentioned that the yoga studio will need parking during construction. She also noted that Peak Hydroponics get deliveries there right in front of the store. It appears that it's not likely that it will be possible to predict when such deliveries will occur.

Sue also asked how people will be able to get across Rte 2. Evan Detrick said that will need to be clear on the traffic control plan.

Leon Cookson again expressed his view that the temporary fencing on his parking area shown on the plan isn't necessary.

Liz Bicknell asked about whether there will be specific hours that work is being done and Evan Detrick said that the contractor will be working regular summer hours from about 7 am to 7 pm. He clarified that traffic won't return to two lanes during the night. Liz Bicknell asked whether this construction is near the library, and it was confirmed that the library is further down Rte 2 (towards Montpelier). Liz Bicknell asked about whether anyone has actually been in touch with the Friends of the Opera House because they have a lot of events planned. Tammy noted that Dave Strong has been very involved and is aw

Sasha explained that the Friends are not, at this time, even sure that they want to offer events inside and that at this time there hasn't yet been a decision by the Town about re-opening the building. She said that the Town is working with the Friends on this planning. Sasha said that this summer there will be a number of offerings through the Friends of the Town Hall/Opera House which will be happening at the Rec Field and there is parking there.

In response to Liz Bicknell's question, it was clarified that the work will start in early July and the contractor has 90 days to complete the work.

Evan Detrick explained that VHB will take these comments and concerns back to the contractor, and there will be a very close look in the plan, it must then be approved by Vtrans before construction starts. He said that if there were any radical changes made to the plan, the Town would be informed of that.

No one else expressed concerns or asked for other changes to the traffic control plan.

Tammy moved to adjourn at 6:15 PM and the motion was approved unanimously.

Minutes prepared by select board member Sasha Thayer.