

Minutes of the Public Works Committee on March 26, 2012.

Present

B. Nunno, Chairman
P. Vetro
F. Smith
B. Anderson

Also Present

B. Kolwicz, PW Director
L. Streit, Recording Secretary
Charles Griebell

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Public Concern

The City Engineer, Mayor and Public Works Director all received a letter/report from Mr. Griebell asking that an alternative be considered for the HAKS Plan at Fort Trumbull Beach. Mr. Griebell stated that he is concerned with the effects of the bulk head proposed. A 1,000' bulk head down Trumbull Avenue 32' deep. He feels the boulders at the beach are in excellent shape; the toe of the revetment is in good shape; the dirt between the boulders washed away. The design of the revetment by the Corps of Engineers was referenced. In 1995/1996 dirt was put in behind the revetment where it should be riprap or rocks. An excellent job was done with the boulders but, dirt between the boulders and the road washed away. During the storm, spray went up in the air and the wind blew spray on top of the dirt and the dirt washed away. The HAKS plan proposes riprap/rocks between the revetment and the street. However, it also proposes putting in the bulk head first and then addressing the revetment. Mr. Griebell stated that he has been an Engineer for 45 years and he feels that the revetment must be repaired first then, what enhancements need to be done and these have to make sense, be cost effective and have the appropriate outcome. He feels the proposed revetment will be better than new. The whole project will cost \$10 million and \$6 million of this is for the bulk head. Mr. Griebell questions the need for the bulk head and feels if the revetment was done in 1995 with rip rap there would be no need for a plan today. The DEP is dead set against the bulk head. A bulk head the size proposed would be like a dam and water on the land side would go into the ground. It is uncertain what is down 32' and feels putting a bulk head in is a risk for the homeowners on Trumbull Avenue. Alternate plans considered should be looked at. The HAKS report was done in 5 days and they did a fabulous job but it does not address the negatives associated with bulk heads. Per the DEP, hard structures are to be discouraged. Mr. Griebell stated that a bulk head could always be put in after the revetment. Mr. Griebell stated that his house was built in 1896 and the foundation is rocks and he has no flooding.

Bruce stated that the proposed bulk head is not going in. The HAKS proposal is a report and not the plan. The City is guided by FEMA funds and FEMA does not see a need for a bulk head; they feel it is too expensive and is untested. The Army Corps, DEP and FEMA said no to the bulk head and propose \$4 million for the project. The project has not gone out to bid yet and HAKS may not get the bid. Mr. Griebell stated that he was outside during the storm and the amount of spray was unbelievable; waves would never come up to the wall. Bruce stated that it looks like Mr. Griebell's report is what is going to happen. Mr. Griebell stated that whoever put the wall in did a good job. Bruce stated that the original designer will be on the panel/team for the project. Funding for the project has been approved by the City and the City will get reimbursed for 75%.

Minutes

Anderson stated that in the previous meetings minutes in the discussion on the Soloman property – “house is open” should be added. A motion was made by Anderson, seconded by Nunno to accept the minutes as amended and carried unanimously.

Director's Report

- Bolt Lane and Terrel Drive – the drainage project is complete. A discussion followed regarding this project should improve the roads and yards in the area. (Flax Mill Terrace project was completed prior to this).
- Its spring and the ground never froze over the winter. The tennis courts are ready for use and the ball fields are being worked on. Tree removal from the tropical storm is almost complete.
- Old Gate Lane – waiting for the UI Company for the lights underneath the bridge. The project seems to be working. Nunno stated that New Canaan has a sensor and horn that goes off if a vehicle is too high to clear the bridge.
- Route 1 widening has begun. Poles are being moved and sewer work has begun.
- The bridge by Paul's is due to be rebuilt.
- The sewer project towards the Town Dock is ongoing. Work is currently being done in front of the Bike Shop in Milford center. The Town Dock is on schedule; the power has been upgraded.
- Silver Sands and the Walnut Beach boardwalk have extensive graffiti. The Casey Pavilion is being worked on.
- The Stowe Barn project went out to bid for the roof and siding. It is uncertain if the bid has been awarded as of yet.
- Sweeping has begun.
- The Soloman property – the plan is to coordinate taking down the garage in conjunction with Earth Day.
- Platt Street – Public Works met with the residents and Public Works will help with the wall that washed away.
- Carmen Road is being worked on; Howard Court is being worked on.
- Pumpkin Delight Road and Monroe Street; the tree has been taken care of.
- Tower Street/Spring Lane; the house is to go up.
- The Transfer Station – per the suggestion at the last meeting – a painted line can be put in as well as curbing. Extended Saturday house run from April – December. Metal collection is diminishing; scrappers are taking it at bulk pick up. There used to be daily runs for metal; now it is twice a month.

Concerns:

Smith was appreciative of the trees being removed at Laurel Beach.

Anderson – 117 Sunnyside Ct. – the gas company came and the patch is now raised in the road. Housatonic/West Main Street – the sidewalk is in rough shape and deteriorating curbing; run off is an issue. KnobHill has sidewalk problems. Roller Terrace – there is brush and branches in the street. Bruce will look into this.

Vetro – asked about Waterbury Avenue. Bruce stated that this is to be done before the summer. Vetro asked about N. Lafayette Street. Bruce stated that the catch basins were cleaned and he will look into this. Bruce stated that \$529,000 was cut from the budget from the Mayor for next year so there are limited funds. Vetro asked about Joyce Court. Bruce stated that this is not City property, but Joe Maler from the DEP was contacted last week regarding this. Silver Street/Cooper Avenue is being fixed. Vetro asked about the fence on New Haven Avenue across the street from the Citco Station. Bruce stated that state approval is needed in order to install RB Railer. Vetro stated that the No Diving sign at the Gulf Street pier needs replacing. 571 Pond Point Avenue has a dead tree. Bruce will look into this.

Nunno – 56 Crabtree Lane has a sidewalk lift but they would like to tree to be left alone. Bruce will look into this.

The next regular meeting will be on 4/30/12.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Streit