

Minutes
Shore Road Path Committee Meeting
Cape Elizabeth, Maine

February 25, 2009
Town Hall, Cape Elizabeth, Maine

Present: Committee members: Chairman Paul Thelin, Joe Chalot, Dena DeSena, Howard Littlefield, Andie Mahoney, Suzanne McGinn, George Morse, William Nickerson, Maureen O'Meara, Town Planner.
Consultants: Steve Harding and Paul Burbage of Oest Associates, John Mitchell of Mitchell & Associates. Representative of Portland Area Comprehensive Transportation Committee: Carl Eppich

Opening and Public Comment: Chairman Thelin called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and opened it to public comment and questions. No one wished to comment.

Minutes : A motion to approve the ^{minutes} meetings from February 4, 2009 meeting was made by Howard Littlefield and seconded by Joe Chalot. The motion approved.

CELT Letter: A February 25, 2009 letter from Ted Darling, Board President of the Cape Elizabeth Land Trust was distributed. Chairman Thelin gave the committee a few minutes to review the letter since it had not been available earlier.

The letter asked for a written response to the following questions:

- Does the proposed path enhance low-impact outdoor recreation?
- What is the proposed "unpaved material" for the new path on Robinson Woods?
- What maintenance will be done to the path on an ongoing basis?
- How would soil erosion, damage to plant communities, wetlands and wildlife habitat be minimized?
- How would the Town of Cape Elizabeth limit the path to non-motorized, daytime use?

Joe Chalot asked if there were currently restrictions on the use of Robinson Woods during daylight hours and observed that there were often cars there after dark.

William Nickerson mentioned that he and John Mitchell had met twice with the CELT board to explain the proposed path. At one of these meetings, the group walked through the proposed location of the path with the board members.

Maureen O'Meara agreed to draft a response to CELT on the above questions for Chairman Paul Thelin to send to CELT.

The letter also asked for additional information on the cost of running the path in the public right of way rather than through Robinson Woods. Specially, the letter requested "an estimate of the cost difference and an assessment of the impact to path safety and the character of Shore Road."

Howard Littlefield expressed concern about the "Old Man" ledge formation if the path was in the right of way. Maureen O'Meara pointed out that the engineering firms had already spent more time on this project than originally budgeted, making the cost estimates difficult. Steve Harding agreed Oest Associates had exceeded the hours planned but volunteered to develop an approximate cost estimate for putting the path into the right of way. John Mitchell pointed out that putting the path in the right of way along Robinson Woods would have a visual impact because a significant number of trees would need to be removed. Mitchell also pointed out that moving the path to the right of way would increase the cost and the time required to build it.

Cost Estimate: Steve Harding of Oest Associates, Inc. reviewed the firm's February 17, 2009 letter on the cost estimate for the path. The estimate was based on the concept plan approved by the committee on February 4, 2009.

The total estimated cost was \$863,579.29 or \$85.00 per foot. This includes a contingency cost of \$107,966.08 and estimated permitting fees to regulatory agencies of \$26,879.52. The contingency fund is 15 percent of all other costs. Steve Harding suggested there is a possibility that Cape Elizabeth might get waivers on some of the permitting fees, reducing these costs.

Chairman Thelin asked the committee their overall reaction to the cost estimates. All members of the committee expressed surprise and pleasure with the estimates. Several had expected the cost estimates to be much higher.

Joe Chalot asked if it was necessary to hire a full time construction monitor. Paul Burbage, Oest Associates, indicated it was important to do this to minimize traffic and construction problems.

William Nickerson asked how long the construction would take once started. Paul Burbage estimated it would take about three months, depending on the weather and when the Town Council gives approval to start the project. If approval is given so that the final design work and permitting can happen in the fall, then the construction can happen during the summer and early fall. Howard Littlefield suggested the best times were from April to June or August to September.

Paul Thelin asked how long the cost estimates were valid. Paul Burbage indicated the estimates were subject to change, especially if the cost of asphalt changes. However, he felt the estimates are likely to be valid for a year or so. However, if the town waits for three years before doing the project, it probably would be necessary to arrange for new cost estimates. A ballpark estimate of increased costs would be 7 percent increase per year.

Suzanne McGinn asked whether there are additional expenses if the project is done in several phases. Paul Burbage indicated this could add a total of \$100,000 to \$150,000 depending on how many phases were done. The reason for this is that equipment has to be staged each time and some of the engineering work has to be repeated each time.

Andie Mahoney asked about the cost of different types of surface materials that would be used in Robinson Woods if the path goes through the woods. Steve Harding pointed out that wood chips are less expensive than stone dust but require more maintenance.

Suzanne McGinn asked what it would cost to add a motion activated signal. Paul Burbage volunteered to call for a price estimate.

Edits to Final Report Maureen O'Meara distributed a copy of the final report with corrections which members had sent in to the original rough draft. Chairman Thelin then asked committee members to review this and the committee discussed each section with any final suggestions for changes. Maureen took detailed notes on these changes. She will present the final draft for committee approval at the March 25, 2009 meeting.

Next Meeting: March 25, 2009. The primary item on the agenda will be approval of the final report.

Public Comment: Paul Thelin opened the meeting for public comment.

Tom Kinley asked three questions: 1) When the cost estimates would be available? Maureen O'Meara indicated they would be on the website and gave him a hard copy. 2) Will all construction equipment remain within the town right of way when doing work or will some be on private property? Paul Burbage indicated it would remain in the

right of way. 3) What will be the depth of the path foundation? Paul Burbage indicated they typically used 8 inches for the foundation and 2 inches for the asphalt.

Paul Bulger commended the committee for the time spent but still expressed concern about the cost estimates. He also asked about the 2,200 square feet estimate for wetlands that might be impacted. He indicated this is under the 4,700 square feet requirement but wondered if the estimate was accurate. Steve Harding felt the estimate was valid.

Adjourned: Meeting was adjourned at 9:04 pm.

Respectively submitted

George Morse
March 21, 2009