



TOWN OF WARNER

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Committee Members
Tim Blagden
Darren Blood
Michael Brown
Christine Frost (Chair)
Casey Milender
Sam Milender
Faith Minton
Rhonda Rood
Carol Anne Sims

Alternates
Chris Bailey
Arlon Chaffee

Corridor Committee Minutes

Monday, 5:30 pm December 5, 2022
Lower Meeting Room Warner Town Hall 5 E Main St

The first meeting of the Corridor Committee was called to order promptly at 5:30. In attendance were Committee Members: Tim Blagden, Darren Blood, Michael Brown, Christine Frost, Casey Milender, Sam Milender, Faith Minton and Carol Anne Sims, Alternates: Arlon Chaffee, others: Nancy Ladd.

After introductions and a review of the timeline Christine went over the Selectboard's expectation of the Committee and asked if all members were willing to volunteer to get work done outside of the meeting times. Everyone agreed.

There was a brief review of the NH Right to Know law. Christine answered a few questions and brief conversation took place regarding appropriateness of meeting outside of posted meeting times.

Casey volunteered to scribe during meetings when the need arose, and Faith and Michael agreed to review and respond to minutes promptly.

Christine handed out a synopsis of the three warrant articles that had set aside funding for the project and there was productive discussion about the intension of the articles and agreed there was some confusion about them. There was consensus that additional review was needed and discussion of what could be done to clarify their use.

Christine asked the Committee what they hoped they could accomplish:

- A review of pros and cons of the project
- An earnest effort to involve the whole town
- Hope that the Town doesn't lose the funding opportunity
- Determine the best course of action going forward that is beneficial to the town

- Provide meaningful recommendations to the Selectboard
- A clear presentation of the goals and steps taken to date
- A thoughtful and complete presentation of the project at Town Meeting based on the facts of the project and how the funding works with both the drawbacks and benefits of the project.
- Clarity of the proposed project
- Acceptable to the homes on West Main Street
- Create more awareness and understanding in the community of Warner
- Understanding of what the community might like for a safe way to walk or bike from Village to Exit 9
- Give a proposal to the Selectboard that is based mostly on the input of what is wanted and what is not wanted based on West Main Street residents' interests.

Christine then asked the Committee to list all the issues and barriers there have been regarding the project from their perspective as well as what they have heard from others around town. The following list was created:

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| • How will the project encroach on properties | • Neighbors losing land | • Land of community input on original proposal |
| • Fear of losing trees | • Negative tax impacts | • Impact on property values |
| • Impact of snow removal and plowing (chemicals, and physical damages) | • Maintenance of pathway | • Lack of understanding where right of way should go |
| • Utility relocation – who pays | • Current sidewalk maintenance issues | • Unnecessary project |
| • Better communication | • Holistic approach | • Lack of clarity |
| • Poor execution of the project from the beginning | • Unclear what the project is – it is referred to as sidewalk/multi-use path/other | • Unclear what the Town is financially responsible for |

But the most important and biggest issues were poor and miscommunication, cost vs. a perception of low need, confusion regarding funding, lack of outreach to West Main Street residents, sharing of information and poor execution of process.

There was conversation around the process and how the State DOT process that uses the grant funding to complete the process would answer almost all the questions that people have had. Christine informed the Committee that she had spoken with the Central Regional Planning Commission, and they said that they could attend a future meeting along with their consultant who provides engineering advice on DOT projects. The Committee agreed that this would be helpful background for everyone to hear. Christine will confirm with Central Regional Planning Commission of their availability for a future meeting.

Christine then asked the Committee what questions were important to be answered from both the Committee member's perspectives and from what they have heard others say:

- Which side of the road will the project take place on?
- How do you decide where the centerline of the road is?
- What is the LPA (local public agency) process?
- What are the rules about the grant, the timeline and what it can be used for?
- Do we need a way to get from A-B?
- Will there be a crossing at some point – and what does that look like?
- How will the sidewalk/path be maintained?
- Will the 'pathway' be along the road?

- What do people ‘off’ West Main Street think?
- How many rental properties are there and how are the renters impacted by this project?
- Can an engineering study be done with the funds we have now? None thought this was an option
- Can the Planning Commission do the study? None thought this was an option
- How do we determine if there is actually a need for this project?
- Will the Town have to pay for the engineering if it does not complete the implementation of the project?
Yes.

Discussion ensued about the options of putting out a survey to get a sense of people’s views on the project. There is evidence that this is a project that the community was in support of through the Master Plan and the charette that was held, but those are quite old.

It was agreed that 5:30pm on Mondays works for the Committee members, but they would not meet on December 26th. Christine will ensure that the meeting is noticed between now and January 16th for Mondays.

Darren agreed to chair the next meeting as Christine will only be able to remotely participate.

The following follow up items were agreed on:

TO DO List for Monday December 12th.

Darren: Meet with Christine to outline and prepare for meeting and chair in Christine's (physical) absence.

Faith/Michael: Review minutes and ensure that Christine receives back in time for people to read before the next meeting.

Tim/Casey/Sam: Explore and come to next meeting with recommendations of a survey that would aid the committee in assessing people's interest/concerns/support for the project.

Michael: Get minutes and other materials and report out at next meeting what the assumed intent of the 2018 Warrant Article #21 was, timeline of amendments etc.

Carol Anne/Nancy: Find the best method to reach renters if the group wants to survey folks

Meeting adjourned at 6:55.

Next meeting December 12 @ 5:30.

Respectfully submitted
Christine Frost