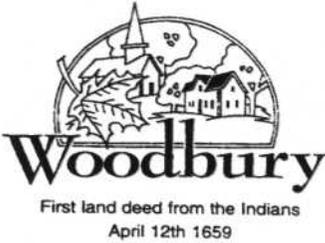


TOWN OF WOODBURY

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TROLLEY BED PLANNING COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES Monday, July 25, 2016 7:00 p.m., Senior Center

Members Attending:

Nancy Bailey	Chris Wood
Tom Ecsedy	Ron Taurick
Terri Hale	Bob Travers

Also attending: K. Doyle, R. Walker, A. Milnor, A. Westerman, P. North, K. North, I. Manning, L. DeJong, A. Budris, G. Whan.

Meeting called to order at 7:02 p.m. Chairman Travers seated the six members present; a quorum was established. Chairman Travers referenced Section 8-21 of Connecticut General Statutes and Section 921 of the Town Charter, Conflict of Interest.

PRESENTATION BY AARON BUDRIS – Mr. Budris, from Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments (NVCOG) explained that NVCOG is an extension of local governments of 19 neighboring towns, and they were formed for regional planning and development. He explained that one of their goals is to develop a network of safe bicycle and pedestrian routes, including the Naugatuck River Greenway and other offshoots, possibly including Woodbury and a connection to Middlebury. He said the time frame for this goal is at least 10-15 years. Mr. Budris explained that a greenway is a corridor of open space that may or may not have multi-use trails for non-motorized use. Mr. Budris said he would primarily be talking about multi-use trails. Benefits of greenways include recreation, transportation and economic improvement including health, local spending, quality of life, property value increases and livable communities. Most multi-use trails are either paved or crushed stone, and he discussed pros and cons of each. He noted that some funding sources require Americans with Disabilities Act compliance, which is difficult to do without paving. Mr. Budris also explained there are some newer surfaces in use such as concrete, resin binders/stabilizers, geogrid, recycled rubber, pervious asphalt/concrete, and pavers. He said trails need to be at least 10 feet wide, and preferably 12. He reviewed other considerations for establishing greenways such as design, engineering, permitting, drainage, clearing, grading, fall protection, furniture/facilities, signage, safety patrols and maintenance.

Mr. Burdris then spoke specifically about how a trail could feasibly go from Middlebury to Woodbury. He said he feels that there is excellent feasibility for a multi-use trail on the reservoir property, but that it would likely require paving. Obstacles could be drainage and design/engineering cost. The trail could extend out to Route 64 on Trolley Bed Road, which could easily be taken out of service as a through road. Design costs could be around \$200K-\$300K. A rough construction cost estimate would be \$500K-\$1 Million per mile, or roughly \$1-2 million dollars (for the larger reservoir parcel out to Rte 64). A bigger issue would be how to get from there to Middlebury. Mr. Budris looked at the East West Road that runs along the north edge of parcel 2, but that road is rugged, crosses streams and does not go all the way to the Middlebury trail. It would also require two crossings of Rte 64; all

of these factors would make it not really feasible for a multi-use trail. He feels the best option would be to run a trail along the south side of Rte 64 to an old Trolley path to Old Woodbury Road. Crossing Old Woodbury Road would be the biggest obstacle, as a bridge of some sort would be needed; also there would be private right-of-way issues. Estimated cost for this section would be more like \$1.5-\$3 million per mile.

Mr. Budris spoke about various local, State and Federal funding sources and their pros/cons. Local funding has the fewest restrictions and is generally cheaper and faster, but it is a tough sell in referendum. Various State programs offer funding from \$5000-500,000 and up, with varying degrees of State control over design and requirements, and with different project payment structures. The State Recreational Trails Program, the Local Transportation Capital Investment Program (LOTICIP), administered by NVCOG, and Department of Transportation Community Connectivity are examples of State funding programs. Some of these programs can be competitive or lack consistent funding, but Woodbury would likely be looked upon favorably for the LOTICIP funding. Federal programs such as Fixing America Surface Transport (FAST) Act are very competitive and require projects to comply with many Federal standards. Mr. Budris concluded by outlining the steps to take if the Town wants to establish a greenway project: 1) decide on what is wanted/needed and get it in the Town and COG Plan of Conservation and Development; 2) get on the Official State Greenway list; 3) do a more detailed assessment with consulting and COG help; 4) develop a more detailed assessment with consultation and help from COG; 5) design; 6) look for construction funds.

PRESENTATION BY LEN DEJONG – Mr. DeJong, Executive Director of the Pomperaug River Watershed (PRWC), explained his presentation would focus on water resources. The Pomperaug River Watershed is a 90 square mile watershed located in several towns, primarily Woodbury, Bethlehem and Southbury. Mr. DeJong praised the Town of Woodbury for preserving the important Reservoir property. He explained that ground water runoff equals groundwater recharge for the South Brook watershed area. He said the upper reservoir recharge is low, because of underlying geology, and the surface runoff is greater in the upper area, which flows into the lower area for recharge. He described the lower area as a “losing reach”, essentially a recharge area where the water table is lower than the bed of South Brook, causing water to seep from South Brook to underlying soils, possibly making South Brook dry during low streamflow conditions. As for the public water supply impact, the lower South Brook losing reach has a 20% chance for groundwater contribution to the public supply well #PS1. Current forested land surrounding the reservoir helps maintain high quality water, according to the 2010 USGS Precipitation Runoff Modeling System Report. Further water resource considerations if the area is not protected are nutrient loading, siltation, reduced dissolved oxygen, and temperature increase. Mr. DeJong discussed property use considerations, and asked that protection be given to open water and poorly drained and alluvial soils. He noted that 50% of the soils are poor drainage soils (wetlands) and that these should be given consideration. In summary, activities should avoid areas that will impact water quality, riparian buffers should be established, forests managed and invasive plants curbed. He said the best practices would align property use with the Inland Wetlands Agency guidelines. Trails should avoid traversing wetlands and steep slopes, sensitive water resource protection areas should be avoided, drainage should be done via best management practices, any crossings should be elevated, and good (educational) signage should be established. Discussion was held on the two dams on the property and what benefits would accrue from maintaining them; Mr. DeJong recommended having conversations with DEEP about the dams going forward. C. Wood asked, from a water protection standpoint, if the upper pond were to dry up, would that have any significant impact? Mr. DeJong said not really, other than the buffering effect he discussed earlier.

OLD BUSINESS – DEEP EASEMENT DRAFT – No new information. Chairman Travers said the negotiation process should be completed by the end of the month, and the property purchase by October 2016.

MEMBERS' TIME – T. Ecsedy said he has contacted Steep Rock for information on equestrian uses, and is awaiting their response. T. Hale noted that she followed up with A. Milnor from Flanders regarding a management plan, and she has distributed this via email. N. Bailey shared photographs from the Nashua River Rail Trail in New Hampshire which showed signage and other aspects of a multi-use trail.

CORRESPONDENCE – No new correspondence.

MINUTES – N. Bailey moved to approve the June 27 minutes; seconded by R. Taurek. Minutes approved as presented 6-0. R. Taurek moved to approve the July 24 site walk minutes; seconded by T. Hale. N Bailey noted that Geoff Whan is the Chair of the Flanders Land Management Committee. Minutes approved as amended 6-0.

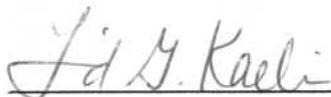
Chairman Travers also updated the group on two suggestions that had been made in the last meeting minutes. It was suggested that G. Whan and D. Terry from Flanders be invited to speak, and Chairman Travers has invited them for the Sept. 12 meeting. A discussion of whether there were any easements on abutting properties led Chairman Travers to consult with the Town Planner, and there is only one parcel, near the top parking area and owned by the Town, that has easements requiring the land be kept in its original state.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR – R. Walker asked where the property with the easement was located; Chairman Travers showed him on the map. K. Doyle asked if parcel 2, being more sensitive ecologically, would be kept closed until the State could provide a review (similar to the ERT that was done on the larger parcel). N. Bailey agreed this would be a good opportunity because the State would likely be willing to do this, and it would provide more information before decisions were made. Chairman Travers said there would likely be no parking area near parcel 2.

Clerk note: copies of all referenced handouts and presentation materials are available in the Town Planner's Office.

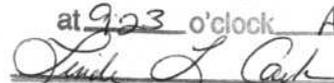
ADJOURNMENT- T. Hale moved to adjourn, seconded by T. Ecsedy. Meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Linda G. Kaelin, Clerk

RECEIVED & FILED
IN WOODBURY, CT

This 28 day of July 2016
at 9:23 o'clock A M

Town Clerk