

DRAFT ONLY – NOT APPROVED OR FINAL
Rte. 1 North Advisory Committee
Meeting Notes – regular meeting
Tuesday, September 13, 2016
Washington Street Conference Room – Camden, Maine

WHO:

Members Present: Richard Bernhard, Nancy Caudle-Johnson, Bob Falciani, Tony Grassi, Geoff Scott

Members excused: Jane LaFleur, Sasha Laurita, Jenny Simon

Select Board Liaisons: Leonard Lookner

Guests/Others: Chris Osgood, Lincolnville Route One Committee Chair; seven project abutters

MEETING PURPOSE: Camden Route One Advisory Committee discuss project considerations and recent research

COMMITTEE BUSINESS: Motion (B. Falciani) seconded (R. Bernhard) to approve minutes from the meeting on September 6, 2016. – Approval pending one edit.

KEY THINGS DISCUSSED:

The property abutters that were in attendance were polled re: their current perspectives/opinions regarding this project. One of the key points of consensus is that the current speed limit needs to be reduced. Other key elements/concerns centered around drainage. The concerns were principally in the Springbrook Hill Road area as history (1980) indicates that road washed out. There are still abutters that are very opposed to the project as they view it as unnecessary given the low accident rate and intrusion on both the public, due to loss of the “feeling” of route 1, and the devaluation potential for certain abutters’ property.

Richard Bernhard discussed his findings to date regarding the Federal Scenic Highway designation. He stated that the designation is not given easily and that there are not a high number of roads designated as such. There are 2 levels of approval required to achieve the designation. One is at the State Level and the other at the Federal level. Given the small scope of this project it would likely be a challenge to achieve the designation. Further the benefits to the project and our endeavors are not clear at this time. It was suggested that we do a little more investigation and determine if looking at a broader stretch of Route 1 from Camden to Belfast may be a play.

The committee members suggested that a joint meeting should be held between this committee and the Camden Planning Board.

Nancy Caudle-Johnson researched ongoing scenic surveys of the area. She provided a map which the conservation commission is updating based on survey input. It highlights the priorities placed on certain scenic/value criteria reflected by survey responses. The committee will entertain having one of the creators of this work do a presentation/explanation of the results at a future meeting.

Bob Falciani reported that the speed study had been scheduled and that MDOT had provided electronic copies of the design plans and accident data requested (2013-2015). The accident data did not reveal this stretch of road as hazardous utilizing State standards. To date we have not received any speed limit history for Route 1.

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Bob Falciani stated that the electronic drawing files are not the same as the enlarged plan provided us in July. The electronic files indicate 9 “approved” property design exemptions. These design exemptions were for “clear zone” changes. Two of the 9 properties are on the historic register. The rationale for the other 7 is unknown. It was suggested that an analysis be performed in order to develop a list of design related questions to be answered by MDOT. In addition it was suggested that a brief list of questions regarding if any “background” documentation was considered by MDOT in July.

DECISIONS MADE:

Committee (B. Falciani) and Richard Bernhard will develop a list of design related questions for discussion with MDOT by 9/23/16.

Committee (L. Lafleur) will develop a list of general questions regarding MDOT’s consideration of existing background information by 9/23/16.

Committee (Bob Falciani/Jane Lafleur) will discuss utilizing the expertise of Gary Toth in terms of advice in implementing the 2 action items above with respect to MDOT,

Next committee meeting scheduled for **Tuesday, September 27, 2016 at 2:00 pm** in the Washington Street Conference Room, Camden, Maine.

Committee Purpose:

A committee set up for the purpose of working with the Maine DOT to insure that any reconstruction of Route 1 in the Town of Camden be designed and built to be consistent with the Comprehensive Plan of the Town and the special scenic character of the road and to minimize the environmental impact on the neighboring properties while improving the safety and maintenance of the highway, keeping in mind safe vehicular, bicycle, and pedestrian access.