**Town of Princeton, Mass. -- Town Hall Annex**

**ROAD ADVISORY COMMITTEE Meeting Minutes, Nov. 19, 2020 6:00 PM**

**Present:** Chair William Holder; Members Kevin Toohey, Terry Thompson, Ann Neuburg; and Matt Granger; Highway Superintendent Ben Metcalf, Town Administrator Sherry Patch

Guests: Jon Fudeman (Advisory Committee), Greg Russell (VHB engineering), resident Roger Brooks

**6:00 PM** Call to order (GoToMeeting)

**Administrative:** Unanimous vote to approve minutes as amended for the 11/27/2020 meeting.

**140 Repave Project**

Proposal is for Sterling DPW to repave Princeton’s 1400 feet of Rte. 140 as part of Sterling’s repave project. Sterling will bid the entire project and then charge Princeton for the 1400 feet.

Supt. Metcalf said the decision to accept/reject Sterling’s offer is up to the Selectboard.

Town Admin Patch advised that Town Counsel should be consulted.

General discussion of expected service life of different types of road maintenance. Mill and repave can be expected to last 6 – 10 years. Sterling intends to apply for a TIP project for a full rebuild, which would serve much longer. It may be most economic to accept Sterling’s offer to do a more immediate mill and repave and participate in the proposed TIP for a longer-term repair.

A complication for this project is a 50-year-old water line serving a handful of Sterling properties. The water line is under part of the 1400 feet of 140 that is in Princeton. Any work on the road must avoid the water line.

Engineer Russell: replace the water line when the road is fully rebuilt (TIP rebuild)

Administrator Patch: Princeton is not responsible for the water line, but Town Counsel should verify.

Supt. Metcalf: Sterling says the line must be replaced within the next 10 years.

Motion: Authorize Superintendent Metcalf to continue working with Sterling DPW.

Vote: Unanimously approved.

**Citizen complaints about roads**

General discussion of Westminster Road and other roads in poor condition.

Supt. Metcalf: Citizen complaints get a road added to the road plan or increase a road’s priority in the plan, but it may still be 10 years before major maintenance happens.

Administrator Patch: Contingent on the availability of funding.

**Complete Streets Priority Plan Committee**

Ann Neuburg volunteered as the RAC representative for the committee.

**Coal Kiln Road Rebuild**

Princeton Conservation Commission has not been yet been asked to review the project. The intended date to advertise the project (Dec. 1) will be missed.

Engineer Russell: Will present the project at the November Con Comm meeting (next week). A pre-hearing walk-thru will be scheduled asap. It is possible to advertise as originally intended on Dec. 1 and then issue amendments if Conn Comm stipulates additional tasks.

Chair Holder: Please expedite with Con Comm to get the project advertised no later than Jan. 1.

General discussion of the proposed designs for the 3 culverts:

General discussion of the scope of the project. Engineer Russell described pavement testing, a method of determining the condition of the road’s base to help guide rebuild decisions. If the January 2021 stimulus package is approved, there may be funding sources for pavement tasting.

Chair Holder: additional engineering (flagging, survey, pavement testing) would provide blueprints only as needed, and improve the odds of a successful project. Pavement testing would provide information to determine the depth of rebuild.

Engineer Russell: Possible to only mill and overlay sections of road where the underlying base is good, and deeper rebuild only where needed. 2 different methods of construction for “good” and “bad” sections.

Jon Fudeman: what is the cost of pavement testing. Engineer Russell: $10K - $20K.. Jon: Let’s do that first.

Superintendent Metcalf concurs that the engineering contract will be modified to include wetland flagging, survey of the road, and pavement testing to be advertised by January.

**Temporary Sidewalk (Complete Streets Project)**

Terry Thompson inquired about the status of the temporary sidewalk along Route 31 south of Post Office Place.

Administrator Patch explained the temporary sidewalk was a pilot project of the Complete Streets program to help determine if sidewalks are something Princeton wants to pursue.

**Adjourn 7:46 pm.**

*Respectfully Submitted: Ann Neuburg*

## Referenced Documents:

    