

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

## **ROAD ADVISORY COMMITTEE Meeting Minutes, Nov. 20, 2019 6:00 PM**

**Present:** Chair William Holder, Members Joseph Bellucci, Kevin Toohey, Terry Thompson, Ann Neuburg, Highway Superintendent Ben Metcalf Town Administrator Sherry Patch

**6:03 PM** Opened meeting in Town Hall Annex

**Vote: minutes of 10/29 meeting unanimously approved**

**Review: Presentation (to Selectmen) formulation**

Bill Holder distributed documents to support RAC's request to Selectmen for increased Town funding:

- Fiscal 2021 Budget Request
- Road Math
- Proposed Culvert and Road Expenditures Fiscal 2021 – 2026
- U Mass Collins Center investment strategy
- Princeton R.A.C Projects sorted by Priority

Documents describe budget request, math and logic to support request for increased funding, proposed culvert and scheduled road projects, and strategy suggested by Collins Center research.

Discussion: Verbiage to emphasize the request for funding increase, how to call out grants as potential funding source.

Proposal: increase Town funding by 4%/year. Assign fiscal year to projects sorted by priority.

**Update: Historical Lighting for 140 project**

Lighting for 140 project is going in. Placement of some lampposts may interfere with ADA accessibility.

Action item: Ben Metcalf will follow up with Mass DOT clerk of the works.

**Discussion: Revisions to 2020 – 2021 project milestones**

Highway Barn bridge replacement: On track for submittal to state prior to 12/15. Jacobs prepared the bid package, but will NOT advertise. Ben Metcalf outlined a less costly approach to the project. It may be possible to modify the foundation specifications to allow reducing price of culvert. Structural specifications for two options are the same. Contract language and design engineering may not be the same

31/Mirick Road culvert replacement: On track for submittal to state prior to 12/15. Waiting for state to provide prevailing wage and other data.

Revised project milestones worksheet attached.

Action item: Ben Metcalf is meeting with vendors and will ask if there are differences in liability (in the event that the culvert fails) between the tow options being considered.

## Discussion: Engineering Firm Selection for Coal Kiln RFQ

RFQ deadline is 11/29.

Last day for questions: 11/22

Questions received to date: only from WDA.

Discussion of the 5 engineering firms solicited to do the environmental work for Cola Kiln Road. Sherry Patch noted that time constraints made direct solicitation a necessity instead of the usual advertising cycle. WDA is acceptable only if their credentialed PE is the project manager.

Joseph Bellucci commented that engineer selection will diminish as a problem as RAC gradually builds a “stable” of qualified firms to solicit.

## Review: Sources for grant funding

Sherry and Ann updated the committee about grant sources and opportunities.

## Discussion: Funding for long-lived capital projects

Should capital construction projects expected to serve for decades (Highway Barn Bridge/Rte. 31 Mirick Road Culvert) be funded using Town budget only?

Doing so requires current taxpayers pay for projects in the year they are undertaken. Today’s tax payers foot the bill for decades of future taxpayers.

Borrowing would allow the expense to be spread over multiple years and thus distribute the tax burden more equably between current and future tax payers.

CMRPC may be able to help with this.

Action item: Bill will send projected expense spreadsheet to Sherry.

Action item: Bill will set up meeting with CMRPC as soon as possible.

**Adjourn 7:37 pm.**

*Respectfully Submitted: Ann Neuburg*

## Referenced Documents:

- Fiscal 2021 Budget Request
- Road Math
- Proposed Culvert and Road Expenditures Fiscal 2021 – 2026
- Princeton R.A.C Projects sorted by Priority
- 2020-2021 project milestones



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111919 Road Math.pdf



120319 Presentation Documents.pdf



Ask.pdf



2020 and 2021 project milestones.do