

The Board of Selectmen held a workshop on October 28, 2013 at the Town Hall with First Selectman Robert Morra presiding. Also in attendance were: Selectmen Robert Lessard, Robert Neil, Leslie Shea and Ray Walker; Highway Supervisor Lance Dimock; Director of Community Development Patrice Carson; Trail Committee member Gwen Marrison; Administrative Officer Joyce Stille; and approximately 25 members of the public.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Morra called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

2. DISCUSSION ON EAST COAST GREENWAY GAP CLOSURE

The Town had not yet received a letter from Town Engineer Joe Dillon but Ms. Stille and Mr. Dimock shared his comments to date. Mr. Dillon did not support an at grade crossing due to safety concerns about multiple roads and business accesses as well as volume of traffic and potential speeds. Ms. Carson spoke from a planning perspective that the at grade crossing should not be considered due to site lines, and speed. Safety is the major concern.

Mr. Morra discussed how the proposed plan was to address the egress to Hop River Trail parking area. The DOT was working to make the turning radius larger but changes were limited due to wetlands and other utilities. He also shared that under this project, the trail being extended to England's was not possible. Ms. Marrison shared information on her efforts to redirect funds from the DEEP to VHB Engineering to design a trail from Hop River Trail parking area to potentially the Town line. This was part of the route 44 study.

The possibility of a tunnel or light off of the exit were discussed. The tunnel was not practical since it would need to be 18' deep; other safety issues would occur. DOT would not consider a light due to other traffic issues that would occur. The Board of Selectmen concurred that an at grade crossing was off the table. The Town could be liable for an at grade crossing when it was not supported by DOT, Town Engineer or other staff. They remained committed to working with DOT and the community to complete the project to benefit all. Ms. Marrison concurred that based on the information there was no support for an at grade crossing.

Town representatives were to meet with DOT officials on October 31st to review more detailed plans and costs for a proposed bridge by the commuter parking lot. The Selectmen will hold another informational meeting once all of the options have been reviewed.

3. ADJOURNMENT

The workshop ended at 6:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce M. Stille
Administrative Officer

Please see the minutes of subsequent meetings for the approval of these minutes and any corrections hereto.