

Meeting February 26, 2014

Medway Sr. Center, 7:00 pm

Members Present: Dennis Crowley, Chair  
Matt Buckley  
Dan Hooper  
Dave D'Amico, Medway DPS

Other Attendees: Suzanne Kennedy, Town Administrator  
Geoff Howie, GPI  
Sean Sanger, Copley Wolff

### **Project Status:**

1. Geoff Howie reported that the 75% design plans are now at the printer and will be submitted to MassDOT by February 28, 2014. This is a two month delay from the original schedule. Mr. Howie believes the extra time was needed to produce a better quality product.
2. The firm of Guidry & Platt has been hired to perform appraisals for properties impacted by temporary, permanent, and pole easements. The appraisal process requires the 75% design plans now completed. These will be used to create 75% right-of-way plans. Guidry & Platt are now working with support documents and will need to visit all properties as the snow clears. This is an important touch point for abutting property owners to better understand the project.

Guidry & Platt were tasked with completing the appraisals by April 1, 2014. Due to the weather, this task is about one month behind schedule.

3. Discussion turned to overall project schedule. Mr. Howie believes a 3 to 4 month review by MassDOT is likely. They will then incorporate comments into a **100% design submission by October 1, 2014**. These plans will again be reviewed with comments by MassDOT. The plans will be again changed to accommodate comments and expected to be ready for bid in the April/May, 2015 time frame.

The right-of-way process will require a town meeting vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to take easements by eminent domain. This is an article proposed for the May, 2014 Town Meeting. At this time a \$100,000 project has been approved by MassDOT for right-of-way acquisition using State Chapter 90 grant funds. **Right-of-way is expected to be 100% complete by December 31, 2014.**

### **Plan Review:**

4. Mr. Howie gathered information from some of the members on plan comments. Other comments from members are expected to continue for the next few weeks. Any substantial changes will need to be approved by MassDOT for inclusion in the design.
5. Comments included at this meeting:

- a. Pavement markings and signs need to be incorporated at the Highland/Milford intersection to alert traffic to not block the intersection.
  - b. The crosswalk at High Street is considered dangerous as proposed. Mr. Buckley spoke strongly against the current design. Several adjustments were proposed , but no strong alternate was found. The Committee is recommending elimination of the crosswalk as a signaled crossing is available nearby at Franklin Street. **This is to be discussed at the next meeting.**
  - c. The signal at Medway Shopping Center was discussed. The Committee is uneasy about the proposed layout without firm commitment from the Center owners to perform internal modifications to the parking lot design. The Center’s engineer is working with GPI on a new layout. **The Committee expects design plans completed for the Medway Shopping Center by March 31, 2014. A formal commitment is also required to continue with the current design/signal location.**
  - d. The entrance to Choate Park was discussed. Concept plans were prepared by Mr. Sanger. Mr. D’Amico suggested some changes at the east end of the park to allow for a pedestrian entrance. Mr. Sanger will prepare some revisions.
  - e. The bio-detention area at the entrance of the park was discussed. This will require removal of the pine tree traditionally used as the Town’s Christmas Tree. Options include removal, remove and replace, or relocate. **This is to be discussed at the next meeting.**
  - f. Some discussion concerning the general flow of traffic on Oak Street, the Park entrance, and Thayer House. It is clear that a long range plan for this area is needed to support expected increases in use for Choate Park and the Thayer House.
  - g. Some discussion concerning the number of curb cuts in the business district area and the ultimate desire to have a service road to support business access. Such a plan would require the a major expansion of the right-of-way, heavy support from local businesses, and considerable time and funding. As the Medway Shopping Center matures and looks to redesign the complex in the next two to three decades, these issues should be discussed.
6. Items discussed after 9:20 pm.
  7. Next meeting planned for April 9, 2014. Location and time to be determined.
  8. Adjourn at ??? pm.