

APPROVED
ANDOVER SELECT BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
July 13, 2023



Members Present: Roland Carter; Dana Swenson

Also present for duration of appropriate item: Shawn James, Hoyle Tanner; Josif Bicja, Hoyle Tanner; Donna Crisp Duclos; Jeffery Dickinson; Wendy Pinkham; Ken & Lee Wells; Gisela Darling; Jim Hanson; Seth Currier; Luann Clark; Greg Stetson; Andrew Frankel; Robin & Jay Boynton; Pecco & Gail Beaufays; Janet Moore; Diana & Tim Gallagher; Kathy Bennett; Paul Currier; Mario Ratzki; Frank Bryson, Road Agent; Lisa Meier, Recording Secretary; and Kimberley Edelman, Town Administrator participated via Zoom.

Acting Chair Carter opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. with roll call.

Lawrence Street Bridge Project – Update by Hoyle Tanner

Joseph indicated that an engineering study was conducted in 2019 and the replacement bridge was approved by DOT via phased construction approach. The condition of the bridge has changed since 2010 and there has been no inspection on the bridge in 1 ½ years. There will be a temporary bridge constructed and then a completely new bridge will be constructed. Although this will be one hundred percent funded, an amendment to DOT for funding due to the temporary bridge. Shawn James indicated that the construction year is 2025 and DOT would like to advertise the project in January 2025. SB Swenson asked if there are digital drawings available and the response was yes. Swenson also asked if there will be any impact to the properties on the eastern side of the bridge and the response was there will be minimal impact; however, this can be reviewed again later this year. SB Carter stated that the town water supply runs under the bridge; however, it is not indicated on the plans. Lisa Meier stated the water supply runs parallel to the current bridge. Carter stated that he is concerned with Kathy Bennett's septic if the bridge is being moved 5' downstream. Joseph responded that this will impact Kathy Bennett's property and they need to determine compensation to her and that Kathy is also concerned with her tax impact; however, that is for the town to determine. Shawn stated that they will need to excavate the northwest corner twenty feet; however, they are unsure about the stone wall; therefore, they are considering moving the bridge over to not do this. Hanson requested that they stay with the 2-lane bridge plan. Joseph responded that the temporary bridge will be a single lane bridge. Swenson stated there will be a public hearing in early fall 2024 and then advertise in January 2025. RA Bryson asked if the bridge will be a 2-lane bridge and the response was yes, there will be two ten-foot lanes with a 5-foot shoulder on either side. Jay Boynton stated that it is difficult for walkers with the current bridge along with some traffic problems and asked if any consideration has been taken regarding providing for walkers on the new bridge and serious consideration needs to be taken for traffic flow. Stetson asked if it is feasible to have a pedestrian lane as is there now. The response was this is up to the town. Swenson stated they can do anything that people want but it would cost money. The response was soft costs are 80/20. Construction is 100% paid. Shawn stated federal funding is a 5-year program and Andover is already programmed and will not lose funding. Stetson stated that if they are replacing what is currently there, it should include a walking area. Eklund stated she loves the idea of speed bumps. Clark asked if the sidewalk is in addition to the 5' shoulder. Swenson stated they would need conceptual designs to view. Joseph stated that DOT probably will not fund this. Dickinson stated he opposes speed bumps. Eklund responded that she has lived in an area that had speed bumps on residential roads and they are beneficial. Currier asked if any consideration has been taken regarding street lighting and the response was not as of this proposal. Bryson asked if the

construction would start in 2025 and the response was it would go out to bid in January 2025 and construction could start in April or May of 2025. Joseph responded that there is a steel shortage and the temporary bridge may be constructed in 2025 and the permanent bridge in 2026. Bryson asked why they could not put out to bid in 2024 and the response was time is needed for the permitting process. Hanson asked if this is an Army Corp River and the response was yes and there are three permits that are needed prior to going out to bid. Joseph stated there is a report regarding historic district eligibility which complicates the permitting and he will provide the documentation. The total cost of the project is \$4,800,000 and the overall cost to the town is \$100,000. Carter asked if there could be access to the river created during this project. Andrew stated that the ballfield side needs to be built up and access would be great. Shawn stated that with federal funding it would need to be ADA compliant. Swenson stated this needs to be discussed with DES, the Army Corp of Engineers to leave some fill in place to provide river access. Joseph responded the earlier the better in order to schedule the public hearings. Dickinson asked what the life-span of the bridge is and Wells stated the Route 11 bridge is designed for 100 years. Swenson asked if a traffic count has been done and the response was yes.

Highway Department

Bryson stated he has received invoices for the culverts on Elbow Pond Road and Tucker Mountain Road. Tucker Mountain Road is \$1,500 and Elbow Pond Road is \$2,800. An invoice for the container for 4th of July items and hay was provided to the board. Bryson would like to start working on the plow contracts, all have agreed to come back this year. The sand is becoming silty and they need to go to the Transfer Station and screen the sand from there and crush later and they are running out of places to purchase sand.

New Business

A. Solar Buyout

The board asked if anyone was in opposition to the buyout and Dickinson asked if there had been an evaluation done on the quality of the panels and if not, it should be done prior to a buyout. Dickinson also stated there is no obligation to purchase this and asked if the town would benefit from a buyout. Swenson stated it is \$1,000 a year for a lease and if there was a buyout, there would be a full payback from NHEC. Dickinson responded that it is an e-waste as you cannot recycle them and they are unsure of the disposal costs. Duclos recommended putting aside some revenue-stream for the future. Stetson asked if there is a Capital Reserve Fund for solar. Swenson stated there is enough money to pay for the buyout. Wells stated they can follow the performance of solar panels on-line. Wells also stated that Vicky Mishcon checked into Revision on the cost of the buyout and it is \$17,724. Dickinson stated it would behoove the town to have a formal assessment done by a third party. TA Edelmann introduced Randall Costa who spoke regarding the degradation and stated the current panels are warrantied for 25 years. Currier stated this is the same time-frame for his solar panels and feels the buyout will be a good value. Swenson made a motion to move forward with the buyout. Carter seconded the motion and the motion passed.

B. Trustee of the Trust Funds

Pinkham stated the board would like to purchase a laptop and she has a working relationship with Twin Rivers in Belmont. Carter asked Pinkham to get some pricing and Swenson recommended looking at methodology for backup. Pinkham asked if a line-item could be added to the budget for future years.

Old Business – Beach Parking

Swenson stated the issue with Salisbury at the beach. Meier, also the Town Clerk / Tax Collector, explained how the temporary beach passes are issued. Stetson asked if there is an expiration date on the passes and Meier

responded yes, Labor Day. Stetson stated Salisbury residents should pay \$25.00 for a pass. Beaufays stated he has had an agreement with the town for his guests for a temporary pass and Meier stated she would get him an updated form.

Minutes

Minutes were tabled until the July 27, 2023 meeting.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Additional Items for Consideration

A Budget Review session will be held Wednesday, July 19, 2023 at 12:30 p.m.

There being no further discussion, Swenson made a motion to adjourn at 7:50 p.m. Carter seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Meier
Recording Secretary

These minutes were approved at the
Selectboard meeting on August 10, 2023.