

Hardwick Planning Commission
Pedestrian and Traffic Safety Task Force
August 11, 2020
Atkins Field Pavilion

HPC Members Present: Jim Lewis; Joyce Mandeville; Ken Davis; and Dave Gross, Chair.

Also Present: Kristen Leahy, Hardwick Zoning Administrator (ZA) and Eric Remick, Select Board Chair.

Absent: Elizabeth Dow and Shari Cornish, Select Board Members; Shaun Fielder, Town Manager.

Chair Dave Gross opened the meeting at 6:34 pm.

Ken Davis moved to approve the agenda as published. Joyce Mandeville seconded. All members were in favor.

Ken Davis moved to approve the July 14, 2020 meeting minutes as written. Jim Lewis seconded. All members were in favor.

Select Board Chair Eric Remick provided the HPC with an update on the Rail Trail improvements. In the section between East Hardwick and Hardwick, two bridges have been re-decked and are almost ready for use. The Town will be entering into a contract to complete the section between North Main Street and Slapp Hill. This section includes a parking area on Creamery Road which will be upgraded – spaces delineated, lights installed, and curb stops installed. This parking area will also be accessed by the Hardwick Town House. The section between North Main Street and Route 15 (near Lamoille Valley Ford) is under the direction of VAST. There is a bridge which needs to be re-decked. The state of the works is presently unclear.

The State of Vermont has announced that VTTrans will be completing the entire Rail Trail construction and renovation and will be overseeing the maintenance of the Trail. Eventually, the Rail Trail may be converted into a state park. VTTrans will be installing the gravel overlay on the section between East Hardwick and Hardwick.

Eric also provided the Commission with a basic overview of the Yellow Barn project. The Yellow Barn project is currently in a holding pattern due to unforeseen expense changes associated with the pandemic. The funding gap needs to be bridged before construction can proceed.

There was a quick overview/discussion regarding the Phase I suggestions provided to the Select Board. The PowerPoint presentation will be made available on the website and the stakeholders who answered surveys will receive the recommendations. The Select Board may host a public forum on the suggestions.

Phase II recommendations will be examined in the winter and spring meetings:

1. Creating a designated parking spot for delivery trucks in downtown Hardwick
2. Conducting a walkability study (AARP?) PDF available.
3. Place-making ideas for the downtown areas
4. Creating a bike corridor from the Rail Trail to downtown Hardwick Village.
5. Reviewing artery speeds and methods for controlling high speeds

6. Upgrading the Mill Street access points and the sidewalks.

Atkins Field Pavilion will be utilized for the September and October meetings (*already reserved – KL*). Since the September meeting was scheduled to occur on the first day of school (9/8/20), Kristen requested a shift in the day to the 3rd Tuesday – September 15th. The Commission was amenable to the change.

Joyce Mandeville moved to close the meeting at 7:50. Ken Davis seconded. All members were in favor.

The next HPC meeting will be on September 15, 2020 at the Atkins Field Pavilion.

~ Respectfully submitted, Kristen Leahy, ZA